

**Provost's Comprehensive Program Review Report**

**Academic Program Name: B.S. in Political Science**

**CIP Code: 451001**

**College or School: School of Education and Behavioral Sciences**

**Department: Political Science**

**Date of Last Internal Review: 1st CPR (program started fall 2018)**

**Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement): N/A**

**Current Date: 5/18/2022**

**Provost Response:** Academic Affairs acknowledges the documented opportunity that exists with the B.S. in Political Science. Yet, additional attention to its function and purpose are required. The program's enrollment growth, retention and graduation outcomes lag, suggesting the need for further in depth evaluation. ***For this reason, the program will be placed on monitoring and evaluated in 1 years.***

**Program Quality and Productivity Improvement Plan:** Following a review of the Chairs Report, the IERB comments, and the Deans appraisal, the Office of the Provost concurs with the findings and supports the documented plan of action:

- Engage in a discussion around the department's recommendation to revisit the schools' programs by location strategy and adjust the offerings on the Cochrane, Mason, and

### Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

- Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.
- Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

Program PARTIALLY MEETS Institution's Criteria and will be re-evaluated in \_\_\_\_\_.

**X Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria**

**X Program will be placed on a monitoring status and will be re-evaluated in FY23.**

- Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.
- Program will be deactivated.
- Program will be voluntarily terminated.
- Other (identify/add text):

Provost or VPAA Signature:



Date:

6/1/2022





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## IERB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Date Reviewed: 3/4/22

Program Reviewed: B.S. in Political Science

**Contextual Notes:** Summarize any demographic or environmental factors described in the introduction that might significantly impact assessment of the program

The BS in Political Science is a new program that started in the 2018-2019 academic year. The pandemic and the loss of faculty members on the Cochran campus has had an apparent impact on student numbers, at least in the face-to-face classes. However, online enrollment has been steadily increasing.

Area of Focus	Exemplary Area	Satisfactory Area	Area of Concern	No Evidence	Notes
Enrollment	<i>This program has significantly positive enrollment trends and robust credit hour production</i>	<i>This program has stable or moderately positive enrollment trends and healthy credit hour production</i>	<i>This program has negative enrollment trends and weak credit hour production</i>		

## IERB's Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Programs falling under these benchmarks are designated as "low performing"					
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**Program Strengths of Note:** The faculty's willingness to change and adapt the program structure based on resources and needs is admirable. Positive



## Comprehensive Program Review

FY 2021 – 2022

**Institution:** Middle Georgia State University

**Academic Program:** B.S. in Political Science

**School:** School of Education and Behavioral Sciences

**Department:** Political Science

**CIP Code:** 451001

**Date of Last Internal Review:** 1<sup>st</sup> CPR, program started Fall 2018

**Faculty Completing Report:** Christopher Lawrence

**Current Date:** 1/4/2022

### 5 Year Enrollment by Campus and Graduation Trends

#### Enrollment

Campus	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	4 YR Growth	Fall 2018 compared to Fall 2021 only
Macon	N/A	1	11	12	9	108.01%	800%
Cochran	N/A	1	11	4	1	0%	0%
Warner Robins			2		2		
Dublin					1		
Online			2	9	17		
<b>Total</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>146.62%</b>	<b>1400%</b>



## Graduates

- For data consistency, the fiscal year is in which the degree was awarded. For examples,

While the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) offers voluntary accreditation for professional master's programs in the listed subfields of political science, there is no recognized accreditation for undergraduate programs in political science. As a result, the political science program is only accredited as part of MGA's general accreditation to confer undergraduate degrees as a Level 5 (Doctoral granting) institution by SACS COC.

While the quantitative measures of program growth to date are satisfactory, they lag substantially behind the initial projections for the program and seem to be well behind the program's potential, especially when compared to most of the other bachelor's programs in the liberal arts and sciences at MGA. The only established program of this type that seems to have similar enrollment is the B.S. in Mathematics, a subject that

We believe that we can counter these trends by pursuing an untapped opportunity for program growth: delivering the full program to students in a fully online format. As of fall 2021, the majority of students enrolled in the political science program were already taking most or all of their classes in a fully online format even though at present it is impossible to complete all of the degree requirements online (at least without the use of transfer/transient credit from other institutions). While many USG institutions offer a political science degree, only a few currently offer it in a fully online format. Online delivery would also allow for the department to make greater use of qualified part-time faculty and allow full-time faculty on all campuses to contribute more effectively to the degree program. Accordingly, our plan is to phase in a fully online delivery option for students over the next two academic years, while retaining the existing option to complete the degree program using (mostly) face-to-face classes on the Macon campus. We believe this would be an effective strategy to build on the existing program's strengths while also fulfilling the institutional mission to provide an affordable, high-quality education for students in the region and beyond.

MEMORANDUM

February 11, 2022

To: Dr. Laura Thomason, Credentialing Officer; Dr. David Jenks, Provost; Mrs. Jennifer Jones, Operations Manager, Office of the Provost; Mr. Christopher Tsavatewa, Director of Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Kevin Cantwell, Special Assistant to the President and IAL, SACSCOC

CC: Pam Booker, Executive Director, Human Resources

From: Dr. Christopher Lawrence, Chair, Department of Political Science.

Re: Re-Credentialing of faculty members CPR Year 2021-2022 School of Education and Behavioral Science, Department of Political Science

Academic Year 2021-2022 Doctor

Adams-Square, Grace Arden		Full-Time
Bekafigo, Marija Anna		Part-Time
Carroll, William		Part-Time
Caverly, Matthew Mark		Full-Time
Decker, James David		Full-Time
Dickerson, Bradley		Part-Time
Hall, John Powell		Full-Time
Hamilton, Allison Joy		Part-Time
Lawrence, Christopher Neil		Full-Time
Lester, Julie Ann		Full-Time

This memo serves as an attestation that department leadership has:

1. Reviewed MGA's Faculty Handbook and Appendix 1: Faculty Credentialing Guidelines (Approved and Updated 4/2/21)
2. Reviewed MGA's historical faculty rosters (Fall 2019 to Spring 2022)
3. Reviewed each individual faculty member's file
4. Updated the file as appropriate to reflect any changes
5. Secured or updated any documents needed to authenticate credentials and/or qualifications (e.g. transcripts, licensure certificates, etc.)

6. Discussed with the faculty member any changes in their course credentialing status
7. Reviewed faculty credentialing records and changes with the institution's Faculty Credentialing Officer as needed

In signing this memo, the department and school leadership attest that all rostered faculty referenced above hold appropriate credentials and/or qualifications that are justified and documented, and submit them for review to MGA's Faculty Credentialing Officer.

*Note: while faculty re-credentialing occurs in conjunction with the CPR cycle (3 years for new*

*programs and 5 years for existing programs), department leadership are required to maintain documentation of appropriate credentials and/or qualifications annually as captured by the*

*faculty roster, to account for changes in course assignment or new qualifications secured between CPR cycles*