

History and Political Science - International Studies
Program Learning Outcome 1 (Quantitative Reasoning)
2025-2026

Learning Outcome:

PLO 1. Students who complete the program in international studies will be able to evaluate, design, and apply social science research with respect to global phenomena. *IS PLO 1 aligns with quantitative reasoning core competency.*

Outcome Measure:

Research paper written during the student's final two years at PLNU (must be from an upper-division course). This paper is then edited, revised, and reworked in the Senior Seminar course in the student's senior year. These papers use some form of statistical analysis, whether as part of the hypothesis testing or as part of the supporting evidence.

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 1_Quantitative Reasoning Assessment Rubric

Course	Semester	N	Interpretation	Representation	Application	Communication	Average
IS Senior	Spring 2018	6	3.25	3.00	3.00	3.50	3.19
IS Senior	Spring 2019	3	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67
IS Senior	Spring 2020	2	3.00	3.17	3.50	3.67	3.34
IS Senior	Spring 2021	6	3.50	2.83	3.33	3.50	3.29
IS Senior	Spring 2022	11	3.18	3.00	3.45	3.55	3.30
IS Senior	Spring 2023	14	3.32	3.39	3.32	3.29	3.33
IS Senior	Spring 2024	12	3.29	2.88	3.08	3.00	3.06
IS Senior	Spring 2025	7	3.93	3.93	3.71	3.71	3.82
IS Senior	Spring 2026	2	2.00	2.50	3.00	3.00	2.63

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

2025-26: because there were only two students in the cohort this year, no major conclusions can be reached.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

Continue to focus on quantitative applications within the discipline in Scope and Methods. The assessment team should reassess if this is an adequate means of testing this PLO.

Rubric Used: PLO 1_Quantitative Reasoning Assessment Rubric for International Studies Program
(modeled after AAC&U Quantitative Reasoning Assessment Rubric)

Rubric Used**IS_PLO1_ Quantitative Reasoning Assessment Rubric for International Studies**

Students who complete the program in international studies will be able to: **Evaluate, design, and apply social science research with respect to global phenomena.** This PLO #1 aligns with core competency #5 (Quantitative Reasoning). Evaluators are encouraged to assign a zero to any work sample or collection of work that does not meet benchmark (cell one) level performance.

	Capstone (4)	Milestones (3)	Milestones (2)	Benchmark (1)
Interpretation <i>Ability to explain information presented in mathematical forms (e.g., equations, graphs, diagrams, tables, words)</i>	Provides accurate explanations of information presented in mathematical forms. Makes appropriate inferences based on that information. <i>For example, accurately explains the trend data shown in a graph and makes reasonable predictions regarding what the data suggest about future events.</i>	Provides accurate explanations of information presented in mathematical forms. <i>For instance, accurately explains the trend data shown in a graph.</i>	Provides somewhat accurate explanations of information presented in mathematical forms, but occasionally makes minor errors related to computations or units. <i>For instance, accurately explains trend data shown in a graph, but may miscalculate the slope of the trend line.</i>	Attempts to explain information presented in mathematical forms, but draws incorrect conclusions about what the information means. <i>For example, attempts to explain the trend data shown in a graph, but will frequently misinterpret the nature of that trend, perhaps by confusing positive and negative trends.</i>
Representation <i>Ability to convert relevant information into various mathematical forms (e.g., equations, graphs, diagrams, tables, words)</i>	Skillfully converts relevant information into an insightful mathematical portrayal in a way that contributes to a further or deeper understanding.	Competently converts relevant information into an appropriate and desired mathematical portrayal.	Completes conversion of information but resulting mathematical portrayal is only partially appropriate or accurate.	Completes conversion of information but resulting mathematical portrayal is inappropriate or inaccurate.
Application / Analysis <i>Ability to make judgments and draw appropriate conclusions based on the quantitative analysis of data, while recognizing the limits of this analysis</i>	Uses the quantitative analysis of data as the basis for deep and thoughtful judgments, drawing insightful, carefully qualified conclusions from this work.	Uses the quantitative analysis of data as the basis for competent judgments, drawing reasonable and appropriately qualified conclusions from this work.	Uses the quantitative analysis of data as the basis for workmanlike (without inspiration or nuance, ordinary) judgments, drawing plausible conclusions from this work.	Uses the quantitative analysis of data as the basis for tentative, basic judgments, although is hesitant or uncertain about drawing conclusions from this work.
Communication <i>Expressing quantitative evidence in support of the argument or purpose of the work (in terms of what evidence is used and how it is formatted, presented, and contextualized)</i>	Uses quantitative information in connection with the argument or purpose of the work, presents it in an effective format, and explicates it with consistently high quality.	Uses quantitative information in connection with the argument or purpose of the work, though data may be presented in a less than completely effective format or some parts of the explication may be uneven.	Uses quantitative information, but does not effectively connect it to the argument or purpose of the work.	Presents an argument for which quantitative evidence is pertinent, but does not provide adequate explicit numerical support. (May use quasi- quantitative words such as "many," "few," "increasing," "small," and the like in place of actual quantities.)

