

Appendix: Unformatted Alumni Questionnaire Items

[Note: Items and sections do not necessarily appear in the same order discussed in the article due to the need for logical flow in the questionnaire.]

1. In what year did you graduate from Montana State University?
2. What was your major concentration when you graduated with a degree in political science from MSU? [4 concentrations listed, along with “no major concentration” and “do not recall” options]
3. Please indicate your gender. [Response options: female, male, other, prefer not to answer]

Program Structure

4. How useful did you find the following aspects of the political science curriculum? [Very useful, fairly useful, not very useful, not at all useful, not sure, not applicable]
 - Items: Sequencing of courses (i.e., offering courses at 200, 300, and 400 levels); requiring that students take core foundation courses (e.g., American government, political inquiry); having major concentrations (i.e., international relations, policy and analysis, political institutions, political theory); requiring that students take courses across concentrations
5. Please rate the following aspects of the political science curriculum. [Excellent, good, fair, poor, not sure, not applicable]
 - Items: Flexibility in taking courses in the curriculum; frequency of course offerings
6. Did you take 200-level foundation courses before taking 300- and 400-level courses? [Yes, mostly, no, do not recall]
7. How beneficial were each of the following activities to you as supplements to the curriculum? Feel free to add activities in the “Other” boxes, as well. [Very beneficial, fairly beneficial, not very beneficial, not at all beneficial, not sure, not applicable]
 - Items: Study abroad; internship; student club(s); volunteering; community activism; political campaigning; [“Other” boxes]
8. Additional feedback on the CURRICULUM: [Text box]

Knowledge

9. How well did your political science studies EQUIP you with basic KNOWLEDGE in the following areas? [Very well, fairly well, not very well, not at all well, not sure, did not take]
 - Items: American politics; applied statistics (i.e., political analysis); comparative politics (i.e., comparison of political institutions, culture, and policies); foreign language; international relations; logic; political economy; political theory/philosophy; public administration; public policy; research methods
10. Additional feedback on KNOWLEDGE: [Text box]

Learning Environment

11. How would you rate the following aspects of the LEARNING ENVIRONMENT during your political science studies at MSU? [Excellent, good, fair, poor, not sure, not applicable]
 - Classroom items: Variety of teaching methods; quality of teaching; quality of other students; class sizes; workload in classes; experiences in large lecture classes; experiences in smaller classes

- Faculty & staff items: Faculty accessibility; ability to conduct research with faculty; advising about courses and curricula; informing about study abroad opportunities; informing about leadership opportunities; informing about student organizations; advising about careers; informing about internship opportunities

12. Additional feedback on the LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: [Text box]

Skill Preparation

13. How well did your political science studies PREPARE you to use the following SKILLS? [Very well, fairly well, not very well, not at all well, not sure]

- Communication items: Writing; public speaking; debating; interpersonal communication; working in groups
- Research and analysis items: Reading comprehension; locating information; synthesizing and integrating information; applying theory to research questions; problem solving/analysis; analyzing numerical data; analyzing textual information; critical thinking; constructing arguments; ethical reasoning; logical reasoning
- Professional items: leadership; organization; working independently; acting professionally

14. Additional feedback on SKILL PREPARATION: [Text box]

Skill Importance

15. How IMPORTANT has each of the following SKILLS been in your life since graduating from MSU? [Very important, fairly important, not very important, not at all important, not sure]

- [Replication of all items from #13 above]

16. Additional feedback on SKILL IMPORTANCE: [Text box]

Employment & Further Studies

17. In which of the following sectors does your primary employment fall? [Private sector, public/governmental sector, nonprofit/nongovernmental sector, not sure, not applicable]

18. What do you do for a living? [Text box]

19. How satisfied are you with the following characteristics of your primary employment? [Very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neutral, somewhat dissatisfied, very dissatisfied, not sure]

- Items: Fit of the position; level of responsibility; weekly number of hours; compensation; location

20. Did you complete or are you currently enrolled in any further studies beyond those at MSU? If yes, please list all such programs. [Yes (with text box), no]

21. Do you anticipate enrolling in any further studies in the future? If yes, please list all such programs. [Yes (with text box), no, not sure]

22. Additional feedback on EMPLOYMENT & FURTHER STUDIES: [Text box]

Final Thoughts

23. This is your opportunity to share any final thoughts you have about the political science program and curriculum that you did not share earlier in the survey. Thank you! [Text box]