

# Academic Program Assessment Report

**Assessment** is a term commonly used to encompass the process of gathering and using evidence to guide improvements.

SACSCOC requires that an institution "identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of seeking improvement based on analysis of the results".

## Be sure to **SAVE** your progress as you work!

**Academic Program**  
International Studies, B.A.

**Submission Due Date**  
Fall 2025: October 1, 2025

**Assessment Coordinator Name**  
Ashley Woodiwiss

**Enter Assessment Coordinator Email**  
awoodiwiss@lander.edu

## Program Goal

### Goal

#### Goal 1

**Program Goals** are broad and overarching statements about the skills, knowledge, and dispositions students are expected to gain by the end of their course of study (big picture). They support the Institution's Mission/Goals.

#### Program Goal

The International Studies BA prepares professionals for successful careers in business, education, government (many areas such as the diplomatic corps, economic development, and military service), or in positions within community affairs. A bachelor's degree in this field also prepares graduates with the critical thinking and application skills related to a graduate education that emphasizes different aspects of international studies.

#### Pillar of Success Supported

Graduates Who Are Gainfully Employed or Admitted to Graduate School

## Outcomes

### Outcome 1

**Outcomes** are specific, **measurable** statements that reflect the broader goals.

Academic Programs are required to develop **Student Learning Outcomes**, which describe knowledge, skills, and values that students are expected to gain as a result of their educational experiences.

Academic Programs may also develop **Operational Outcomes**, which describe the level of performance of an operational aspect of a program or office (ex. graduation rates, retention, employment data).

**Most goals have at least two outcomes measured.**

### What type of Outcome would you like to add?

Student Learning Outcome

#### Enter Outcome

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding.

#### Timeframe for this Outcome

Academic Year 2024-2025

#### Performance Target for "Met"

Student scores in range between 80 to 100 (or analogous score) on designated assignment.

#### Performance Target for "Partially Met"

Student scores in range between 70 to 79 (or analogous score) on designated assignment.

#### Performance Target for "Not Met"

Student scores in range between <60 to 69 (or analogous score) on designated assignment.

#### Assessment Measure Used

This will be measured by specially-designated assignments, exams, and projects in the program's core classes.

#### Frequency of Assessment

annually

#### Data Collected for this Timeframe (Results)

Data was academic year 2024-2025

#### Score (Met=3, Partially Met=2, Not Met=1)

2

#### Comments/Narrative

Of the three International Study Seniors, only 1 of the 3 scored in the range between 80 to 100 (or analogous score) on designated assignment. The the other two scored in range between 70 to 79 (or analogous score) on designated assignment.

#### Resources Needed to Meet/Sustain Results

The International Studies program commenced in the Fall of 2020. To date there has not been a full-time faculty member with expertise in the subfield of International Relations who could serve as the director and program-builder for the program. The result has been a small selection of courses in POLS/IR (and allied disciplines) with a cobbled-together cast of faculty who are good course instructors but who have not recruited to nor thought of themselves as a necessary and vital part of the IS program. Not surprisingly then, the number of majors has shown no steady increase; a key indicator of program health and potential. What is needed is a full-time faculty member with IR expertise who can serve as the focal point and director for this program.

#### Explanation of How Resources Will Be Used

This new full-time faculty member would direct, guide, event-plan, and oversee the International Studies major.

## Outcome 2

**Outcomes** are specific, **measurable** statements that reflect the broader goals.

Academic Programs are required to develop **Student Learning Outcomes**, which describe knowledge, skills, and values that students are expected to gain as a result of their educational experiences.

Academic Programs may also develop **Operational Outcomes**, which describe the level of performance of an operational aspect of a program or office (ex. graduation rates, retention, employment data).

**Most goals have at least two outcomes measured.**

**What type of Outcome would you like to add?**

Student Learning Outcome

**Enter Outcome**

Demonstrate the ability to think critically.

**Timeframe for this Outcome**

Academic Year 2024-2025

**Performance Target for "Met"**

Student scores in range between 85 to 100 (or analogous score) on INTL research 499 assignment.

**Performance Target for "Partially Met"**

Student scores in range between 71 to 84 (or analogous score) on INTL 499 research assignment.

**Performance Target for "Not Met"**

Student scores in range between <60 to 70 (or analogous score) on INTL 499 research assignment.

**Assessment Measure Used**

This will be measured in projects and assignments within INTL 499. In INTL 499 seniors have to interview a professional in their targeted field of work and then write a reflection paper on that interview in which they critically assess the quality of insights gained and the level of increased preparedness for their professional life. Thus, they are assessed on their ability to "think critically and analytically."

**Frequency of Assessment**

annually

**Data Collected for this Timeframe (Results)**

Data is from academic year 2024-2025.

