". . . to ensure student achievement in undergraduate and graduate degree programs . . ."

USFSP
ST. PETERSBURG

Academic Learning Compacts
Academic Year: Fall 2015 & Spring 2016

Due: May 20, 2016

Academic Program-linked College Mission-based Goals/Objectives

In the matrix on the following page, please place an X in the grid that identifies the degree program goals and objectives that align with the institutional mission-based goals/objectives and the College based goals/objectives. These goals/objectives need to be documented in your ALC data.

		UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS											
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG GOALS & OBJECTIVES	**COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES GOALS & OBJECTIVES**	Anthropology	Biology	Criminology	Literature & Writing	Environmental Science (BA)	Graphic Design	Political Science	Psychology	History	I.S.S.	Journalism (BA)	World Languages
Academic Performance — Use sustained evidence of SLO's and student achievement for continuous improvement	Initiate and expand graduate programs and develop formal academic ties to other graduate programs within the USF system										X		
Offer certificate, undergraduate and graduate programs that meet regional needs											X		
Implement and support information and instructional technologies that facilitate effective pedagogies													
Enhance programs that specifically support academic excellence											X		
Increase student awareness of participating in a global society											X		
Student Engagement — Create a freshman experience that enables students to thrive and move successfully through to graduation	Our students will have critical skills and a broad outlook that will make them engaged and productive citizens												
Foster institutional pride and strengthen connections within the campus community	Incorporate civic engagement, service learning, and experiential learning into their classes, when appropriate												
Enhance opportunities for increased student involvement in curricular and co-curricular activities													
Diversity & Inclusion — Insure an inclusive community where differences are respected and valued	Cultivate a vigorous liberal arts culture by recruiting talented diverse students, maintaining small class sizes, and mentoring those students we have.										X		
Attract and retain a diverse student population	Encourage free discussion, foster critical thinking, demand that our students write, and work across disciplines										X		
Increase the diversity of faculty and staff											X		
Research & Creative Activities — Create a vibrant culture of faculty research and creative scholarship	Make significant and meaningful contributions to ongoing dialogues in our academic fields.										X		
Promote and support undergraduate research as a meaningful aspect of campus life	We expect our undergraduate and graduate students to engage in research in collaboration with faculty										X		
Enhance and support research and scholarly collaborations with community partners													

Academic Learning Compact: Fall 2015- Spring 2016
"... to ensure student achievement in undergraduate and graduate degree programs ..."

Signature Page for Academic Program

Academic Program: Interdisciplinary Social Sciences

Chair/Coordinator: Dr. Rebecca Johns   **Date**: May 18, 2016

Summary Statement – Academic Program Performance in Fall 2015- Spring 2016
Provide a summary statement about academic program performance over the previous year including high points and low points

The ISS program continues to be a very popular degree program (6th largest on campus, including all colleges). With a very small number of faculty, we continue to provide an academic program of high quality for our students. We are proud of the intellectual performance of the majority of students in the program, as witnessed by the research papers being produced by our students in the senior seminar. Our efforts to increase student preparedness for the rigors of the senior seminar by paying more attention to analytical thinking, academic writing, development of argument, and oral presentation in the gateway course, ISS 3010, is beginning to pay off.

We have continued to work with advising to ensure that the reputation of ISS is as a rigorous, analytical degree, not as a degree of "last resort" for students who have been unsuccessful elsewhere. As Program Coordinator, I have encouraged our majors to meet with me to discuss their choice of concentration areas, their coursework, and their career goals to ensure that each student is making the most of the opportunities ISS affords.

We had record numbers of students enrolled in both ISS 3010 and ISS 4935 this year. In addition, we have started to see students coming to USFSP specifically to enroll in the ISS degree program as our reputation for both rigor and flexibility, and our student-centered approach to teaching and mentoring, increases.

Summary Statement – Impact of Changes Made in Fall 2015- Spring 2016

Provide a summary statement about the changes that were made in your program resulting from the ALC's in the preceding Academic Year.
Include both the high points and low points

In 2015-2016, we completed our external review. The review was very positive, while also noting the lack of resources and faculty with which ISS operates. One suggestion that impacts our ALC and program assessment was to utilize a wider range of courses in our yearly assessment. With the arrival of a new faculty member, Dr. Byron Miller in summer 2016, we will be able to add an additional course to our assessment toolbox: ISS 3300 Social Research Methods, which Dr. Miller will teach every spring. Since all ISS majors will now take this methods course, we will be able to use it to track their progress in a more consistent and thorough manner.

