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Political Science ACE 10 Assessment Process

Elizabeth Theiss-Morse

University of Nebraska Lincoln, etheissmorse1@unl.edu

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Even though the full ACE 10 assessment won't take place until Fall 2014, the preliminary results revealed such clear needed action that we decided to make curriculum changes immediately rather than wait for the full assessment. The one skill our students especially struggled with was collecting and analyzing relevant data as well as some basic research design issues (such as being able to write good hypotheses). The Political Science faculty discussed in spring 2014 the need to require a research methods course. We intermittently offered POLS 286, our Introduction to Political Analysis, but did not require our majors to take the course. In Fall 2014, the faculty voted to require POLS 286. We also voted to continue requiring a political theory course because of the importance of teaching our students logic and how to make a good argument. We have offered a political theory course every semester for many years. We will now offer our political analysis course every semester as well.