

## APSU Political Science Student Satisfaction Survey - Summary

### *Brief on Demographics of Survey Respondents*

Overall, there were 18 responses to the Student Satisfaction Survey as of October 30, 2013. Fifteen of these respondents were majors and three were minors. Of the majors, seven focused on general political science, two were International Relations minors, and six were in the Legal Studies concentration (three did not provide responses on this question). Of the minors, one was a philosophy major and another was a criminal justice major (one did not provide a response). Sixteen of the respondents stated that they were full-time students while at APSU, with two not giving a response. In terms of whether respondents took classes on-ground or online, most of the respondents reported taking most of their classes on-ground. The following table provides a summary:

All on-ground	Mostly on-ground	50/50 on-ground, online	Mostly online	All online	No Answer
1	10	1	2	3	1

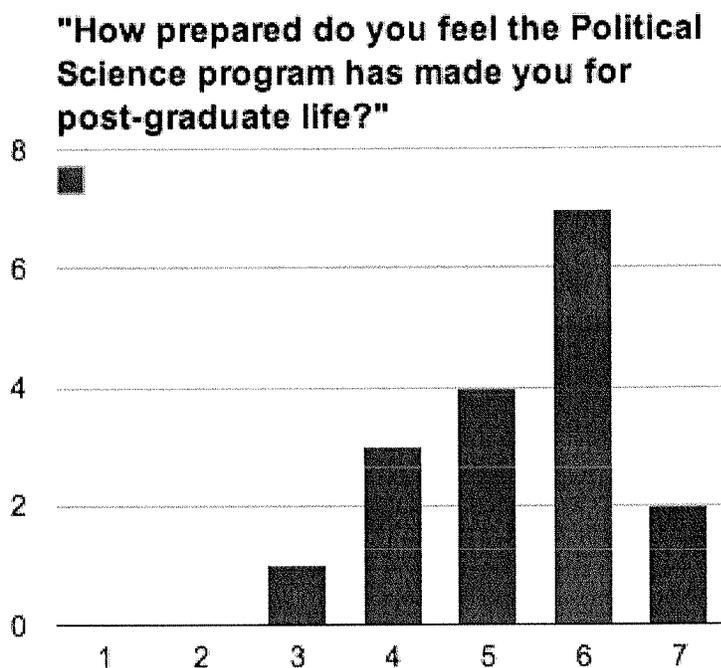
Thirteen of the respondents had no connection to the U.S. Armed Forces, and five had some connection. Of those five, two were veterans, two were spouses of armed forces members, and one was in the Army Reserves.

The average age of respondents was 25, with all but two within the 20-29 age range (those two individuals were 42 and 44 years old). Nine respondents were female, eight were male, and one did not provide a gender.

### *Respondents' Reported Post-Graduation Plans*

Those who took the survey all reported certain post-graduation plans, with six planning to work full time, four planning to attend graduate school, and eight planning on attending law school. Those with work plans post-graduation mentioned law enforcement, leadership coaching, paralegal services, and legislative work. Those with graduate school plans were split between those who knew where they would attend (APSU and University of Oregon) and those who did not have information on their specific plans. Those attending law school were decided with the exception of one case, with students planning on attending law schools at Belmont University, the University of Kentucky, Georgetown Law, Jones School of Law and Nashville School of Law. Planned areas of legal concentration ranged from appeals and prosecution to family law and criminal law.