History and Political Science - International Studies
Program Learning Outcome 2 (Critical Thinking)
2025-2026

Learning Outcome:

PLO 2. Students who complete the program in international studies will be able to understand and critically assess the processes, theories, and outcomes of global institutions and systems. *IS PLO 2 aligns with critical thinking core competency.*

Outcome Measure:

Research paper written during the student's final two years at PLNU (must be from an upper-division course). This paper is then edited, revised, and reworked in the Senior Seminar course in the student's senior year.

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 2_Critical Thinking Assessment Rubric - Average Student Scores:

Course	Semester	N	Explanation of Issues	Evidence	Influence	Position	Conclusions	Average Score
IS Senior	Spring 2018	6	3.17	3.00	3.00	NA	NA	3.06
IS Senior	Spring 2019	3	3.33	2.67	2.67	3.33	3.00	3.00
IS Senior	Spring 2020	2	3.67	3.67	3.33	3.82	3.17	3.53
IS Senior	Spring 2021	6	3.75	3.25	3.17	3.50	3.50	3.43
IS Senior	Spring 2022	11	3.64	3.52	3.30	3.61	3.33	3.48
IS Senior	Spring 2023	14	3.39	3.14	3.18	3.57	3.25	3.31
IS Senior	Spring 2024	12	3.67	3.42	3.50	3.46	3.58	3.53
IS Senior	Spring 2025	7	3.57	3.86	3.29	3.64	3.50	3.57
IS Senior	Spring 2026	2	2.75	3.50	3.00	4.00	3.25	3.30

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

This was the sixth year that students completed this assessment as part of the Senior Seminar course. Students are still meeting and exceeding the benchmarks in all categories.

***2025-26: because there were only two students in the cohort this year, no major conclusions can be reached.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

Track certain categories for a few more years – for instance, we'll look closely at their ability to evaluate evidence and come to a logical conclusion. Another area to emphasize in courses is the ability to state a clear hypothesis.

Rubric Used: PLO 2_Critical Thinking Assessment Rubric for International Studies Program (modeled after AAC&U Critical Thinking Assessment Rubric)

Rubric Used**IS_PLO2_Critical Thinking Assessment Rubric for International Studies**

Students who complete the program in political science will be able to: **Understand and critically assess the processes, theories, and outcomes of global institutions and systems.** This PLO #2 aligns with core competency #4 (Critical Thinking).

Evaluators are encouraged to assign a zero to any work sample or collection of work that does not meet benchmark (cell one) level performance.

