



## Request to Disestablish Academic Program/Plan

<b>Name of Academic Program:</b> Political Science, Ideas and Methods Emphasis(POLBA.IDMET)
<b>Academic Department:</b> School of Government and Public Policy, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
<b>Geographic Site:</b> Main Campus
<b>Instructional Modality:</b> In-Person
<b>Last Term of operation:</b> Spring 2027
<b>Brief Description:</b> <p>How do social movements start? How do leaders gain power? Can governments run efficiently? Gain insight into these topics and more with a degree that explores political ideas. Political science is the study of government, public policy and the political behavior of individuals and groups. When students embark on a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with an emphasis in Ideas and Methods, they focus on theoretical questions that lead to real-world change. Students explore the processes, principles and structures of government and political institutions in the U.S. and in countries around the globe. Coursework covers international relations, political theory, foreign affairs, methodology and institutions, and includes hands-on internship opportunities at nonprofit organizations and government agencies. Students graduate with important writing, critical thinking and analytical skills.</p>
<b>Reason for Disestablishing the Program:</b> <p>We seek to disestablish the Ideas and Methods concentrations for two primary reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This concentration makes little sense, substantively speaking. It combines “theory” – courses that focus on coherent intellectual thought, but less on empirical testing – with “methods” – courses that focus on empirical testing strategies but have little emphasis on underlying theories. Traditionally, theory and methods would be kept distinct, and together they share an awkward pairing that are often seen as two very different sets of skills. Without a</li></ul>



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substantive subject to bring these together, these courses are disparate, and it is hard to know what kind of cumulative knowledge students will gain.

- The Political Science major has a proliferation of concentrations, which makes it confusing for students, more difficult to administer, and segments the course offerings. To underscore this point, it was recommended in our last APR cycle to simplify the concentration offerings. Given the lack of clear pedagogical benefit, as well as the fact that this is a relatively unpopular concentration (making up about 1.5% of our political science majors, with a count of 9 students in Fall 2022), we believe it useful to disestablish this concentration so that we can focus students' attention on more pedagogically sound options.

### Disestablishment Plan:

We will continue to support all students who are in the Ideas & Methods concentration. Some students may switch to other concentrations, but the larger political science major will continue and will be fully supported.

### How will program resources be reallocated? (i.e., faculty and administrative positions; infrastructure, etc.):

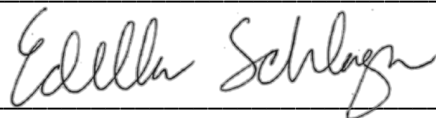
All resources will continue to be used to support political science students. The only difference is one concentration, with very few students, will no longer be offered. We expect the same number of students within the major overall, and any reallocation will be a relatively minor shift as our advisors support students. All classes will continue to be offered, as all classes in the Ideas & Methods concentration are already part of other political science offerings already.

Is this program in an ABOR designated high demand field?      YES      NO

Is the discontinued program in education, health, science, technology, engineering or math (STEM)?


No

Department Head Name: Edella Schlager

Department Head Signature: 

Date: 11/16/2023

Dean/Assistant Dean Name: Amy Kimme Hea

Dean/Assistant Dean Signature: 

Date: 11/22/2023