

Concurrent Enrollment Assessment Report 2007-2008

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. Students from WSU and local high schools (Campus and Goddard) would 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 were complete, the instructors submitted the student essays to be read by two WSU professors. The decision points were as follows:

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

Due to time constraints, 4 of the 10 completed essay topics were chosen for assessment: Congress, Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, the Presidency, and Parties. On the Congress essay, 16% of Goddard High School students exceeded expectations, 64% met expectations, and 20% failed to meet expectations. On the Civil Liberties/Rts essay, 14% exceeded expectations, 59% met expectations, and 27% failed to meet expectations. On the Presidency essay, 14% exceeded expectations, 38% met expectations, and 31% did not meet expectations. On the Parties essay, 14% exceeded expectations, 72% met expectations, and 12% did not meet expectations. Only 1 student was enrolled concurrently at Campus High School. This student met expectations on all four essay topics.

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