## Satisfaction with Political Science at APSU

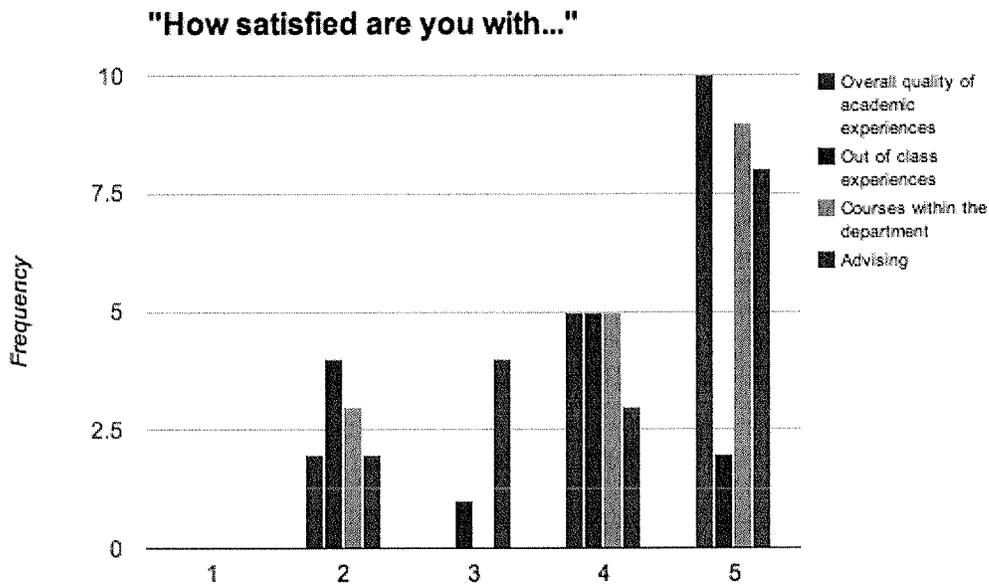


*On a scale of 1-7, with 1 being "Not prepared at all" and 7 being "Very prepared."*

On the whole, students reported feeling well prepared for their post-grad careers by the political science department (mean = 5.17, s.d. = 1.34). The modal response for this question was six. A followup question was asked in order to obtain context from the responses. Several of the responses pertained to general political classes not having applicability to students' legal concentrations, while others noted a lack of applied politics classes and a limited utility of the degree. Still others noted a high degree of preparation for the future, including one that noted that the department/program was "challenging" but also "overwhelmingly supportive both personally and academically."

### *Satisfaction with Academic Experiences*

The bar plot below presents responses to individual queries on student satisfaction. In terms of the overall quality of academic experiences, students reported very favorably on the whole, with 10 responses indicating that they were "very satisfied" (mean = 4.33, s.d. = 0.91). Satisfaction with out of class experiences fared less well, with the modal category being "Somewhat satisfied" and the mean of responses equal to 2.65 (s.d. = 1.17). It is important to



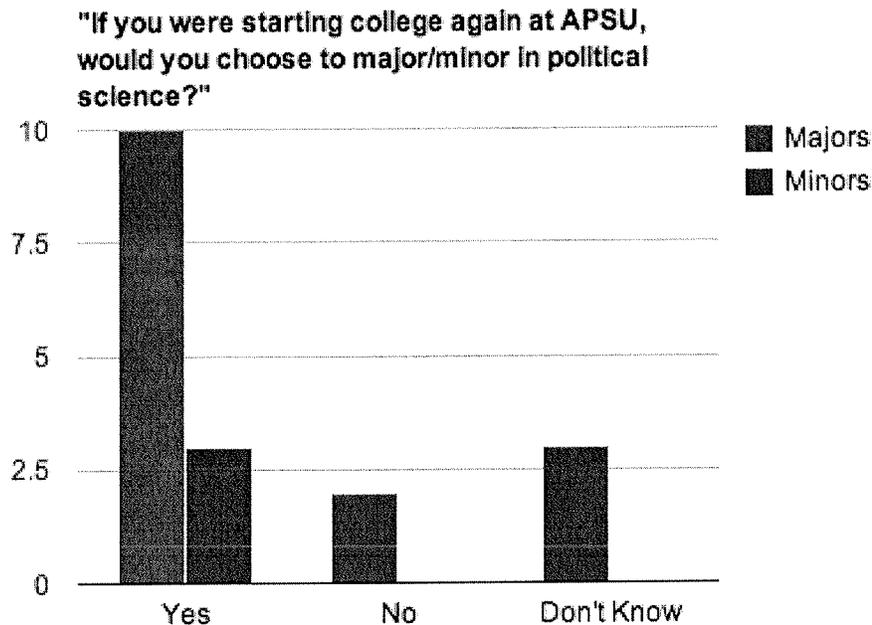
*On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "Very unsatisfied" and 5 being "Very satisfied," how satisfied are you with...*

note that 5 students responded to the question on out of class experiences with "not applicable"), which may be indicative of little or no experience with this type of class experience within the department.

On the whole, students reported a high degree of satisfaction with the courses in the department, with the modal category of "Very satisfied" garnering 9 responses (mean = 4.18, s.d. = 1.13). Responses to satisfaction with advising within the department were similar, but not quite as high, with the modal category of "Very satisfied" garnering 8 responses (mean = 4, s.d. = 1.12).

