

BA in Public Affairs

Dr. Hicks and I have chosen two measures. They are the course grades in *Politics Matters* (POLS 2003) and *Policy and Program Evaluation* (POLS 4993). Probably the most frequent criticism of using course grades is that different instructors are likely to emphasize and utilize different learning outcome components. That is not the case in our situation because Dr. Hicks is the only faculty member who teaches *Politics Matters* and I am the only faculty member who teaches *Policy and Program Evaluation*. These two courses are the cornerstones of the degree program. All BA-PA majors must take the courses. Both are taught each academic year. *Politics Matters* is a foundation course and *Policy and Program Evaluation* is a summative course.

The principal student learning components that comprise the course grade in *Politics Matters* are: (1) article reviews based on readings from relevant academic journals, e.g., *World Policy Journal* and *Journal of Politics*; (2) weekly quizzes; and (3) exams based on readings from the course textbook, *The Challenge of Politics*.

The *Policy and Program Evaluation* course can be considered a capstone experience because of the cumulative and integrative nature of the requirements. The principal student learning components that comprise the course grade are writing assignments based on classic readings drawn from a variety of sources and a major paper on a current policy issue.

The performance standard for both measures is a grade of B. The sampling method is reporting the grades from all BA-PA majors in the class. Given the fact that AY 2016-2017 is the first year the degree program has been offered, the sample size is small.

- ✓ Five BA-PA majors took *Politics Matters*. The performance standard was met: four students earned an A and one earned a B.
- ✓ Two BA-PA majors took *Policy and Program Evaluation*. The performance standard was met: both students earned an A.