

California State University, Fresno
Department of Political Science:
Outcome Assessment for the
Graduate Program in International Relations

MISSION STATEMENT:

Working with the general mission of California State University, Fresno, the mission of the International Relations graduate program is to enable current and future students to develop advanced skills necessary to address challenges in international management, governance, policymaking, implementation, and organizational effectiveness. The graduate program in International Relations seeks to provide quality instruction for each student in contemporary scholarly analyses of major topics in the subfields of international politics and comparative politics. The program prepares a student for further graduate work in political science, for teaching, diplomatic service, or work in public and private international organizations. Our program recognizes the diverse student body served by the University and prepares students of all backgrounds for a wide variety of careers.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The Goals of the graduate program in International Relations are for students to be able to:

1. Appreciate and become knowledgeable with major subfields in the study of international relations and comparative politics.
2. Analyze and discuss writings on advanced scholarly research in international relations and comparative politics, to develop critical evaluation skills necessary to assess contemporary international relations, and to be able to write and speak in a scholarly fashion.
3. Effectively pursue doctoral level graduate work in political science for teaching, diplomatic service, or work in private and public international organizations.
4. Develop scholarly research papers on issues in international relations and comparative politics.

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Assessment Measures:

1. The I.R. program will use alumni surveys to determine the job placement success of our I.R. graduates.
2. The I.R. program will use alumni surveys to determine the graduate school placement success of our I.R. graduates.
3. The I.R. program will use alumni surveys to determine individual assessment of the graduate school experience among I.R. graduate students.
4. The I.R. program will maintain copies of the comprehensive examinations and thesis in a student portfolio. A rubric by which the faculty can measure the research and writing skills of our graduate students has been developed.
5. The faculty has also developed a rubric that will assess the content knowledge of our graduate students' portfolios. This rubric is designed to measure the students knowledge and understanding of international relations theory, literature, history, and research methods.

Assessment Activity Planning:

2007- 2010- Portfolio Assessment by Faculty of the level of student research and writing skills

2010- 2011- Alumni Survey

2011- 2012- Portfolio Assessment by faculty of the level of understanding of I.R. theory, literature, history, and research methods.

2012- 2013- Portfolio Assessment by faculty of the level of student research and writing skills.

2013- 2014- Alumni Survey

Portfolio Assessment by faculty of the level of understanding of I.R. theory, literature, history, and research methods.

2014- 2015- Review Year