In addition, curriculum revisions were approved last year to require that all ISS majors take either ISS 1102 Self and Society OR ISS 1103 Nature and Culture at the beginning of their degree. This addition to our core requirements also broadens our interaction with our own majors and gives us yet another tool for assessment. In 2016-2017, we will be integrating these two new courses into the assessments for our ALC.

External Reviewers also suggested that we increase the target achievements for some, if not all, of our assessments. This will be taken into consideration in the coming year as we rework our ALCs in accordance with our new curriculum and in consultation with our new faculty member. Dr. Byron Miller.

Mission of Academic Program (include URL): http://www.usfsp.edu/scl/home-iss/

USF St. Petersburg's Interdisciplinary Social Science (ISS) program is intended to provide students a broad grounding in the social sciences while creating opportunities to explore selected disciplines in more depth. Rather than being a very general, catch-all degree, ISS at USFSP is a focused program in which students work with their advisors to create a unique course of study of specific societal issues and to prepare for specific career paths. The structure of the ISS degree allows a student to pick courses in two disciplinary areas which bring different perspectives or methodological and theoretical approaches to a topic or social problem. The program is research and writing intensive.

List Program Goal(s) / Objective(s):
The program emphasizes:

- critical analysis of social issues,
- introduces students to a variety of disciplinary perspectives with which to frame social problems,
- gives students the opportunity to explore the research process,
- exposes students to a variety of methodologies,
- and emphasizes effective writing and professional presentation skills.

Program Goals / Objectives must be mapped to College Goals / Objectives – use consistent nomenclature.
[Please note impact of any changes that were made as a result of 2009-10 assessment]

 ALCs must address student learning in four areas: 1. Content/Discipline Skills; 2. Communication Skills; Critical Thinking Skills; and 4. Civic Engagement.

1. Content / Discipline Skills:

Learning Outcomes	Means of Assessment	Criteria for Success	Findings		Results	Plan for Use of Findings Fall 2016 & Spring 2017
	ISS 3010 (RK): Identification of important social issues occurs weekly through the weekly reflections on assigned readings.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% or higher on each of the assignments	N/A			
1a.Identify an important social issue	ISS 3010 (GB) will provide one means of assessing the ability of students to identify an important social issue through the use of three structured debates.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% or higher on each of the assignments	During Fall 2015, seventeen (16) ISS majors were enrolled in ISS 3013 after the first two weeks of class. Sixteen (16) students completed the course requirements. Findings are listed by assignment below:		Of the 17 students who completed the debates and the course, 17 students (100%) earned a course grade of C or better.	Due to students' understanding and achievement on these assignments, the assignment will not be modified.
				Percentage of students who completed assignment and completed the course (of 17 students)	Percentage of students who scored 70% or better (of the students who completed the assignment)	
			Debate #1	100% (17 students)	88.2% (15 students)	
			Debate #2	100% (17 students)	88.2% (15 students)	
			Debate #3	100% (17 students)	88.2% (15 students)	
	ISS 3010 (ES): Students wrote 6 response papers on social issues.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% or higher.	In all but the first assignment, the target was achieved. For the first paper, 60% of students met the target. Students steadily improved until 100% of students met the			This assessment will be continued in the coming year but the target will be raised to better reflect expectations for

". . . to ensure student achievement in undergraduate and graduate degree programs . . ."

Learning Outcomes	Means of Assessment	Criteria for Success	Findings	Results	Plan for Use of Findings
			target on the last paper.		graduating seniors, i.e., 90% of students will achieve a score of 80% or higher on the thesis statement.
	ISS 4935: Students work to identify an appropriate social issue for their research project (Thesis Statement assignment)	70% of students will earn a score of 70% or higher on each of the assignments	18 out of 19 students (95%) achieved a score of 70% or higher on the thesis statement.		
1.b. Students will analyze the macro and micro level causes at the root of an important social problem as well as the social economic and cultural structures that help perpetuate the problem	ISS 3010 (RJ): Students identify and analyze causes of social problems through their weekly reflections on assigned readings.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% or higher on each of the assignments			This assessment will be continued if Dr. Johns teaches this course.
	ISS 4935: Students analyze causes of a critical social problem through the original research of their final paper.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% or higher on each of the assignments	18 out of 19 students (95%) achieved a score of 70% or higher on the research paper.		This assessment will be continued in the coming year but the target will be raised to better reflect expectations for graduating seniors, i.e., 90% of students will achieve a score of 80% or higher on the final paper.

