

HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE
International Studies Core Competencies
Critical Thinking
2022-2023

Learning Outcome:

Critical Thinking: Students will be able to examine, critique and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions.

Outcome Measure:

ETS Proficiency Profile Exam

Criteria for Success (how do you judge if the students have met your standards):

75% of the students will be marginal or proficient at Level 2 Reading/Critical Thinking.

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

Percentage of Students Marginal or Proficient

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
ETS Proficiency Profile Level 2 Critical Thinking	88.9%	80.0%	78.9%	90.9%	57.1%	84.2%	78.9%	95.2%	78.6%

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

Our HPS students have historically performed well with regard to this learning outcome, as the vast majority of our students are consistently “marginal” or “proficient.”

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

None at this time, other than to monitor the longitudinal data.

Rubric Used

No rubric. We use the ETS Proficiency Profile test results.

HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE
International Studies Core Competencies
Written Communication
2022-2023

Learning Outcome:

Written: Students will be able to effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication.

Outcome Measure:

ETS Proficiency Profile Exam

Criteria for Success (how do you judge if the students have met your standards):

75% of the students will be marginal or proficient at Level 2 Writing.

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

Percentage of Students Marginal or Proficient

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
ETS Proficiency Profile Level 2 Writing	100.0%	100.0%	80.0%	84.2%	81.8%	78.6%	84.2%	57.9%	76.2%	78.6%

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

Our HPS students experienced a significant decline in this outcome two years ago, but it appears this may have been an anomaly. We should continue to monitor this to see if 2020-21 was an anomaly and find ways to raise these numbers.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

Spend additional intentional time on writing skills in POL2070 and continue to monitor the data.

Rubric Used

No rubric. We use the ETS Proficiency Profile test results.

HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE
International Studies Core Competencies
Quantitative Reasoning
2022-2023

Learning Outcome:

Quantitative Reasoning: Students will be able to solve problems that are quantitative in nature.

Outcome Measure:

ETS Proficiency Profile Exam

Criteria for Success (how do you judge if the students have met your standards):

70% of the students will be marginal or proficient at Level 2 Math.

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (circle one or more but not all five):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning, and
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

Percentage of Students Marginal or Proficient

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
ETS Proficiency Profile Level 2 Math	100.0 %	66.7%	80.0%	57.9%	90.9%	67.3%	68.4%	63.2%	66.7%	82.1%

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

Our HPS students have not hit the benchmark for six of the past nine years that we have been collecting data, but our six year average (71.5%) is satisfactory.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

We will continue to closely monitor the longitudinal data. We will also encourage our students to use more quantitative research methods in their projects, where applicable.

Rubric Used: No rubric. We use the ETS Proficiency Profile test results for "Math 2."

HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE
International Studies Core Competencies
Oral Communication
2022-2023

Learning Outcome:

IS PLO 5 aligns with oral communication core competency.

PLO 5. Students who complete the program in International Studies will be able to demonstrate oral communication abilities, particularly to convey complex ideas, recognize diverse viewpoints, and offer empirical evidence of an argument.

Outcome Measure:

In 2017, 2018, and 2020, assessment was completed on video résumés submitted by senior international studies students. In 2019, assessment was based on observations from the oral presentation students give in POL435 Global Governance (Fall 2018). Since 2021, we have been assessing the video resumes submitted by all International Studies seniors in the Senior Seminar course.

Criteria for Success:

Minimum average of 2.75 (out of 4) for each criteria of rubric

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (highlight one or more):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad and Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

International Studies PLO 5_ Oral Communication Assessment Rubric – Average Student Scores:

Course	Semester	N	Organization	Language	Delivery	Complexity	Diverse Viewpoints	Empirical Evidence	Central Message	Average Score
IS Senior	Spr 2017	1	3.00	4.00	3.00	Na	Na	3.00	2.00	3.00
IS Senior	Spr 2018	2	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	4.00	4.00	3.60	3.67
IS Senior	Spr 2020	2	3.83	4.00	3.33	3.17	4.00	3.83	4.00	3.74
IS Senior	Spr 2021	6	3.47	3.38	3.4	3.21	4.00	3.63	3.55	3.52
IS Senior	Spr 2022	11	3.33	3.49	3.24	2.94	3.06	3.36	3.13	3.14
IS Senior	Spr 2023	14	3.64	3.82	3.39	3.61	3.61	3.75	3.61	3.63

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

This was the third year that students completed this assessment as part of the Senior Seminar course. Students are still meeting and exceeding the benchmarks in all categories. There was a decline in 2022 on several datapoints likely because I did not do an adequate job making clear the expectations of the assignment I gave them in the Seminar course. The assignment was better explained this year and it is likely this explains the rebound in scores, at least in part.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

The professor of the Senior Seminar course (McCoy) needs to continue to be clear about the expectations regarding this assignment. Rather than just giving the students the assignment, I will continue to walk them through the details. Continue to have in-person discussions with our students about the “why” behind a video résumé. Otherwise, no changes at this time, other than to collect and monitor the longitudinal data.

Rubric Used: IS PLO5_ Oral Communication Assessment Rubric for International Studies (based on AAC&U Oral Communication Value Rubric)

HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE
International Studies Core Competencies
Information Literacy
2022-2023

Learning Outcome:

IS PLO 3 aligns with Information Literacy Core Competency.

International Studies PLO 3. Students who complete the program in International Studies will be able to demonstrate social scientific information literacy.

Outcome Measure:

Research paper written during the student's final year at PLNU (must be from an upper-division course).

Criteria for Success:

Minimum average of 2.75 (out of 4) for each criteria of rubric

Aligned with DQP Learning Areas (highlight one or more):

1. Specialized Knowledge
2. Broad and Integrative Knowledge
3. Intellectual Skills/Core Competencies
4. Applied and Collaborative Learning
5. Civic and Global Learning

Longitudinal Data:

International Studies PLO 3_ Information Literacy Assessment Rubric – Average Student Scores:

Course	Semester	N	Determine Extent of Information	Access Needed Information	Evaluate Information & Sources	Use Information for a Purpose	Average
IS Senior	Spring 2018	6	3.17	2.50	3.17	2.83	2.92
IS Senior	Spring 2019	3	3.33	2.33	2.33	2.33	2.58
IS Senior	Spring 2020	2	3.67	3.33	3.50	4.00	3.63
IS Senior	Spring 2021	6	3.58	3.25	3.50	3.67	3.50
IS Senior	Spring 2022	11	3.39	3.36	3.27	3.36	3.35
IS Senior	Spring 2023	14	3.32	3.11	3.39	3.25	3.27

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

Our students are generally performing well but we'll continue to work with them in this area, especially the "Access Needed Information" category. While students continue to be satisfactory in this category, there is still an overreliance on questionable Internet sources as opposed to more academic, peer-reviewed sources.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

We will encourage students to consult with Robin Lang (our library liaison), utilize interlibrary loan, and visit the UCSD and SDSU libraries as a way to broaden the scope of their academic research. We also need to look for better tools to provide the students about how to use sources in all classes (rather than just the Scope and Methods course).

Rubric Used:

IS PLO3_ Information Literacy Assessment Rubric for International Studies (based on AAC&U Information Literacy Value Rubric).