

Summary of Active Social Engagement PLO
Department of Political Science
2013-14

1. Assessment Method. We modified and applied the AAC&U's "Value Rubric" to assess six final papers in Prof. Knecht's POL 190: *Political Internships* course. The "Rubric" uses a scale of 1 (Developing) to 4 (Capstone) to assess student work along four criteria: (1) Diversity of Communities and Cultures, (2) Analysis of Knowledge, (3) Civic Identity and Commitment, and (4) Connection to Christian Service. Our goal was that our students would average a 3 or better on each criterion.

2. Findings. The average results from our coding are as follows: (1) Diversity of Communities and Cultures = 3.2, (2) Analysis of Knowledge = 2.5 (3) Civic Identity and Commitment = 3.2 and (4) Connection to Christian Service = 3. Our department has learned several things from the data. Overall, we are pleased that our students are committed to and understand the importance of service and civic engagement. Many students remarked that they plan to continue their public-spirited work after graduation and believe there is a strong biblical call to serve others. We are happy with these results, but there are things we can improve upon. We can do a better