Open-ended responses given by students who chose to elaborate offer more information. One student who gave particularly high marks on each of the satisfaction questions noted that "there is not one professor ... within the department that I wouldn't refer to a current student." However, two students had less high marks to give for advising, with one noting that they received more guidance from OneStop than faculty and another lamenting the retirement of their advisor and, as a result, feeling "left to flounder."

**The overall mean satisfaction with academic experiences was 3.79.**



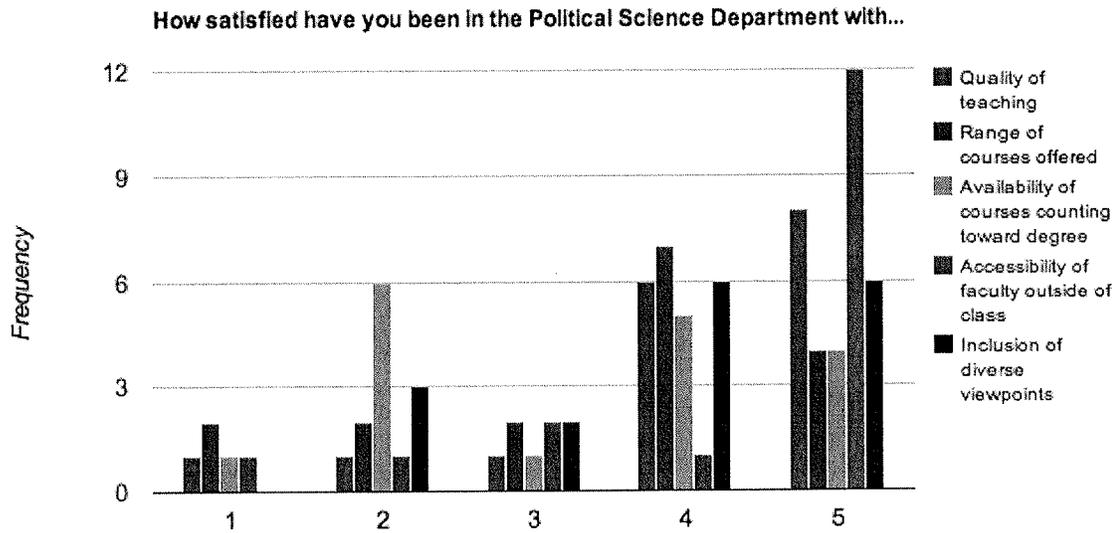
#### *Choosing the Major/Minor a Second Go-Round*

When asked if they would major or minor again in political science were they to begin college over at APSU, on the whole students responded in the affirmative, a response chosen by 10 majors and 3 minors. Three majors stated that they would not major again in the field, two of which provided open-ended responses explaining their reasoning. One student stated that the lack of available jobs in government would make them reconsider majoring again in the field, while the other stated that they had overestimated how interested they were in political science after “taking so many political science classes.” Of the minors who responded, all stated that they would again choose the field for their program, while three majors responded that they didn't know if they would make the same choice again.

#### *Satisfaction with Teaching and Courses*

Specific questions on students' satisfaction with specific parts of courses, including quality of teaching, courses offered and accessibility of faculty outside the classroom showed a bit more variance than previous sets of satisfaction questions. Students were typically somewhat or very satisfied with the quality of teaching, though three students gave middling or negative marks on this question (mean = 4.12, s.d. = 1.17). Students reported lower satisfaction with the range of courses offered, with 7 reporting that they were “somewhat satisfied” and 4 reporting “very satisfied.” On the other hand, six students gave middling-to-low marks for satisfaction in this area (mean = 3.53, s.d. = 1.33).

The question pertaining to the availability of courses counting toward the degree had the