Criterion	Capstone (4)	Milestones (3)	Milestones (2)	Benchmark (1)
Explanation of issues	Issue/problem to be considered critically is stated clearly and described comprehensively, delivering all relevant information necessary for full understanding.	Issue/problem to be considered critically is stated, described, and clarified so that understanding is not seriously impeded by omissions.	Issue/problem to be considered critically is stated but description leaves some terms undefined, ambiguities unexplored, boundaries undetermined, and/or backgrounds unknown.	Issue/problem to be considered critically is stated without clarification or description.
Evidence <i>Selecting and using information to investigate a point of view or conclusion</i>	Information is taken from source(s) with enough interpretation/evaluation to develop a comprehensive analysis or synthesis. Viewpoints of experts are questioned thoroughly.	Information is taken from source(s) with enough interpretation/evaluation to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. Viewpoints of experts are subject to questioning.	Information is taken from source(s) with some interpretation/evaluation, but not enough to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. Viewpoints of experts are taken as mostly fact, with little questioning.	Information is taken from source(s) without any interpretation/evaluation. Viewpoints of experts are taken as fact, without question.
Influence of context and assumptions	Thoroughly (systematically and methodically) analyzes own and others' assumptions and carefully evaluates the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.	Identifies own and others' assumptions and several relevant contexts when presenting a position.	Questions some assumptions. Identifies several relevant contexts when presenting a position. May be more aware of others' assumptions than one's own (or vice versa).	Shows an emerging awareness of present assumptions (sometimes labels assertions as assumptions). Begins to identify some contexts when presenting a position.
Student's position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis)	Specific position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) is imaginative, taking into account the complexities of an issue. Limits of position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) are acknowledged. Others' points of view are synthesized within position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis).	Specific position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) takes into account the complexities of an issue. Others' points of view are acknowledged within position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis).	Specific position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) acknowledges different sides of an issue.	Specific position (perspective, thesis /hypothesis) is stated, but is simplistic and obvious.
Conclusions and related outcomes (implications and consequences)	Conclusions and related outcomes (consequences and implications) are logical and reflect student's informed evaluation and ability to place evidence and perspectives discussed in priority order.	Conclusion is logically tied to a range of information, including opposing viewpoints; related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusion is logically tied to information (because information is chosen to fit the desired conclusion); some related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusion is inconsistently tied to some of the information discussed; related outcomes (consequences and implications) are oversimplified.

**History and Political Science - International Studies
Program Learning Outcome 3 (Information Literacy)
2025-2026**

Learning Outcome:

PLO 3. Students who complete the program in International Studies will be able to demonstrate social scientific information literacy. *IS PLO 3 aligns with information literacy core competency.*

Outcome Measure:

Research paper written during the student's final two years at PLNU (must be from an upper-division course). This paper is then edited, revised, and reworked in the Senior Seminar course in the student's senior year.

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	3.17	3.50	3.38
IS Senior	Spring 2022	11	3.39	3.36	3.27	3.36	3.36
IS Senior	Spring 2023	14	3.32	3.11	3.39	3.25	3.27
IS Senior	Spring 2024	12	3.75	3.29	3.38	3.46	3.47
IS Senior	Spring 2025	7	3.86	3.79	3.71	3.86	3.81
IS Senior	Spring 2026	2	3.00	3.50	2.75	3.00	3.06

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

There is a noticeable improvement in several benchmarks this year, but this may be due to the fact that this year's cohort was an exceptional group and may be an outlier. Students are still meeting and exceeding the benchmarks in all categories.

***2025-26: because there were only two students in the cohort this year, no major conclusions can be reached.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

We will continue to encourage students to consult with our Ryan 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 in the Scope and Methods course).

Rubric Used:

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

Rubric Used

IS_PLO3_ Information Literacy Assessment Rubric for International Studies

Students who complete the program in political science will be able to: **Demonstrate Social Scientific Information Literacy.** This PLO #3 aligns with core competency #3 (Information Literacy).

Evaluators are encouraged to assign a zero to any work sample or collection of work that does not meet benchmark (cell one) level performance.

