

## Concurrent Enrollment Assessment Report 2011-2012

The Political Science Department offers concurrent enrollment credit for POLS 121 (American Government), which is a General Education Introductory course. In this course students are introduced to the history, structure, and functions of the US national government. The course objectives for 121 classes offered on campus as well as in local high schools are as follows:

Students should:

- Have an understanding of American political history, including the US Constitution, and the evolution of the party system.
- Be able to explain the roles of Congress, the president, the courts, the bureaucracy, and interest groups in the policymaking process.
- Be able to describe the formation and impact of public opinion and of political participation in the American political system.

In order to assess whether these objectives have been met, the Department designed an Assessment Plan in the spring of 2007. Each year, students from WSU and local high schools (Campus and Goddard\*) write short essays on ten key topic areas: US Constitution, Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, Federalism, Public Opinion, Political Participation, Political Parties, Interest Groups, Presidency, Congress, and the Judiciary. When the courses are complete, the instructors submit the student essays to be read by two WSU professors. The decision points are as follows:

|                 |                            |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 90%             | Exceeds expectations       |
| At or above 70% | Meets expectations         |
| Below 70%       | Does not meet expectations |

Due to time constraints, 3 of the 10 completed essay topics were chosen for assessment: Presidency, Participation, and Constitution.

On the Participation essay, 0% of **Goddard I** High School students exceeded

On the Constitution essay, 20% of **Goddard I** High School students exceeded expectations, 60% met expectations, and 20% failed to meet expectations. 20% of **Goddard II** High School students exceeded expectations, 80% met expectations, and 0% failed to meet expectations. 20% of **Campus** High School students exceeded expectations, 60% met expectations, and 20% failed to meet expectations. By comparison, a section of American Government offered at **WSU** resulted in 20% exceeded expectations, 30% met expectations, and 50% failed to meet expectations.

We conclude from this assessment that the concurrent enrollment students are receiving solid instruction in American Government from our partner high schools.

\* Campus and Goddard offer the course for the full year. Two instructors offered two sections of the course at the two high schools in Goddard. Enrolled students receive 3 credit hours at WSU regardless of the length of the high school course.