Concurrent Enrollment Assessment Report 2010-2011

The Political Science Department offers concurrent enrollment credit for POLS 121 (American Government), which is a General Education Introductory course. In this course students are introduced to the history, structure, and functions of the US national government. The course objectives for 121 classes offered on campus as well as in local high schools are as follows:

Students should:

- Have an understanding of American political history, including the US Constitution, and the evolution of the party system.
- Be able to explain the roles of Congress, the president, the courts, the bureaucracy, and interest groups in the policymaking process.
- Be able to describe the formation and impact of public opinion and of political participation in the American political system.

In order to assess whether these objectives have been met, the Department designed an Assessment Plan in the spring of 2007. Each year, students from WSU and local high schools (Campus and Goddard*) write short essays on ten key topic areas: US Constitution, Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, Federalism, Public Opinion, Political Participation, Political Parties, Interest Groups, Presidency, Congress, and the Judiciary. When the courses are complete, the instructors submit the student essays to be read by two WSU professors. The decision points are as follows:

90%	Exceeds expectations
At or above 70%	Meets expectations
Below 70%	Does not meet expectations

Due to time constraints, 6 of the 10 completed essay topics were chosen for assessment: Congress, Federalism, Participation, Interest Groups, Constitution, and Public Opinion.

No essays were received from Campus High School for assessment this year. In past years the enrollment has been very low.

On the Congress essay, 17% of **Goddard** High School students exceeded expectations, 80% met expectations, and 3% failed to meet expectations.

On the Public Opinion essay, 26% of **Goddard** High School students exceeded expectations, 73% met expectations, and 7% did not meet expectations.

On the Participation essay, 7% of **Goddard** High School students exceeded expectations, 84% met expectations, and 7% failed to meet expectations.

On the Interest Groups essay, 20% of **Goddard** High School students exceeded expectations, 71% met expectations, and 8% failed to meet expectations.

On the Federalism essay, 27% of **Goddard** High School students exceeded expectations, 66% met expectations, and 5% failed to meet expectations.

On the Constitution essay, 31% of **Goddard** High School students exceeded expectations, 63% met expectations, and 6% failed to meet expectations.

We conclude from this assessment that the concurrent enrollment students are receiving solid instruction in American Government from our partner high school.

* Campus and Goddard offer the course for the full year. Enrolled students receive 3 credit hours at WSU regardless of the length of the high school course.