

The Department of Political Science is committed to the Flagship agenda and its objective to increase the national visibility of the Department, our faculty, and our graduate students.

The *Flagship Vision* of the Department of Political Science is to be among the finest research and teaching departments, with an internationally recognized faculty of scholars, whose students are intellectually and professionally prepared to become productive members of the academy, as well as productive citizens of Louisiana, the nation, and the world.

The *Mission* of the Department of Political Science is

- to provide LSU students with the knowledge and analytical skills necessary to be responsible citizens, contributing to the well-being of the state and the nation;
- to contribute to a deeper understanding of politics and government through faculty research and publications;
- to serve as a resource of expertise for national, state, and local government;
- and to provide political science majors with the education required to pursue successful careers in government, academics, and the private sector.

Strategic Direction 1: To ensure the recruitment and retention of a quality faculty, with adequate resources to support their professional activities.

The Department of Political Science has a tenure track faculty of 22.5 and one instructor. The Department is incredibly productive in terms of research articles in peer reviewed journals as well as research monographs. The table below demonstrates that LSU was ranked 10th among Ph.D. granting institutions for publication rates among the top five leading political science journals:

Table 1. Rankings of Ph.D.-granting political science departments, based on per-faculty publications in five leading political science journals, 1994-1998.

- | Rank/University |
|--|
| 1. Carnegie-Mellon University |
| 2. California Institute of Technology |
| 3. SUNY, Stony Brook |
| 4. University of Houston |
| 5. University of California, Riverside |
| 6. University of California, Davis |
| 7. Indiana University |
| 8. Texas A&M University |
| 9. University of North Texas |

10. Louisiana State University
11. Yale University
12. Florida State University
13. University of Iowa
14. University of Pittsburgh
15. University of Colorado
16. Washington University, St. Louis
17. University of California, Los Angeles
18. Emory University
19. University of Rochester
20. Michigan State University

Rankings are based on the number of publications per department faculty member (weighted by coauthorship) in the *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, and *Polity*. Source: McCormick and Rice, 1998. Source: McCormick and Rice (2001). Note that the table from which these rankings are drawn in the original article was incorrect; the corrected table was obtained directly from the senior author.

The Department is confident that this ranking will remain constant or increase as the publications of our junior faculty are included. The Department has been very successful at hiring and retaining exceptional young scholars.

These data do not, of course, include the dozens of research monographs, edited volumes and major textbooks published by our faculty that have been influential in the field.

To maintain and increase the Department's national visibility associated with hiring exceptional faculty members, the faculty have identified several associated objectives.

Objective 1.1: To engage responsibly in the recruitment of faculty, using University and professional resources to ensure that the very best of available candidates are selected for appointment.

Objective 1.2: To ensure that, once hired, faculty are given adequate resources to pursue active research agendas and to teach rigorous and informative classes.

Objective 1.3: To provide a continuous program of faculty development, using mentors and departmental and University consultation procedures to advise faculty on teaching and research strategies.

Objective 1.4: To ensure that departmental evaluation procedures are fair and equitable.

Objective 1.5: To reward productive faculty with competitive and appropriate faculty salary increases as well as tenure and promotion.

Five Year Implementation of these Objectives Without Additional Resources:

Create two departmental awards: teaching and research.

Allocate more departmental resources to enhance faculty travel budgets for graduate faculty members.

Evaluate and refine departmental annual evaluation process.

Institute mentor program for new, untenured faculty.

Engage in departmental fund raising to secure monies to support teaching and research.

Nominate faculty for national awards and councils.

Five Year Implementation of these Objectives With Additional Resources:

Hire 3 new faculty to reach average critical mass of 25 for doctoral granting departments.

Annual faculty raises to raise salaries to national standards.

**Enhanced library and computer resources for faculty teaching and research.
Example: New computers for each faculty member every four years.**

Strategic Direction 2: To provide a comprehensive undergraduate degree program and to provide a variety of rigorous, analytical and contemporary political science courses to students in all majors in the University.

The popularity of our undergraduate program, driven in no small part by the Department's spectacular teaching faculty, has continued to increase as evidenced by the figures below. We have seen steady increases in the number of political science majors and minors.

Table 2. Undergraduate Majors in Political Science

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
288	299	401	490	520

Table 3 Undergraduate Minors in Political Science

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
144	160	185	190	237

The Department has also seen increasing diversity among our student population.

Table 4 Undergraduate Diversity in Political Science Majors

	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Black	33	45	47	58	62
Female	131	125	185	218	242

The Department has identified several key objectives to increase the effectiveness of our undergraduate program.

Objective 2.1: To provide political science majors with critical and analytical skills, verbal and written communication skills, and knowledge of political ideas, processes and systems.

Objective 2.2: To provide all students with the knowledge and analytical skills necessary to be responsible citizens.

Objective 2.3: To maintain a broad selection of courses in American politics, international relations, comparative politics, and political theory.

Objective 2.4: To provide general education courses for all students and courses required for other curricula in the University, such as American government for Business and Education majors and several courses for a variety of interdisciplinary studies like international studies and political communication.

Objective 2.5: To guide and counsel political science and pre-law students in their selection of courses, degree requirements and professional aspirations.

Objective 2.6: To provide political science majors with education required to pursue successful careers in academics, government, and the private sector, or to pursue professional post-graduate degrees.

Objective 2.7: To create a classroom environment conducive to the acquisition of analytical skills and critical skills and a broad understanding of political ideas, processes and decision making systems.

Five Year Implementation of these Objectives Without Additional Resources:

Continuous review and revision of undergraduate curriculum.