2. Communication Skills:

Learning Outcomes	Means of Assessment	Criteria for Success	Findings	Results	Plan for Use of Findings Fall 2016 & Spring 2017
2a.Write clearly and effectively, producing well organized, logical, well-supported written arguments that reflect appropriate use of language and meet assignment objectives	ISS 3010 (RJ): Students complete an 8 to 10 page academic paper.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% or higher on the paper.	N/A		This assessment will be continued if Dr. Johns teaches this course.
	ISS 4935 (ES): Students complete a 13 to 15 page original research paper.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% or higher on each of the assignments.	18 out of 19 students (95%) achieved a score of 70% or higher on the research paper.	Students overwhelmingly met this target.	This assessment will be continued in the coming year but the target will be raised to better reflect expectations for graduating seniors, i.e., 90% of students will achieve a score of 80% or higher on

				the final paper..
ISS 3010 (GB): students write three short papers on debate topics.	80% of students will earn a score of 70% or better on each debate assignment.	During Fall 2015, seventeen (16) ISS majors were enrolled in ISS 3013 after the first two weeks of class. Sixteen (16) students completed the course requirements. Findings are listed by assignment below: |	Percentage of students who completed assignment and completed the course (of 17 students)	Percentage of students who scored 70% or better (of the students who completed the assignment)
---	---	---
Debate #1	100% (17 students)	88.2% (15 students)
Debate #2	100% (17 students)	88.2% (15 students)
Debate #3	100% (17 students)	88.2% (15 students) | Of the 17 students who completed the debates and the course, 17 students (100%) earned a course grade of C or better.	Students met the target on all assignments.	These assessments will likely be maintained in the future.
ISS 3010 (ES): students wrote 6 reflections papers.	70% of students will receive a score of 70% or higher.	On all except the first paper, students met the target, with steady improvement in writing throughout the semester.		

". . . to ensure student achievement in undergraduate and graduate degree programs . . ."

	ISS 3010 (RJ): Students present their research paper findings orally.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% or higher on each of the assignments.	N/A		This assessment will be continued if Dr. Johns teaches this course.
	ISS 3010 (ES): Students present their work orally in small and large groups.	70% of students will score 70% or higher on the oral presentation.	All students met the target.	All students met the target.	This assessment will be continued.
2b.Exhibit functional oral communication with minimal apprehension, and exhibit a willingness and readiness to communicate and share research results with others	ISS4935 students are expected to present their research findings to the class in a power point presentation or equivalent. The following elements, at a minimum, need to be included: a thesis statement/purpose of research, clearly conveyed argument based on research findings, a conclusion supported by the research and thesis statement. Presentations will also be evaluated by their clarity and organization.		15 out of 19 students (79%) achieved a score of 70% or higher on the research presentation.	Students met this target.	This assessment will be continued in the coming year but the target will be raised to better reflect expectations for graduating seniors, i.e., 80% of students will achieve a score of 80% or higher on the final presentation.
	ISS 3010 (GB): students engage in three oral debates of critical social issues.	80% of students will earn a score of 70% or better on each debate assignment.			

3. Critical Thinking Skills:

Learning Outcomes	Means of Assessment	Criteria for Success	Findings	Results	Plan for Use of Findings Fall 2016 & Spring 2017
3a.Demonstrate an understanding of how knowledge (in Social Science) is generated	ISS 3010 (RJ): Students take a midterm and final exam on the key topics, practices and theoretical approaches of the social science disciplines.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% or higher on each of the exams.	N/A		
	ISS 3010 (RJ): students complete an annotated bibliography that requires identification and discussion of research methods used by the authors of the articles.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% on the assignment.	N/A		
3b.Demonstrate sound critical thinking by applying the intellectual standards of the university and the social science discourse community into which the student has entered through his or her concentration areas.	ISS 4935 (ES): Students write a 13 to 15 page original research paper of high quality, meeting the conventions and standards of their specific disciplinary areas.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% on the paper.		Students overwhelmingly met this target.	. This assessment will be continued in the coming year but the target will be raised to better reflect expectations for graduating seniors, i.e., 90% of students will achieve a score of 80% or higher on the final paper.
	ISS 3010 (RJ): students write an 8 to 10 page paper analyzing and synthesizing scholarly work on a critical topic.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% on the paper.	N/A		

4. Civic Engagement (optional):

Learning Outcomes	Means of Assessment	Criteria for Success	Findings	Results	Plan for Use of Findings Fall 2016 & Spring 2017
1.a. Students will demonstrate an ability to apply basic social science research methods in the preparation of reports based on the analysis of social issues that impact the local/regional community	ISS 4940 requires students to write a paper analyzing the internship experience in the context of relevant theory and literature	70% of students will earn a score of 70% on the paper.	90% of students satisfactorily completed the final paper	Even though I did get an earlier start arranging placements this year, there is one student (out of 10) who has not satisfactorily	Due to the retirement of the faculty member who was coordinating these internships, the offering of this course will be temporarily suspended until new resources are available to coordinate ISS

			completed the final paper at this time.	internships.
Students not enrolling in the internship will demonstrate this outcome through the short paper in ISS 3010	70% of students will earn a score of 70% on the paper.			
ISS 3930 students complete a community based field project that results in a scholarly paper based on local community issues.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% on the paper.			This course will not be used in future assessments due to changes in the ISS curriculum.

