Expected Outcomes: Informed and engaged citizenship

Students are expected to learn more about their government and the culture and diversity that underpins. To the extent possible they also should be able to draw some comparisons between their government and the governments of other nations. This knowledge presumably will be an inducement to be engaged in the process.

Related typical general education outcomes:

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Assessment methods

Method: Student survey

Graduating seniors were asked to complete an exit survey that provided useful information about how they evaluate the educational experience in this major, and how the course of study relates to becoming more informed and engaged.

Findings:

Students were asked to respond to a series of questions by answering either 'strongly agree,' 'agree,' 'neither agree nor disagree,' 'disagree,' 'strongly disagree.' The following are the percentages of students who either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' with the following statements:

- I gained an understanding of a variety of recurring controversies in politics at home and abroad = 86%
- My major courses helped me develop skills for analyzing arguments and evidence about politics = 79%
- My major courses gave me a more sophisticated understanding about how American politics and policy-making work = 79%
- I feel more confident choosing which candidate to vote for now than I was before I came to Auburn = 62%
- I plan to vote in the next election = 95%
- It is the responsibility of every citizen to do some type of volunteer civic work = 83%

How did you use findings for improvement?

The Department now has formed a Committee for the designated task of refining our assessment measures and implementation. We continue to have discussions about how we are bringing our major to our students. The faculty is especially concerned about two findings of the student survey: students do not read enough outside of assigned course readings; the sources of political news that they select are overly opinion-oriented and do not adequately challenge the thinking of our students.

Additional comments:

None