

**Degree Program**  
**Assessment of Student Learning Plan**  
Kansas State University

**A. College, Department, and Date**

College: College of Arts and Sciences / Graduate School  
Program: Security Studies  
Departments: History and Political Science

**B. Contact Person**

Professor David Graff, History  
Professor Andrew Long, Political Science  
Administrative Assistant Bri Beck, Security Studies

**C. Degree Program**

M.A. in Security Studies

**D. Assessment of Student Learning Three-Year Plan**

**1. Student Learning Outcome(s)**

**a. List all of the student learning outcomes for the program**

- (1) **Historical perspectives on security issues.** The student can find and apply information on the historical roots of particular security issues as well as similar historical cases to provide insight.
- (2) **Political science approaches to security issues.** The student can identify and apply general political science findings to particular security issues.
- (3) **Research Methodology:** The student has mastered basic research methods applicable to security studies, and can find and apply the appropriate method to attack a particular problem.
- (4) **Written communication.** The student can summarize cases and present research results clearly and effectively in writing.

**b. Identify outcomes that will be assessed in the first three years of the plan.**

All of the above.

Relationship to K-State Student Learning Outcomes

	University-wide SLOs			
Program SLOs	Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes and Professional Conduct	Program SLO is conceptually different from university SLOs
1. Historical perspectives on security issues	X			
2. Political science approaches to security issues.	X			
3. Research methodology	X	X	X	
4. Written communication		X	X	

**2. How will the learning outcomes be assessed? What groups will be included in the assessment?**

Direct: All MA students take the capstone course Hist / Polsc 815, in which they produce a piece of independent research. The two instructors in that course (one from history and one from political science) will each assess those student research projects for their demonstrated mastery of the four SLOs. In each of the four SLO categories, the two faculty members will rank each student's performance level at one of the following four levels:

1. Deficient
2. Acceptable
3. Above Average
4. Outstanding

Indirect: all students will receive an anonymous survey upon their completion of the program, asking them to rate their courses and the program as a whole on what they have learned, as well as their overall satisfaction.

**3. When will these outcomes be assessed? When and in what format will the results of the assessment be discussed?**

Direct measures will be assessed upon submission of the student's final research project, normally at the end of the student's final semester in the program. Given the timing of how these courses are offered, that will mean the end of the spring and fall semesters. Indirect measures will be assessed at graduation, as students will receive a survey immediately following their completion of the program. In addition, individual course evaluations will be collected at the end of each semester.

**4. What is the unit's process for using assessment results to improve student learning?**

The data collected over the previous academic year will be reviewed, summarized and analyzed by the Security Studies Faculty Committee at the beginning of each fall semester. These results will be used to guide changes to individual courses and to the overall program structure in response to problems and concerns.