5. Multiculturalism / Diversity

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Results	Plan for Use of Findings Fall 2016 & Spring 2017
5a. Students will become familiar with issues relating to cultural, ethnic, racial, gender, and economic diversity through readings, discussion and exercises in ISS 3010.	Students in ISS 3010 will take midterm and final exams assessing their understanding of issues of diversity, differentiation and stratification by race, ethnicity, gender, etc.	70% of students will earn a score of 70% or higher on each of the exams.	No Data Available	No data available.	

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed.

ALC GOALS ESTABLISHED FOR DATA COLLECTION: Fall 2016 & Spring 2017

1. Content/Discipline Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
1a.Identify an important social issue	ISS 3010: students will identify an important social issue through the use of three structured debates or the development of a short paper.	80% of students will earn 70% or higher on the debates.		
	ISS 4935: Students work to identify an appropriate social issue for their research project (Thesis Statement assignment)	80% of students will earn 70% or higher on the assignment.		
1.b. Students will analyze the macro and micro level causes at the root of an important social problem as well as the social economic and cultural structures that help perpetuate the problem	ISS 4935: Students analyze causes of a critical social problem through the original research of their final paper.	80% of students will earn 70% or higher on the assignment.		

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed.

2. Communication Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
2a.Write clearly and effectively, producing well organized, logical, well-supported written arguments that reflect appropriate use of language and meet assignment objectives	ISS 3010: students write three short papers on debate topics or one longer research paper.	80% of students will earn 70% or higher on the assignment.		
	ISS 4935: Students complete a 13 to 15 page original research paper.	80% of students will earn 70% or higher on the assignment.		

". . . to ensure student achievement in undergraduate and graduate degree programs . . ."

2b.Exhibit functional oral communication and exhibit a willingness to share research results with others	ISS 4935 students are expected to present their research findings to the class in a power point presentation or equivalent.	80% of students will earn 70% or higher on these assignments.		
	ISS 3300 students will present their work orally at the end of the semester.	80% of students will earn 70% or higher on these assignments.		
	ISS 3010: students will engage in three oral debates of critical social issues.	80% of students will earn 70% or higher on these assignments.		

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed

3. Critical Thinking Skills

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
3a.Demonstrate an understanding of how scientific knowledge is generated.	ISS 3300 students will develop research project proposals. ISS 4935 students will develop research project proposals through a series of steps.	80% of students will earn 70% or higher on these assignments. 80% of students will earn 70% or higher on these assignments.		
3b.Demonstrate sound critical thinking by applying the intellectual standards of the social sciences.	ISS 4935: Students write a 13 to 15 page original research paper of high quality, meeting the conventions and standards of their specific disciplinary areas.	80% of students will earn 70% or higher on these assignments.		

	ISS 3300 students write a research paper of high quality.	80% of students will earn 70% or higher on these assignments.		
	ISS 3010 students engage in a series or oral debates OR write a short research paper.	80% of students will earn 70% or higher on these assignments.		

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed

4. Civic Engagement (optional):

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Plan for Use of Findings in Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
ISS is not assessing civic engagement at this time.				

*Please include multiple assessments. For example: students perform well on classroom assignments, norm-referenced tests/surveys, and they get accepted to graduate school or are employed

5. Multiculturalism / Diversity

Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment/ Corroborating Evidence*	Criteria for Success	Findings	Results	Plan for Use of Findings in Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
5a. Students will exhibit sensitivity to and respect for diversity, and demonstrate a strong understanding of the impact of systems of inequality, power and privilege on groups and individuals as a function of their race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, and cultural background.	ISS 3010: students will engage in three debates about key social issues related to diversity OR write a short research paper engaging one or more of the dimensions of social diversity. ISS 1102 students will write a short paper engaging one or more of the dimensions of social diversity.	80% of students will earn 70% or higher on these assignments. 80% of students will earn 70% or higher on these assignments.			