Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences
POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
Tuesday, September 22, 2020

MINUTES

Members:	☑ Dean: Chris Gold	☐ Austin Gordon
	☑ Josh Casper	☑ Laurie Houske
	☐ Van Chaney	☑ Christine Jun
	☐ Ellen Coleman	☐ Tom Klein
	☐ Angela Cranon-Charles	☑ Eduardo Munoz
	☐ Paul Flor	☑ David Reed
	☐ Joe Georges	☑ Karl Striepe
	☑ Steven Gonzales	

I) Fall Scheduling and Enrollment

- The department reviewed scheduling for Fall 2019 and Fall 2020.
- Although there was slow enrollment over summer, things picked up nearer to the start of the semester. Most community colleges, including El Camino, experienced a decline in enrollment, but the POLI classes eventually filled much like they have in the past.
- Chris was given the go ahead to add classes when things filled, so there are about 5 more POLI sections this fall than last fall.
- There were 34 POLI 1 classes in 2019 and there are 37 in 2020. There are 7 sections designated for various programs like HTP, FYE, myPATH, etc. Thanks to the faculty who teach these sections. The programs are quite beneficial to students.
- There are four FYE sections this semester with three POLI 1s and 1 POLI 5. Political Science 5, Ethnicity in the American Political Process, is in an FYE link for the first time. The class typically enrolls fairly slowly and FYE seems a good fit to support enrollment. Also, FYE is hoping to attract more LatinX and African American students, so this is a good class for them too.

- We increased the number of POLI 7s and 10s because students from last semester were asking for them. They have a history of filling fast with full waitlists. We are trying a couple extra in spring too.
- We thought we would get a surge of students from CSU and UCs, but it doesn't seem to be the case. POLI faculty report that they don't seem to have more or may have a few more CSU and UC students than usual. One faculty member reports higher student performance this fall, which may be connected to more CSU and UC students or it could be related to relaxed due dates.

II) Spring Scheduling

- It is very hard to predict spring enrollment, so we are taking a fairly cautious approach by doing a straight rollover of sections, with a few additions.
- Chris is uncertain regarding the dual enrollment section. We are having trouble getting dual enrollment students enrolled and into the Canvas shell in time for the start of the semester. It is likely we will schedule the dual enrollment class and open half of the spots to the general population and then hold the other half for the high school students. This way we can be more certain the class will fill and not be canceled.
- We have not yet heard how many POLI sections will be myPATH. If a faculty member is interested in teaching myPATH, please speak with Jason Suarez about the possibility. I think myPATH is a great benefit to students, and I am happy to schedule whichever sections Jason recommends. MyPATH (formerly SER – Student Equity Reenvisioned) sections have a PASS mentor and a counselor partnered with the class. MyPATH classes have the full class enrollment and are not linked like the SER classes were. The faculty who have participated, have really liked it.
- Josh is teaching an extra section of POLI 2.
- POLI 5 will be taught through FYE again in the Spring.
- Extra sections of 7 and 10 are also being scheduled in response to student demand.

III) Curriculum

- There is no POLI curriculum due for Fall 2020.

IV) SLO/PLO Assessment

- The assessments due for this fall are POLI 1 SLO #3; POLI 2 SLO #2; POLI 3 SLO #3; and POLI 7 SLO #2.
- Eduardo reports they are on schedule and everyone knows their assessment responsibilities.

V) Degrees Awarded

- The number of POLI degrees awarded has shown a sharp increase since the introduction of the AAT in 2017. The numbers have risen from about 8 to 42.
- The increase in awards may be due to in class conversations with students about the degree and reminders to apply. The faculty are talking to students more about the degree in the non-POLI 1 classes where the classes are dominated by the most interested students. They also talk about the degree in the POLI Club and POLI events. Our excellent division Counselor, Cheryl Kroll, also directs students towards the degree.
- The POLI AAT is the 5th most awarded degree in division.
- The department then review the data re: who earns the degree. About 60% of POLI AA degree recipients are men and 40% are women. This is in alignment with past conversations.
- Disproportionately more LatinX students get the POLI degree than are earning degrees across campus. No African American students earned the degree, but we need to keep in mind that we are only talking about 42 degrees. Slightly more Asian and more white students earned the degree than the campus average.

