

Project Name:	Expansion of L&S Faculty Lines in Political Science
MIU Round:	1 and 3
Sponsor(s):	College of Letters and Science
Coordinator(s):	John Coleman
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Report Date:	Year 1, August 2010; Year 2, July 2011; Year 3, July 2012; Year 4, July 2013

Project Goal and Measures

Project Impact Measure(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain access to faculty-taught elementary level courses by committing a faculty instructor for all sections of the four large introductory Political Science courses. • Increase the number of courses numbered 200-600 that are taught by faculty members. In particular, offer Political Science 218 (Understanding Political Numbers) once each academic year; offer at least two undergraduate-level methods-related courses annually; develop an introductory/intermediate research methods course. • Offer courses in underserved areas/topics that to prepare students for areas of high interest, to provide marketable skills in areas like quantitative reasoning and research methods, and to internationalize the curriculum.
Project Impact Data Source(s)	<p>Academic Planning and Institutional Research has standard queries showing course offerings, enrollments and instructor rank. Data source is the Schedule of Classes and HR appointment data views.</p> <p>Political Science will identify the courses in underserved areas.</p>
Baseline Measure(s)	An average of academic Year 2008-09 and 2009-10 will be used as the baseline for all project impact measures.

MIU Impact Measures

A	Increased access in bottleneck areas	Covered by project goals (introductory level course access).
B	Increased capacity for high-demand experiences	Political Science is a common preparation for prospective Law students. Courses dealing with law and legal issues are in high demand. MIU hires will allow Political Science to offer courses that students want but were not offered due to resource constraints.

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C	Increased capacity for high-impact practices	MIU hires will allow Political Science to offer courses that introduce students to quantitative research methods and prepare them for the seminars offered to upper level students in the major. Political Science will continue to participate in the FIG program and will offer honors courses, internship experiences, service learning courses, and advanced seminars for junior and seniors.
D	Increased student learning and teaching excellence	Many Political Science professors have won distinguished teaching awards and rankings of instructors on course evaluations are high. Political Science alumni indicate a high level of satisfaction with their department. Political Science will continue to monitor these indicators. In addition, Political Science mentors assistant professors and provides feedback on their instruction.
E	More tenured, tenure-track faculty teaching undergraduate courses	Covered in project goals.
F	Decreased achievement gaps	Political science will examine the degree to which there are achievement gaps in Political Science courses and work to address any issues that are identified. In 2011-12, Political Science began investigating achievement gaps in Political Science 104.
G	Attention to diversity in new hires	PVLs were posted in the Midwest Political Science Association and the American Political Science Association's women's caucuses, at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists, the APSA Latino Caucus in Political Science, and the ASPA Asian Pacific American Caucus. Political Science also reviewed the American Political Science Associations Minority Fellows web page to identify individuals for individual recruitment.

Progress Reports

Year 1, 2009-10	Focus in Year 1 was on faculty recruitment and searches. Two faculty members were hired. One faculty member will teach in 2010-11. The other will not start until 2011-12.
Year 2, 2010-11	Only one of the two new faculty hires was at UW-Madison for the 2010-11 academic year. Due to the one new faculty member who taught during 2010-11, Political Science was able to offer Poli Sci 218 (Understanding Political Numbers) taught by a faculty member (a course that meets major requirements and fulfills QRB). Met departmental goal of providing at least two undergraduate-level methods-related courses annually (served 175 students in PS 218, PS 551, PS 544). Offered PS 417 (72 students), a political law class that has not been offered due to a faculty retirements in 2007. Offered 7 FIG-related sections, 6 advanced junior/senior seminars, 3 internship classes, 2 writing intensive courses, 1 first year seminar as the synthesizing FIG course, and 1 service learning class.

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Year 3, 2011-12

- Conducted three successful faculty searches with MIU Round 3 funding. These faculty will not start until 2012-13 at the earliest.
- Offered faculty-instructed sections of all four main introductory Political Science courses, an undergraduate research methodology course (Understanding Political Numbers), and American Judicial Process.
- Met MIU goal of providing at least two undergraduate-level methods-related courses annually (PS 218: Understanding Political Numbers, PS 551: Statistical Inference in Political Science).
- Offered a pilot introductory course in research methods in political science (PS 401: Methods of Political Inquiry).
- Offered the following high-impact-practice courses in 2011-12: Two lead seminars in FIGs, 9 advanced junior/senior seminars for honors credit, 3 other Honors courses, 3 internship courses, 2 writing-intensive courses, and 1 service learning course.

Year 4, 2012-13

- Continued to meet MIU goal of having faculty teach all sections of the four main introductory courses.
 - Met MIU goal of offering an undergraduate research methods course and an upper level survey methodology course.
 - Increased the internationalization of the Political Science curriculum by offering courses on comparative political inequality.
 - Offered a political methodology/inquiry class as part of the research skills initiative proposed in Round 3.
 - Responded to student demand for more law-related Political Science courses by meeting an MIU goal of offering American Judicial Process at least once every two years. Also offered 6 other law-related courses and a new judicial internship course.
 - Offered the following high-impact-practice courses in 2012-13: Four lead seminars in FIGs, 9 advanced junior/senior seminars for honors credit, 4 additional honors courses, 3 internship courses, and 1 service learning course.
 - Began implementation of aspects of the Research Skills Initiative requiring all Political Science majors to take a course in political science methodology to provide a disciplinary foundation in analytical thinking.
 - Assessment: Reviewed the post graduation plans survey results for Political Science majors looking for increases in self-assessment of analytical skills; assessed student preparation for honors theses; incorporated questions related to research skills in upper level course evaluations; surveyed recent alumni about the value of research and analytical skills; and monitored student interest in and progress through the new Political Analysis and Research track.
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