Criterion	Capstone (4)	Milestones (3)	Milestones (2)	Benchmark (1)
Determine the Extent of Information Needed	Effectively defines the scope of the research question or thesis. Effectively determines key concepts. Types of information (sources) selected directly relate to concepts or answer research question.	Defines the scope of the research question or thesis completely. Can determine key concepts. Types of information (sources) selected relate to concepts or answer research question.	Defines the scope of the research question or thesis incompletely (parts are missing, remains too broad or too narrow, etc.). Can determine key concepts. Types of information (sources) selected partially relate to concepts or answer research question.	Has difficulty defining the scope of the research question or thesis. Has difficulty determining key concepts. Types of information (sources) selected do not relate to concepts or answer research question.
Access the Needed Information	Accesses information using effective, well-designed search strategies and most appropriate information sources.	Accesses information using variety of search strategies and some relevant information sources. Demonstrates ability to refine search.	Accesses information using simple search strategies, retrieves information from limited and similar sources.	Accesses information randomly, retrieves information that lacks relevance and quality.
Evaluate Information and its Sources Critically	Thoroughly (systematically and methodically) analyzes own and others' assumptions and carefully evaluates the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.	Identifies own and others' assumptions and several relevant contexts when presenting a position.	Questions some assumptions. Identifies several relevant contexts when presenting a position. May be more aware of others' assumptions than one's own (or vice versa).	Shows an emerging awareness of present assumptions (sometimes labels assertions as assumptions). Begins to identify some contexts when presenting a position.
Use Information Effectively to Accomplish a Specific Purpose	Communicates, organizes and synthesizes information from sources to fully achieve a specific purpose, with clarity and depth	Communicates, organizes and synthesizes information from sources. Intended purpose is achieved.	Communicates and organizes information from sources. The information is not yet synthesized, so the intended purpose is not fully achieved.	Communicates information from sources. The information is fragmented and/or used inappropriately (misquoted, taken out of context, or incorrectly paraphrased, etc.), so the intended purpose is not achieved.
Access and Use Information Ethically and Legally	Students use correctly all of the following information use strategies (use of citations and references; choice of paraphrasing, summary, or quoting; using information in ways that are true to original context; distinguishing between common knowledge and ideas requiring attribution) and demonstrate a full understanding of the ethical and legal restrictions on the use of published, confidential, and/or proprietary information.	Students use correctly three of the following information use strategies (use of citations and references; choice of paraphrasing, summary, or quoting; using information in ways that are true to original context; distinguishing between common knowledge and ideas requiring attribution) and demonstrates a full understanding of the ethical and legal restrictions on the use of published,	Students use correctly two of the following information use strategies (use of citations and references; choice of paraphrasing, summary, or quoting; using information in ways that are true to original context; distinguishing between common knowledge and ideas requiring attribution) and demonstrates a full understanding of the ethical and	Students use correctly one of the following information use strategies (use of citations and references; choice of paraphrasing, summary, or quoting; using information in ways that are true to original context; distinguishing between common knowledge and ideas requiring attribution) and demonstrates a full understanding of the ethical and legal restrictions on the use of published, confidential, and/or proprietary information.

		confidential, and/or proprietary information.	legal restrictions on the use of published, confidential, and/or proprietary information.	
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**History and Political Science - International Studies
Program Learning Outcome 4 (Written Communication)
2025-2026**

Learning Outcome:

PLO 4. Students who complete the program in political science will be able to develop and express ideas in written communication in an effective and scholarly manner. *IS PLO 4 aligns with written communication core competency.*

Outcome Measure:

Research paper written during the student's final two years at PLNU (must be from an upper-division course). This paper is then edited, revised, and reworked in the Senior Seminar course in the student's senior year.

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:

The spring 2016 data represents assessment of a paper written in POL 370, whereas the other data represent senior portfolio submissions.

International Studies PLO 4_ Written Communication Assessment Rubric – Average Student Scores:

Course	Semester	N	Context and Purpose	Argument Development	Genre and Disciplinary Conventions	Sources and Evidence	Control of Syntax and Mechanics	Average Score
IS Senior	Spr 2016		3.6	3.4	3.0	3.2	3.8	3.40
IS Senior	Spr 2017	4	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.25	3.75	3.50
IS Senior	Spr 2018	9	3.56	3.11	3.00	3.11	3.00	3.16
IS Senior	Spr 2019	3	2.33	2.33	3.00	3.00	2.00	2.67
IS Senior	Spr 2020	2	3.83	3.50	4.00	3.83	3.67	3.77
IS Senior	Spr 2021	6	3.67	3.50	3.25	3.25	3.58	3.45
IS Senior	Spr 2022	11	3.73	3.55	3.67	3.48	3.61	3.61
IS Senior	Spr 2023	14	3.54	3.29	3.29	3.32	3.46	3.38
IS Senior	Spr 2024	12	3.67	3.71	3.29	3.67	3.92	3.65
IS Senior	Spr 2025	7	3.93	3.36	3.50	3.64	3.57	3.60
IS Senior	Spr 2026	2	3.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	3.00	3.00

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

This was the sixth year that students completed this assessment as part of the Senior Seminar course. Students are still meeting and exceeding the benchmarks in all categories.

***2025-26: because there were only two students in the cohort this year, no major conclusions can be reached.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

Continue monitoring the longitudinal data. Continue to emphasize good writing throughout the curriculum. Pay special attention to the decrease in the Argument Development category and spend extra time on this in Scope and Methods.