VI) Equity Data Review

- The department reviewed disaggregated success data and talked about the equity gaps and how to address them.
- The success and retention rates in POLI classes have steadily increased and risen above both the college and division rates.
- In Spring 2029, success was 76.5% and retention was 90.5%. Students are staying in their POLI classes and doing very well in them.
- Latino, White, and Asian POLI students enjoy success rates that are above the campus average, while the African American average success rate in POLI is significantly lower than their success in classes across campus.
- The success gap for LatinX POLI students is smaller (2%) than across the college (4.3%) or in the division (3.0%). Seventy percent of the students earning the degree are LatinX. White POLI students achieve much higher than the college average.
- The success gap for African American POLI students (22.5%) is significantly larger than the gap for African American students across the college (12.5%) or the division (12.4%).

<u>Conversation about POLI Equity Gaps</u>

- It is possible that with the Black Lives Matter movement in spring 2019 and the wider political and social environment that was hostile to African Americans, educational attainment may have been more difficult for African American students.
- Lots of issues are discussed in class that appeal to African American students.

- In the textbooks, African Americans are mostly only discussed in the Civil Rights Movement chapter. Instructors might need to compensate by adding in readings that cover African American achievements during other time periods.
- Also, in textbooks the African American political experience is often contextualized as "a struggle," creating the impression that African Americans lack agency. This can be balanced if instructors focus on the institutional goals that African Americans have reached through political action, litigation, legislation, and interest group movements.
- LatinX students are also left out of the textbooks, only being touched upon during discussions of Manifest Destiny and farm worker movements of the 60s. If being left out of the textbooks, impacted success, then LatinX students would also show significantly lower success rates.
- African American students may have more skepticism about government and be less interested or motivated by a POLI class. They may feel more disenfranchised and disconnected from the material. The book, "American Founder" provides a compendium of African American historical figures and their significance and gives a deeper picture of how essential and embedded African Americans are in the nation's history. For instance, we can rethink African American agency regarding the end of slavery. Instead of crediting whites by saying "Abraham Lincoln ended slavery," the reality is that African American action and agency forced whites to end slavery.
- Some of the POLI instructors use an OER textbook published by Rice University. It is free online or can be purchased for $30 as a hard copy. Other faculty members are using OpenStax. The free textbooks are considerably better than they were in the past. A free textbook may help further reduce equity gaps. There are a variety of opinions about whether or not it would help. The BSS Success Team will be collecting data to see whether success rates improve when a faculty member shifts to a free textbook.

VII) Fall Classes

<u>Conversation about how it's going in the fall classes.</u>

- Fall classes are going more smoothly than in spring but the online environment is still challenging for many students. Some instructors are seeing lower test scores and more missing work than in on campus classes.
- Retention is about normal with a few students dropping out. Waitlists were not as full this semester, so instructors were less able to fill drops.
- Online classes are great for introverted students who are much more active in the discussions online than face-to-face. The online discussions in general are very strong. Distance education helps us reach the quiet students.
- The SPOCK training was excellent and prepared the faculty well to teach online.
- Most students are not turning on their cameras on Zoom. This is more of a problem in fall than in spring. Perhaps because students had already developed a relationship with the Instructor and other students in the class during spring,

they were more comfortable turning on their cameras. Students may be embarrassed about their surroundings or not have the bandwidth to have their cameras on or use a virtual back ground.

VIII) Counselor's Report

- Please see Cheryl Kroll's announcements about the Fall University Virtual Fair and Transfer Workshops on p. 14 of the attached PowerPoint.

IX) Announcements

- BSS doesn't have any division events for students this fall and 2021 Study Abroad was canceled.
- The Political Science Student Club is meeting but is not strong. We are pleased that it's hanging in there! David and Josh will let the department and Chris know if there are meeting times, and we will advertise.
- Laurie will check into the League of Women Voters forum and see if there is anything planned for El Camino. David may send Chris a list of their events that can be announced.
- Program review has been extended for one year, but we still haven't heard about when training and the next cycle will begin. Laurie and Josh are ready to get started with the work and would be okay with just getting going with it. Chris recommended they email Kevin Degnan to find out if they can get trained and started with it.

