The San Francisco State University Department of Political Science, housed in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, offers a BA and an MA in Political Science. The Department undertook a self-study of its programs, which was followed by an external review by two consultants: Professor Ken Green from California State University, Long Beach and Professor Donald Truxillo from Portland State University. The external review was, in turn, followed by an internal review from the Academic Program Review Committee (APRC) of the Academic Senate, which examined all documentation from the Department and the external review. Please note that the conclusion of this review was delayed by over a year because of the college reorganization.

Commendations

1. The Department is commended for the review of the curriculum and faculty workload.

2. The Department is commended for the high level of professionalism and collegiality among the faculty members.

3. The Department is commended for its strategic hiring plan

4. The Department is commended for efforts to improve student advising.

5. The Department is applauded for its efforts in securing student resources.

6. The Department is commended for developing an evaluation rubric.

7. The Department is commended for improving coordination and collaboration with other departments.

Action Plan

Based on the outcome of the academic program review and on the discussions resulting from this review, the Department of Political Science will take the following steps:
1. The Department should immediately integrate International Relations coursework into the MA curriculum. This recommendation was the strongest and most serious recommendation emerging from the review.

2. The Department should work with the Office of Academic Planning and Educational Effectiveness to improve and fully implement the assessment of student learning at the graduate level.

3. The Department should conduct a close examination of the causes and solutions to student attrition. This examination should include review of admission requirements, program advising, sequence of course-offerings, examination preparation activities for student, career-advising, and the impact of culminating experiences.

4. The Department should conduct a close review of its Level I and II Writing Requirements in an effort to ameliorate reported inadequate writing skills of students in the comprehensive examinations.