Rubric Used: IS PLO4_ Written Communication Assessment Rubric for International Studies (based on AAC&U Written Communication Value Rubric)

Rubric Used**IS_PLO4_ Written Communication Assessment Rubric for International Studies**

Students who complete the program in political science will be able to: **Develop and express ideas in written communication in an effective and scholarly manner.** This PLO #4 aligns with core competency #1 (Written communication).

Evaluators are encouraged to assign a zero to any work sample or collection of work that does not meet benchmark (cell one) level performance.

Criterion	Capstone (4)	Milestones (3)	Milestones (2)	Benchmark (1)
Context of and Purpose for Writing <i>Includes considerations of audience, purpose, whether or not they did the assignment as asked in the prompt, and the circumstances surrounding the writing task(s).</i>	Demonstrates a thorough understanding of context, audience, and purpose that is responsive to the assigned task(s) and focuses all elements of the work.	Demonstrates adequate consideration of context, audience, and purpose and a clear focus on the assigned task(s) (e.g., the task aligns with audience, purpose, and context).	Demonstrates awareness of context, audience, purpose, and to the assigned tasks(s) (e.g., begins to show awareness of audience's perceptions and assumptions).	Demonstrates minimal attention to context, audience, purpose, and to the assigned tasks(s) (e.g., expectation of instructor or self as audience).
Argument Development	Offers a sophisticated, relevant, and compelling argument to illustrate mastery of the subject, conveying the writer's deep understanding	Offers a sophisticated, relevant, and compelling argument that explores ideas within the subject matter	Offers an appropriate and relevant argument	Offers an appropriate but simple argument
Genre and Disciplinary Conventions <i>Formal and informal rules inherent in the expectations for writing in international studies</i>	Demonstrates detailed attention to and successful execution of a wide range of conventions particular to political science, including organization, content, presentation, formatting, proper citation, and stylistic choices	Demonstrates consistent use of important conventions particular to political science, including organization, content, presentation, citation, and stylistic choices	Follows expectations appropriate to political science, including basic organization, content, and presentation	Attempts to use a consistent system for basic organization and presentation.
Sources and Evidence	Demonstrates skillful use of high- quality, credible, relevant sources to develop ideas that are appropriate for international studies and genre of the writing	Demonstrates consistent use of credible and relevant sources to support ideas that are situated within international studies and genre of the writing.	Demonstrates an attempt to use credible and/or relevant sources to support ideas that are appropriate for international studies and genre of the writing.	Demonstrates an attempt to use sources to support ideas in the writing.
Control of Syntax, Grammar, and Mechanics	Uses graceful language that skillfully communicates meaning to readers with clarity and fluency, and is virtually error-free.	Uses straightforward language that generally conveys meaning to readers. The language in the portfolio has few errors.	Uses language that generally conveys meaning to readers with clarity, although writing may include some errors.	Uses language that sometimes impedes meaning because of errors in usage.

**History and Political Science - International Studies
Program Learning Outcome 5 (Oral Communication)
2025-2026**

Learning Outcome:

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. *IS PLO 5 aligns with oral communication core competency.*

Outcome Measure:

Assessment was completed on video résumés submitted by senior international studies students.

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:

			Organizational	Language	Delivery	Complexity	Diverse Viewpoints	Empirical Evidence	Central Message	Average Score
Course	Semester	N								
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	3.40	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	3.22
IS Senior	Spr 2023	14	3.64	3.82	3.39	3.61	3.61	3.75	3.61	3.63
IS Senior	Spr 2024	11	3.34	3.31	3.31	3.43	3.56	3.57	3.47	3.43
IS Senior	Spr 2025	7	4.00	3.83	3.58	3.67	3.75	3.92	4.00	3.82
IS Senior	Spr 2026	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

***2025-26: there were only two students in the cohort this year and neither completed the assignment used to do the assessment for this PLO.

