Form E-1-A for Boston College Undergraduate Programs

Program:  **POLITICAL SCIENCE**

1. Have formal learning outcomes been developed? What are they? (What specific sets of skills and knowledge does the department expect its majors to have acquired before they graduate?)

   Students will understand the basic theories and concepts that make up the academic study of Politics. They will be able to frame research questions, and handle citations and attributions during the course of writing a long paper. They will be able to articulate their positions and analyses clearly in writing.

2. Where are these learning outcomes published? Be specific. (Where are the department’s learning expectations accessible to potential majors: on the web or in the catalog or in your department’s major handouts?)

   We have not yet completed our discussion about learning outcomes, but will have something on our department website by June 1. It will be under the Undergraduate Program link.

3. Other than GPA, what data/evidence is used to determine whether graduates have achieved the stated outcomes for the degree? (What evidence and analytical approaches do you use to assess which of the student learning outcomes are being achieved more or less well?)

   A panel of faculty rate a random sample of senior major course papers on level of achievement demonstrated for each of the student learning objectives and make recommendations for improvement.

4. Who interprets the evidence? What is the process? (Who in the department is responsible for interpreting the data and making recommendations for curriculum or assignment changes if appropriate? When does this occur?)

   Results and recommendations are presented and discussed at an annual departmental meeting devoted to the undergraduate program.