



## Student Enrollment and Success Plan: 2014-2017

**Department:** Political Science

**Department Chair:** Michael R. Chambers

**Department Mission:** The Department of Political Science is committed to providing a high-quality academic experience both in and out of the classroom for its undergraduate and graduate students. Our curriculum integrates exposure to theory, method and practice – particularly through experiential learning – with critical thinking, effective communication, and a global perspective. In this way, we prepare our students for productive careers in public service or in the private sector, and for lives of active citizenship.

### Department Enrollment Goal(s):

To increase the total undergraduate student enrollment by 5% by Fall 2017.

#### Action Steps (with dates & person(s) responsible):

- A. In the fall and spring of each year, the Department will send follow-up recruitment materials to participants in Department-sponsored Summer Honors seminars. Recent seminars include “The Rise of China” and “Law 101”.
  - Fall 2014: Summer Honors course instructors; Department Chair; Director of Graduation & Retention initiative
- B. The Department will explore the development of a 5-year dual degree program to allow students to earn a B.S. / B.A. in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration.
  - Fall 2015: MPA Director; Department Chair
- C. Further develop the department website to include video elements, co-curricular activities, internship information, and student success stories.
  - Spring 2015: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative; Department Chair

<i>Total Enrollment Benchmarks</i>	<b>Fall 2013 Baseline:</b> 121	<b>Fall 2014:</b> 122	<b>Fall 2015:</b> 123
	<b>Fall 2016:</b> 125	<b>Fall 2017:</b> 127	

#### Other Enrollment Related Benchmarks<sup>i</sup>

None

### Department Retention Goal(s):

1. Work with University College to increase the first-year retention for our undergraduate majors to 80% by 2017.
2. Develop metrics to measure sophomore and junior retention, then take steps to ensure that department retention rates for those years are at or above the overall university retention rates.

### **Action Steps (with dates & person(s) responsible):**

- A. Appoint a faculty member to direct the department's Graduation/Retention initiative. Appointment begins Fall 2014. This would count as the primary service obligation for this faculty member and would be at least 40% of their annual evaluation performance towards tenure, promotion, etc. A small budget could be tied to the position as well as graduate student support.
  - Summer/Fall 2014: Department faculty
- B. The Department will increase the visibility of department-sponsored student clubs.
  - Fall 2014: Student Club faculty advisors and student officers
- C. The Department will investigate those courses that may be considered problematic for students by reviewing D/F/W rates to determine if scheduling, curricular, or other factors are limiting student success in these courses. Once the courses and the data are identified, the department will devise mechanisms to assist students in successful completion of the course(s).
  - Spring 2015: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative; Department Chair
- D. The Director of Graduation and Retention, by the end of Fall 2014, will coordinate with department faculty to develop an early warning system to identify students who are struggling in the 200-level courses. Students would be referred to appropriate academic support services.
  - Fall 2014: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative
- E. The department will also investigate a tutoring option for 200-level courses. Over time, the department will consider development of a tutoring system that would include paying adjunct faculty an additional stipend for tutoring services in 200-level courses.
  - Fall 2015: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative
- F. Develop a transition plan and departmental orientation to assist second-year students in their transition from University College advisement to departmental advising. The faculty director of Graduation and Retention will coordinate the orientation sessions and will be assisted by faculty advisors.
  - Spring 2015: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative; department academic advisors
- G. Discuss the feasibility of increasing the percentage of supplemental instructors in 100 and 200 level courses. Provide supplemental instructors in these courses with training to allow them to be more effective.
  - Fall 2015: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative; Department Chair
- H. Connect sophomore students with 2-4 senior-level students to develop a mentoring relationship.
  - Fall 2015: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative

<i>Retention Benchmarks*</i>	<b>Fall 2013 Baseline:</b> 76%	<b>Fall 2014:</b> 76%	<b>Fall 2015:</b> 77%
	<b>Fall 2016:</b> 79%	<b>Fall 2017:</b> 80%	

\* *Data is based on students who finished in the department.*

### *Other Retention Related Benchmarks*

None

### **Department Completion Goal(s):**

Increase the 6-Year Graduation Rate to 55% by 2017 for undergraduate students who complete their degree in the department.

### **Action Steps (with dates & person(s) responsible):**

- A. The Department will devise a system whereby students will be contacted by a departmental representative once the student has completed 90 credit hours. The student and the representative will discuss an overall plan to achieve graduation.

- Spring 2015: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative; department academic advisors
- B. The Department will explore the development of a two-year completion plan for transfer students.
  - Fall 2014: Department Chair
- C. The Department will produce a departmental e-newsletter to be distributed periodically each semester. The newsletter will highlight activities by faculty and students and provide advising and programmatic information. The faculty director for Graduation and Retention will coordinate this initiative, with articles/information to be provided by departmental faculty.
  - Fall 2014: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative
- D. Develop an advisor evaluation system.
  - Spring 2015: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative; department academic advisors; Department Chair
- E. Investigate development of core course offerings via distance in the summer term to allow for more flexibility for students.
  - Fall 2015: Department Chair
- F. Sponsor internship information sessions each semester; work with internship sites to develop a process for selection of student interns.
  - Fall 2014: Program directors; Director of Graduation and Retention initiative; Department Chair

<i>Completion Benchmarks</i>	<b>Fall 2013 Baseline:</b> 50% (6-yr grad rate)	<b>Fall 2014:</b> 51%	<b>Fall 2015:</b> 52%
	<b>Fall 2016:</b> 53%	<b>Fall 2017:</b> 55%	

*Other Completion Related Benchmarks*

None

**Post-College Achievement Goal(s) (e.g., employment & graduate school):**

Increase the percentage of graduates with confirmed full time employment or confirmed graduate/professional school enrollment within six months of graduation by 6% by 2017.

**Action Steps (with dates & person(s) responsible):**

- A. Work with the ISU Career Center to gather and maintain post-graduation data for our majors in order to better track and assess their job placement and career progress.
  - Spring 2015: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative
- B. In collaboration with the ISU Career Center, the Department will promote internship opportunities to students as a means of connecting them with practitioners in the field and gaining valuable work experience.
  - Fall 2014: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative; department academic advisors
- C. The Department will engage students in both curricular and co-curricular professionalization opportunities through PSCI 315 Working in Politics, PSCI 421 Legal Profession, and departmental seminars, speakers, and other events.
  - Fall 2014/Spring 2015: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative; instructors of PSCI 315 and 421 (Legal Profession)
- D. Encourage all majors to register with the ISU Career Center by the spring semester of their junior year.
  - Spring 2015: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative; department academic advisors
- E. Host sessions for interested students on graduate school/law school opportunities and requirements.
  - Fall 2014: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative; Legal Studies program director
- F. Establish a lecture series featuring local government officials from Indiana and Illinois to introduce our students to people who have made careers in politics.
  - Fall 2015: Director of Graduation and Retention initiative; Department Chair; MPA Program Director

*Employment & Graduate  
School Benchmarks*

**Fall 2013 Baseline:**  
N/A

**Fall 2014:**  
Baseline Set

**Fall 2015:**  
+2%/+2%

**Fall 2016:**  
+2%/2%

**Fall 2017:**  
+2%/+2%

**Other Goal(s) and Action Steps<sup>ii</sup>:**

None

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<sup>i</sup> *Note on Other Enrollment, Retention, and Completion Benchmarks:* Departments are encouraged to develop other benchmarks as may be relevant to measuring progress toward goal achievement.

<sup>ii</sup> Departments may have other goals that do not fit into the four areas previously indicated or adequately subsumable as an action step within one of the four goal areas. They may be placed here.