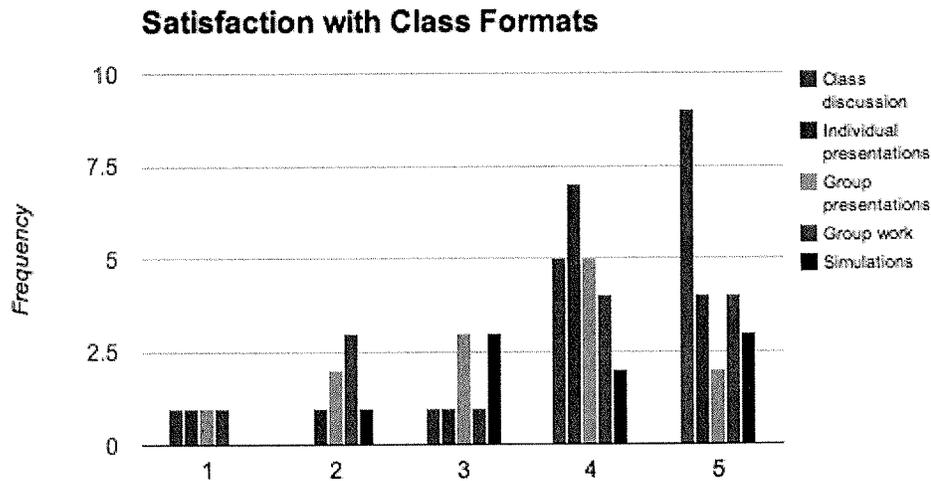
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "Very unsatisfied" and 5 being "Very satisfied," how satisfied are you with...

lowest satisfaction ratings of any category, with the modal category being "somewhat dissatisfied" and only 9 out of 17 responses showing at least some satisfaction (mean = 3.29, s.d. = 1.36). On the other hand, students reported very high levels of satisfaction with the accessibility of faculty outside the classroom, with 12 responses of "very satisfied" with professor accessibility (mean = 4.56, s.d. = 1.26). Finally, satisfaction with faculty's inclusion of diverse viewpoints was typically high, with 12 students reporting that they were either somewhat or very satisfied with this part of the department (mean = 3.88, s.d. = 1.11).

**The overall mean satisfaction with teaching and courses was 3.876.**

#### *Satisfaction with Class Formats*

Questions pertaining to satisfaction with various formats (other than lecture) of classes typically showed high levels of satisfaction across the board. Satisfaction with class discussion was very high, with 9 out of 16 responses being "Very satisfied" (mean = 4.31, s.d. = 1.08). Satisfaction with class formats utilizing independent presentations was a bit lower, but still high, with the modal category being "somewhat satisfied" (mean = 3.86, s.d. = 1.17). As might be



*On a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being "Very unsatisfied" and 5 being "Very satisfied" how satisfied...*

expected given the nature of group work, both group presentations and group work got the lowest satisfaction scores of these items (mean = 3.39, s.d. = 1.19 for group presentations, mean = 3.54, s.d. = 1.39 for group work). Finally, for those students who had experience with simulations in class (7 reported "not applicable"), satisfaction was typically high for those class formats (mean = 3.78, s.d. = 1.09).

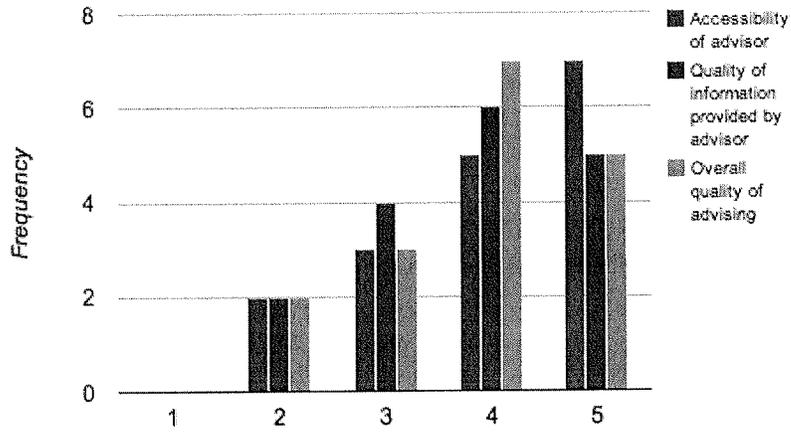
**The overall mean satisfaction with class formats was 3.776.**

#### *Satisfaction with Advising Experiences*

Students typically expressed satisfaction across the board for the questions pertaining to academic advising. Out of 17 responses, 12 students reported being somewhat or very satisfied with the accessibility of the academic advisor (mean = 4.0, s.d. = 1.06). Students similarly rated satisfaction with the quality of information provided in advising, though not quite as highly (mean = 3.84, s.d. = 1.02). Students also showed satisfaction with the overall quality of academic advising (mean = 3.88, s.d. = 0.99).

**The overall mean level of satisfaction for academic advising was 3.91.**

### Satisfaction with Advising



On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "Very unsatisfied" and 5 being "Very satisfied" how satisfied...