The department decided that it does not need a second department meeting. If anything major comes up, we can plan a meeting if we need to.

Attachment: Meeting PowerPoint

cc: Dr. Dena Maloney
Dr. Jean Shankweiler
Division Counselors
Political Science Faculty

Philosophy Dept. Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Meeting Agenda

I) Fall Scheduling and Enrollment

II) Spring Scheduling

III) Curriculum

IV) SLO/PLO Assessments

V) Degrees Awarded, 2009-2020

VI) Equity Data Review

VII) Counselor's Report

VIII) Announcements

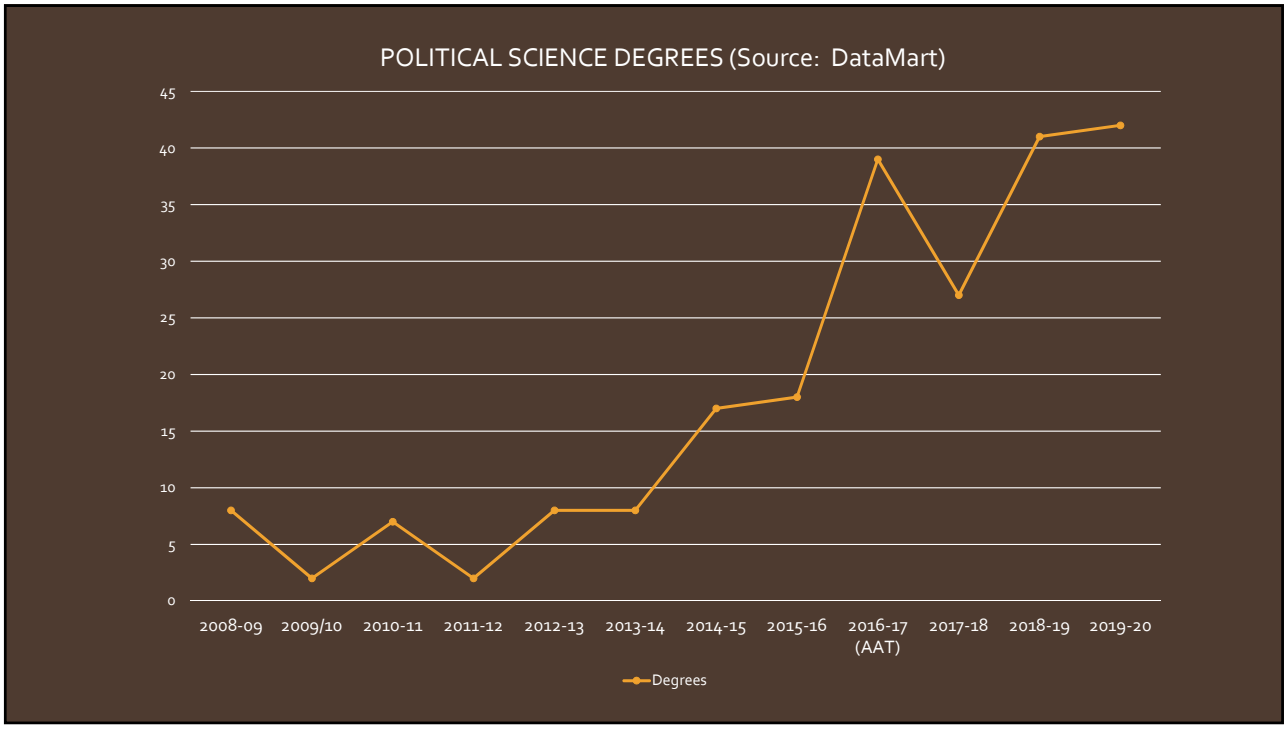
Fall Scheduling – 2019 and 2020

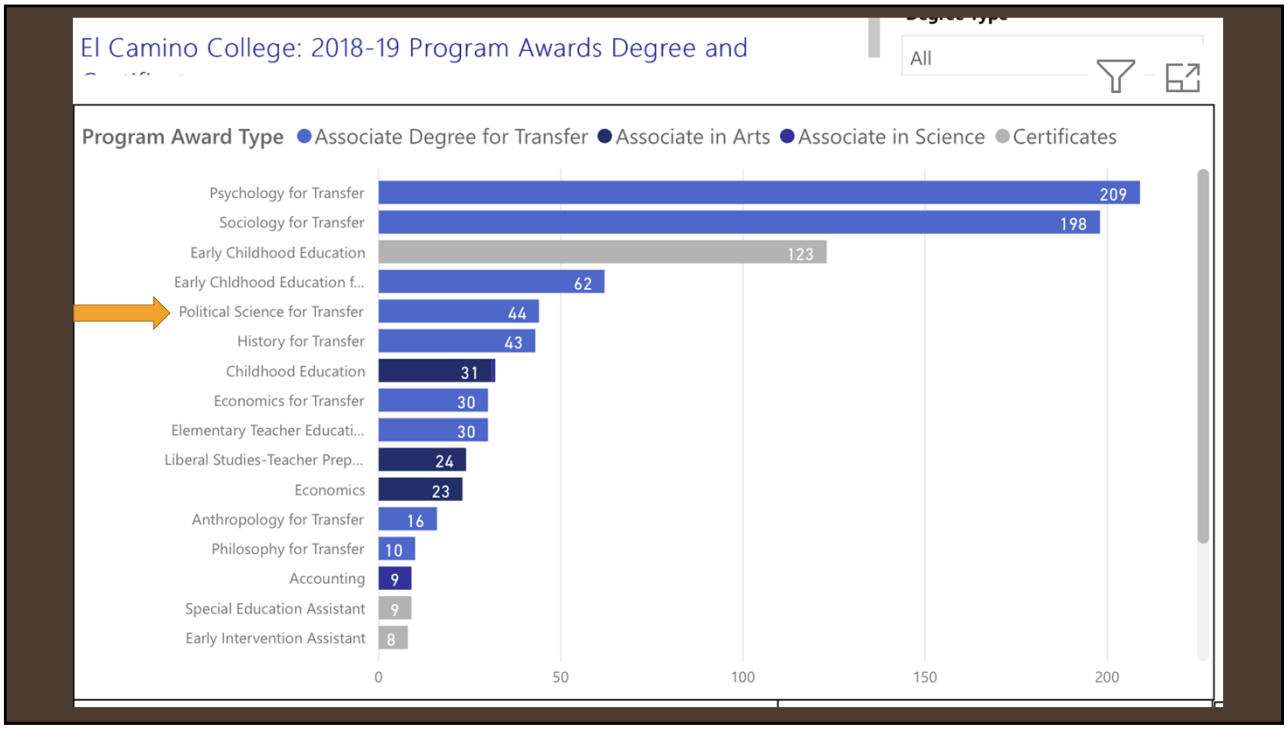
Class	Fall 2019 # sections	Fall 2020 # sections
1 Gov'ts of US and CA	34 (1 HTP, 1 FYE, 1 dual en, 1 SER link, 1 myPATH, 1 NSF Stem Cohort)	37 (1 HTP, 3 FYE, 1 dual en, 2 myPATH, 1 NSF Stem Cohort, 1 Project Success)
2 Comparative Politics	2	2
3 – Principals & Methods	1	1
5 – Ethnicity	1	1 (FYE)
7 – Political Philosophy	1	2
10 – International Relations	2 (1 HTP)	3 (1 HTP)

Spring Scheduling – 2020 and 2021

Class	Spring 2020 # sections	Spring 2021 # sections
1 Gov'ts of US & CA	34 (1 HTP, 1 dual en, 3 FYE, 1 SER link, 1 myPATH)	35 (1 HTP, 3 FYE, 1 dual en, ? myPATH)
2 Comparative Politics	1	2
5 - Ethnicity	1	1 (FYE?)
6 – Civil Rights & Liberties	1	1
7 – Political Philosophy	1	2
10 - Int'l Relations	2 (1 HTP)	3 (1 HTP)