**Score (Met=3, Partially Met=2, Not Met=1)**

2

**Comments/Narrative**

Of the three International Study Seniors in INTL 499, only 1 of the 3 scored in the range between 85 to 100 (or analogous score) on designated assignment. The the other two scored in range between 71 to 84 (or analogous score) on designated assignment

**Resources Needed to Meet/Sustain Results**

The International Studies program commenced in the Fall of 2020. To date there has not been a full-time faculty member with expertise in the sub-field of International Relations who could serve as the director and program-builder for the program. The result has been a small selection of courses in POLS/IR (and allied disciplines) with a cobbled-together cast of faculty who are good course instructors but who have not recruited to nor thought of themselves as a necessary and vital part of the IS program. Not surprisingly then, the number of majors has shown no steady increase; a key indicator of program health and potential. What is needed is a full-time faculty member with IR expertise who can serve as the focal point and director for this program.

### Explanation of How Resources Will Be Used

This new full-time faculty member would direct, guide, event-plan, and oversee the International Studies major.

### Outcome 3

**Outcomes** are specific, **measurable** statements that reflect the broader goals.

Academic Programs are required to develop **Student Learning Outcomes**, which describe knowledge, skills, and values that students are expected to gain as a result of their educational experiences.

Academic Programs may also develop **Operational Outcomes**, which describe the level of performance of an operational aspect of a program or office (ex. graduation rates, retention, employment data).

**Most goals have at least two outcomes measured.**

#### What type of Outcome would you like to add?

Student Learning Outcome

#### Enter Outcome

Demonstrate application skills.

#### Timeframe for this Outcome

Academic Year 2024-2025

#### Performance Target for "Met"

Student scores in range between 85-100 (or analogous score) on designated writing or presentation assignment.

#### Performance Target for "Partially Met"

Student scores in range between 71-84 (or analogous score) on designated writing or presentation assignment.

#### Performance Target for "Not Met"

Student scores in range between <60 to 70 (or analogous score) on designated writing or presentation assignment.

#### Assessment Measure Used

Each of the upper-level courses in the Policy & Practice category (POLS 303, POLS 325, POLS 361, POLS 366, POLS 391, POLS 445) will measure application skills through a designated writing assignment and/or presentation assignment.

#### Frequency of Assessment

annually.

#### Data Collected for this Timeframe (Results)

Only limited data are available for 2024-2025. Only one of these courses (POLS 325, Fall 2024) was offered in 2024-2025. And it had only two IR majors.

#### Score (Met=3, Partially Met=2, Not Met=1)

3

**Comments/Narrative**

Given the low number of majors and lack of sufficient upper level INTL course offerings, very limited data is available at this time. Both IR majors in POLS 325 scored in range between 85-100 (or analogous score) on designated writing or presentation assignment.

**Resources Needed to Meet/Sustain Results**

The International Studies program commenced in the Fall of 2020. To date there has not been a full-time faculty member with expertise in the sub-field of International Relations who could serve as the director and program-builder for the program. The result has been a small selection of courses in POLS/IR (and allied disciplines) with a cobbled-together cast of faculty who are good course instructors but who have not recruited to nor thought of themselves as a necessary and vital part of the IS program. Not surprisingly then, the number of majors has shown no steady increase; a key indicator of program health and potential. What is needed is a full-time faculty member with IR expertise who can serve as the focal point and director for this program.

**Explanation of How Resources Will Be Used**

This new full-time faculty member would direct, guide, event-plan, and oversee the International Studies major.

## Goal Summary

**Goal Summary/Comments**

We are fast approaching the time to determine whether this program will or will not be viable going forward.

**Changes Made/Proposed Related to Goal**

For program viability one of two courses seems necessary. Either, 1) a new full-time faculty member with IR expertise and who would direct, guide, event-plan, and oversee the International Studies major needs to be hired, or 2) the program needs to find a new departmental home outside the GCS Department (History? Foreign Languages?).

**Upload Rubrics/Other Files****Dean's Email Address**

mjameson@lander.edu

**Approved by Dean?**

Yes

**Signature of Dean**

Misty L. Jameson

**Comments from Dean's Review**

For Goal One, Outcome One, having something called "designated assignment" coming from "specially-designated assignments, exams, and projects in the program's core classes" seems a bit generic and lacks the specificity needed to maintain program continuity. What assignment is it, and what course(s) is it offered/housed in?

Otherwise, this report, while containing more data than last year's, seems very similar overall. There is simply not enough student data to make meaningful comparisons from year to year, and there is not a dedicated International Studies faculty member to oversee this program, particularly its recruitment and retention of majors. I agree that some course of action should be taken either during the 2025-2026 or 2026-2027 academic year. This plan does seem to require either moving the major to another department or, as I previously mentioned, making it an area of concentration for the Political Science major and

keeping it in its current department. My assumption is that, because it has been approved as a major program of study, it will most likely need to be housed elsewhere. As a department, GCS will need to decide how to proceed and how best to support the program during this transition.

**Thank you for reviewing and approving this report. The approval and a copy of the report will be emailed to you and the Assessment Coordinator.**