This was the sixth year that students completed this assessment as part of the Senior Seminar course. Students are still meeting and exceeding the benchmarks in all categories. The 2022 decline in several benchmarks was likely because I did not do an adequate job making clear the expectations of the assignment I gave them in the Seminar course. I believe the rebound in the numbers in 2023 was due in part to explaining the assignment better to the class. I was even more intentional this year and this, I believe, is reflected in the scores.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

The professor of the Senior Seminar course (me) needs to continue to be clear about the expectations regarding this assignment. Rather than just giving the students the assignment, I need 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)

Rubric Used

IS_PLO5_Oral Communication Assessment Rubric for International Studies

Students who complete the program in political science will be able to: **Demonstrate oral communication abilities, particularly to convey complex ideas, recognize diverse viewpoints, and offer empirical evidence of an argument.** This PLO #5 aligns with core competency #2 (Oral communication).

Evaluators are encouraged to assign a zero to any work sample or collection of work that does not meet benchmark (cell one) level performance.

Criterion	Capstone (4)	Milestones (3)	Milestones (2)	Benchmark (1)
Organization	Organizational pattern (specific introduction and conclusion, sequenced material within the body, and transitions) is clearly and consistently observable and is skillful and makes the content of the presentation cohesive.	Organizational pattern (specific introduction and conclusion, sequenced material within the body, and transitions) is clearly and consistently observable within the presentation.	Organizational pattern (specific introduction and conclusion, sequenced material within the body, and transitions) is intermittently observable within the presentation.	Organizational pattern (specific introduction and conclusion, sequenced material within the body, and transitions) is not observable within the presentation.
Language	Language choices are imaginative, memorable, and compelling, and enhance the effectiveness of the presentation. Language in presentation is appropriate to audience.	Language choices are thoughtful and generally support the effectiveness of the presentation. Language in presentation is appropriate to audience.	Language choices are mundane and commonplace and partially support the effectiveness of the presentation. Language in presentation is appropriate to audience.	Language choices are unclear and minimally support the effectiveness of the presentation. Language in presentation is not appropriate to audience.
Delivery	Delivery techniques (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) make the presentation compelling, and speaker appears polished and confident.	Delivery techniques (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) make the presentation interesting, and speaker appears comfortable.	Delivery techniques (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) make the presentation understandable, and speaker appears tentative.	Delivery techniques (posture, gesture, eye contact, and vocal expressiveness) detract from the understandability of the presentation, and speaker appears uncomfortable.
Complexity	Argument is insightful and deeply analytical; the presentation is very clear in conveying this complexity.	Argument is insightful and analytical; the presentation is clear in conveying this complexity.	Argument is insightful; the presentation is generally clear in conveying this complexity.	Argument is lacking in insight and analysis.
Diverse Viewpoints	Presenter effectively and objectively analyzes at least two competing points of view on the subject matter.	Presenter effectively and objectively offers at least two competing points of view on the subject matter, with only	Presenter effectively and objectively briefly offers at least two competing points of view on the subject matter.	Presenter does not effectively or objectively offer at least two competing points of view on the subject matter.

		some analysis of the two viewpoints offered.		
Empirical Evidence	A variety of types of supporting materials/empirical evidence (explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities) make appropriate reference to information or analysis that significantly supports the presentation or establishes the presenter's credibility/authority on the topic.	Supporting materials/empirical evidence (explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities) make appropriate reference to information or analysis that generally supports the presentation or establishes the presenter's credibility/authority on the topic.	Supporting materials/empirical evidence (explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities) make appropriate reference to information or analysis that partially supports the presentation or establishes the presenter's credibility/authority on the topic.	Insufficient supporting materials or normative/biased evidence (explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities) make reference to information or analysis that minimally supports the presentation or establishes the presenter's credibility/authority on the topic.
Central Message	Central message is compelling (precisely stated, appropriately repeated, memorable, and strongly supported.)	Central message is clear and consistent with the supporting material.	Central message is basically understandable but is not often repeated and is not memorable.	Central message can be deduced, but is not explicitly stated in the presentation.

**History and Political Science - International Studies
Program Learning Outcome 6 (Critical Thinking)
2025-2026**

Learning Outcome:

PLO 6. Students who complete the program in political science will be able to construct and evaluate analytical, comprehensive arguments. (Critical Thinking). *IS PLO 6 aligns with critical thinking core competency.*

Outcome Measure:

Research paper written during the student's final two years at PLNU (must be from an upper-division course). This paper is then edited, revised, and reworked in the Senior Seminar course in the student's senior year.