Develop undergraduate methods course.

Develop interdisciplinary courses with other programs.

Track undergraduate majors to see what professional opportunities they pursue.

Provide more undergraduate counselors for majors and pre-law students.

Provide more opportunities for undergraduate research.

Five Year Implementation of these Objectives With Additional Resources:

Increase undergraduate majors by 20%.

Increase offerings for honors students: requires additional faculty.

Consider senior seminar for majors: requires additional faculty.

Multi-media maps and software for undergraduate teaching.

Enhanced library and computer resources.

Strategic Direction 3: To develop and maintain a graduate program of national caliber and rank.

The Department instituted a rigorous admissions requirement to insure quality candidates to admission. Despite this, the Department's graduate enrollment has remained fairly constant.

Table 5 Graduate Students in Political Science

1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
48	38	39	37	41

The Department's commitment to excellence in our graduate program is evidenced by the Department's ranking among graduate programs at LSU, based on undergraduate GPA, verbal GRE scores, and quantitative GRE scores for Fall 2003 applications. The Department ranked 3rd among 61 graduate programs at LSU.

To continue the excellence in our graduate program the Department has identified a number of objectives.

- Objective 3.1:** To provide graduate students with a sound and rigorous foundation in political science for successful careers in academics, government, and the private sector, including knowledge of leading ideas and paradigms and advanced analytical research skills.
- Objective 3.2:** To provide graduate students with sophisticated substantive expertise in the subfields of the discipline of political science.
- Objective 3.3:** To ensure an adequate selection of graduate seminars in all subfields of political science and to maintain a seminar environment conducive to advanced learning as well as a fair and equitable assessment of student performance in seminars and on graduate examinations.
- Objective 3.4:** To involve graduate students in the intellectual life of the department by offering colloquia, guest lectures, and opportunities to share research.
- Objective 3.5:** To ensure that adequate fellowship and assistantship opportunities are provided for graduate students and to assist them in seeking outside funding.
- Objective 3.6:** To ensure that adequate research and computer laboratory facilities are provided for graduate students.
- Objective 3.7:** To provide opportunities for graduate students to present research at professional conferences, to publish, and to work with faculty members on joint research and publication.
- Objective 3.8:** To provide opportunities for graduate students to teach and to be mentored in their teaching.
- Objective 3.9:** To assist students with placement upon receipt of their degrees.
- Objective 3.10:** To encourage graduate student participation in departmental governance.
- Objective 3.11:** To guide and mentor graduate students in their intellectual growth, their degree programs, and their professional development.

Five Year Implementation of these Objectives Without Additional Resources:

Effective use of departmental web page for graduate recruitment.

Monitor graduate students to discern professional placement and development.

Encourage faculty mentoring and joint publication with graduate students.

Review and revise graduate curriculum and field examination procedures.

Proactive recruitment of graduate students, letters to colleagues and telephone contacts with prospective students.

Five Year Implementation of these Objectives With Additional Resources:

Nine new graduate assistant lines.

Increased graduate assistantship stipends, from \$8,700 to \$10,000, with tuition exemption.

Resources for graduate program brochure and for subfield program brochures.

Enhanced library and computer resources.

Strategic Direction 4: To create an environment that leads to quality faculty research and publication.

As noted above, the faculty are among the most prolific in terms of publications among the top-ranked journals in the field. In addition, the faculty publish in a variety of nationally prominent journals and presses. Several objectives have been identified to increase the productivity of the faculty.

***Objective 4.1:* To encourage faculty to publish in premier journals and presses, to participate in political science conferences, and to give invitational lectures.**

***Objective 4.2:* To support faculty with appropriate sabbatical and other research leave opportunities.**

***Objective 4.3:* To support faculty with appropriate computer hardware and software resources and with appropriate technical support for those resources.**

***Objective 4.4:* To support faculty with sufficient travel resources to attend conferences and invitational lectures.**

***Objective 4.5:* To support research centers such as the Voegelin Institute.**

***Objective* To encourage and support pursuit of external grants that will enhance scholarly**

4.6: research.

Objective To encourage faculty participation in departmental lectures and colloquia.

4.7:

Five Year Implementation of these Objectives Without Additional Resources:

Encourage five faculty per year to apply for external grants and reward faculty who apply with additional travel funds or resource monies.

Create departmental research colloquia and institute a series of research methods workshops

Attempt to raise monies for Humphrey and White Lectures.

Five Year Implementation of these Objectives With Additional Resources:

Enhance travel money per graduate faculty member.

Create departmental research budgets for data sets, grant seed money, and computer equipment.

Enhance resources for research workshops.

Enhance library and computer resources.

Strategic Direction 5: *To encourage faculty to engage responsibly in service to the department, the discipline, the University and broader community activities.*

Objective To encourage faculty to serve responsibly on departmental standing and ad hoc committees.

5.1:

Objective To encourage faculty to serve on executive councils of international, national and regional professional societies and to provide the resources for them to do so.

5.2:

Objective To encourage faculty to serve as editors, editorial board members, book review editors, manuscript and grant referees, and program organizers and to provide the resources for them to do so.

5.3:

Objective To encourage faculty to serve responsibly on University and College committees and elected governing bodies.

5.4:

Objective To allow for faculty to act responsibly as political consultants, as advisors to public policy-makers, as sources for media interviews and in community informational outreach.

5.5:

Five Year Implementation of these Objectives Without Additional Resources:

Nominate faculty for a variety of national and international councils and boards.

Five Year Implementation of these Objectives With Additional Resources:

University funding of for support and travel for editorships and association leadership functions.