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:

The Longitudinal Data begins in 2013-2014, because we wrote new Program Learning Outcomes in 2013 to align with the Core Competencies. There is a different set of data to match different learning outcomes for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

International Studies PLO 6_ Critical Thinking Assessment Rubric – Average Student Scores:

Course	Semester	N	Explanation of					Average Score
			Issues	Evidence	Influence	Position	Conclusions	
IS Senior	Spring 2018	6	3.17	3.00	3.00	NA	NA	3.06
IS Senior	Spring 2019	3	3.33	2.67	2.67	3.33	3.00	3.00
IS Senior	Spring 2020	2	3.67	3.67	3.33	3.82	3.17	3.53
IS Senior	Spring 2021	6	3.75	3.25	3.17	3.50	3.50	3.43
IS Senior	Spring 2022	11	3.64	3.52	3.30	3.61	3.33	3.48
IS Senior	Spring 2023	14	3.39	3.14	3.18	3.57	3.25	3.31
IS Senior	Spring 2024	12	3.67	3.42	3.50	3.46	3.58	3.53
IS Senior	Spring 2025	7	3.57	3.86	3.29	3.64	3.50	3.57
IS Senior	Spring 2026	2	2.75	3.50	3.00	4.00	3.25	3.30

Conclusions Drawn from Data:

This was the fifth year that students completed this assessment as part of the Senior Seminar course. Students are still meeting and exceeding the benchmarks in all categories.

***2025-26: because there were only two students in the cohort this year, no major conclusions can be reached.

Changes to be Made Based on Data:

None at this time.

Rubric Used: IS PLO6_ Critical Thinking Assessment Rubric for International Studies (based on AAC&U Critical Thinking Value Rubric)

Rubric Used**IS_PLO6_Critical Thinking Assessment Rubric for International Studies**

Students who complete the program in political science will be able to: **Construct and evaluate analytical, comprehensive arguments.** This PLO #6 aligns with core competency #4 (Critical Thinking).

Evaluators are encouraged to assign a zero to any work sample or collection of work that does not meet benchmark (cell one) level performance.

Criterion	Capstone (4)	Milestones (3)	Milestones (2)	Benchmark (1)
Explanation of issues	Issue/problem to be considered critically is stated clearly and described comprehensively, delivering all relevant information necessary for full understanding.	Issue/problem to be considered critically is stated, described, and clarified so that understanding is not seriously impeded by omissions.	Issue/problem to be considered critically is stated but description leaves some terms undefined, ambiguities unexplored, boundaries undetermined, and/or backgrounds unknown.	Issue/problem to be considered critically is stated without clarification or description.
Evidence <i>Selecting and using information to investigate a point of view or conclusion</i>	Information is taken from source(s) with enough interpretation/evaluation to develop a comprehensive analysis or synthesis. Viewpoints of experts are questioned thoroughly.	Information is taken from source(s) with enough interpretation/evaluation to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. Viewpoints of experts are subject to questioning.	Information is taken from source(s) with some interpretation/evaluation, but not enough to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. Viewpoints of experts are taken as mostly fact, with little questioning.	Information is taken from source(s) without any interpretation/evaluation. Viewpoints of experts are taken as fact, without question.
Influence of context and assumptions	Thoroughly (systematically and methodically) analyzes own and others' assumptions and carefully evaluates the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.	Identifies own and others' assumptions and several relevant contexts when presenting a position.	Questions some assumptions. Identifies several relevant contexts when presenting a position. May be more aware of others' assumptions than one's own (or vice versa).	Shows an emerging awareness of present assumptions (sometimes labels assertions as assumptions). Begins to identify some contexts when presenting a position.
Student's position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis)	Specific position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) is imaginative, taking into account the complexities of an issue. Limits of position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) are acknowledged. Others' points of view are synthesized within position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis).	Specific position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) takes into account the complexities of an issue. Others' points of view are acknowledged within position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis).	Specific position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) acknowledges different sides of an issue.	Specific position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) is stated, but is simplistic and obvious.
Conclusions and related outcomes (implications and consequences)	Conclusions and related outcomes (consequences and implications) are logical and reflect student's informed evaluation and ability to place evidence and perspectives discussed in priority order.	Conclusion is logically tied to a range of information, including opposing viewpoints; related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusion is logically tied to information (because information is chosen to fit the desired conclusion); some related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusion is inconsistently tied to some of the information discussed; related outcomes (consequences and implications) are oversimplified.