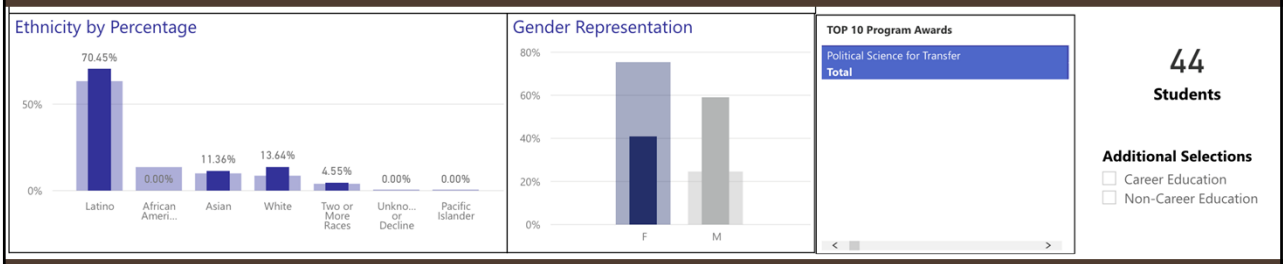
- Curriculum, Fall 2020
  - None for Political Science
- SLO/PLO Assessment
  - POLI 1 SLO #3
  - POLI 2 SLO #2
  - POLI 3 SLO #3
  - POLI 7 SLO #2



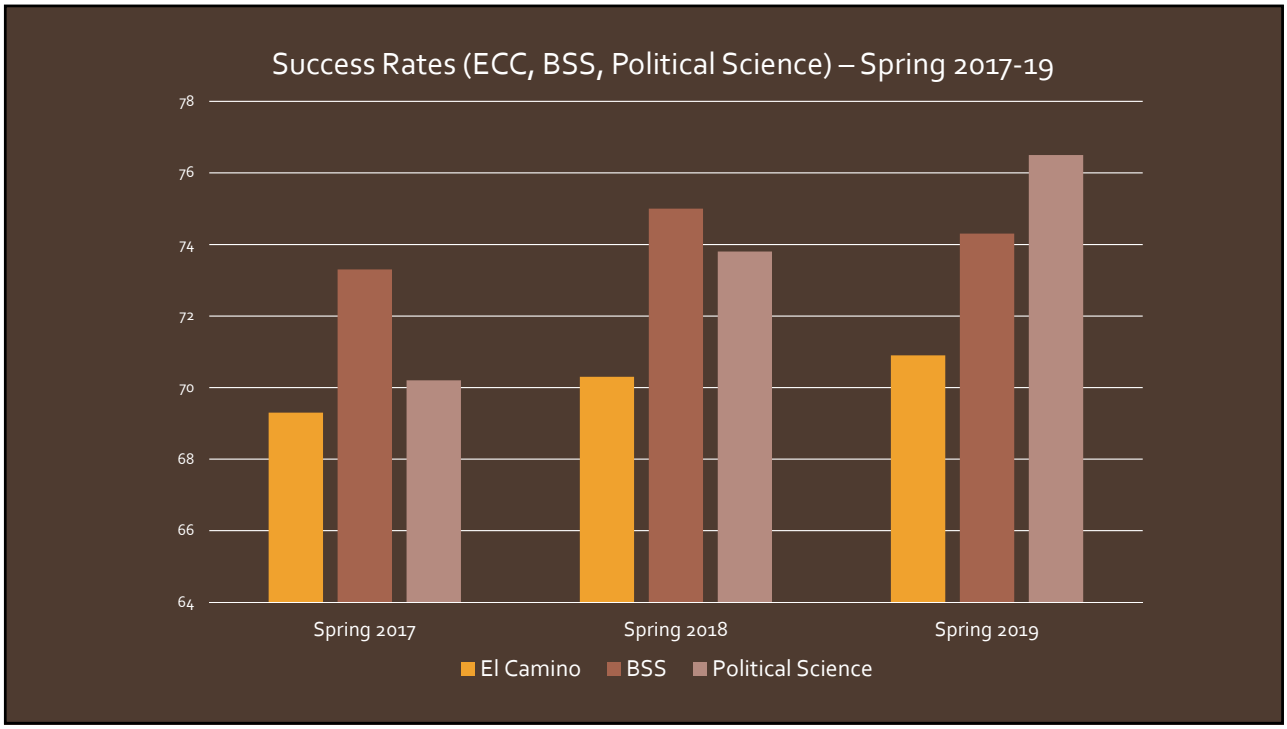


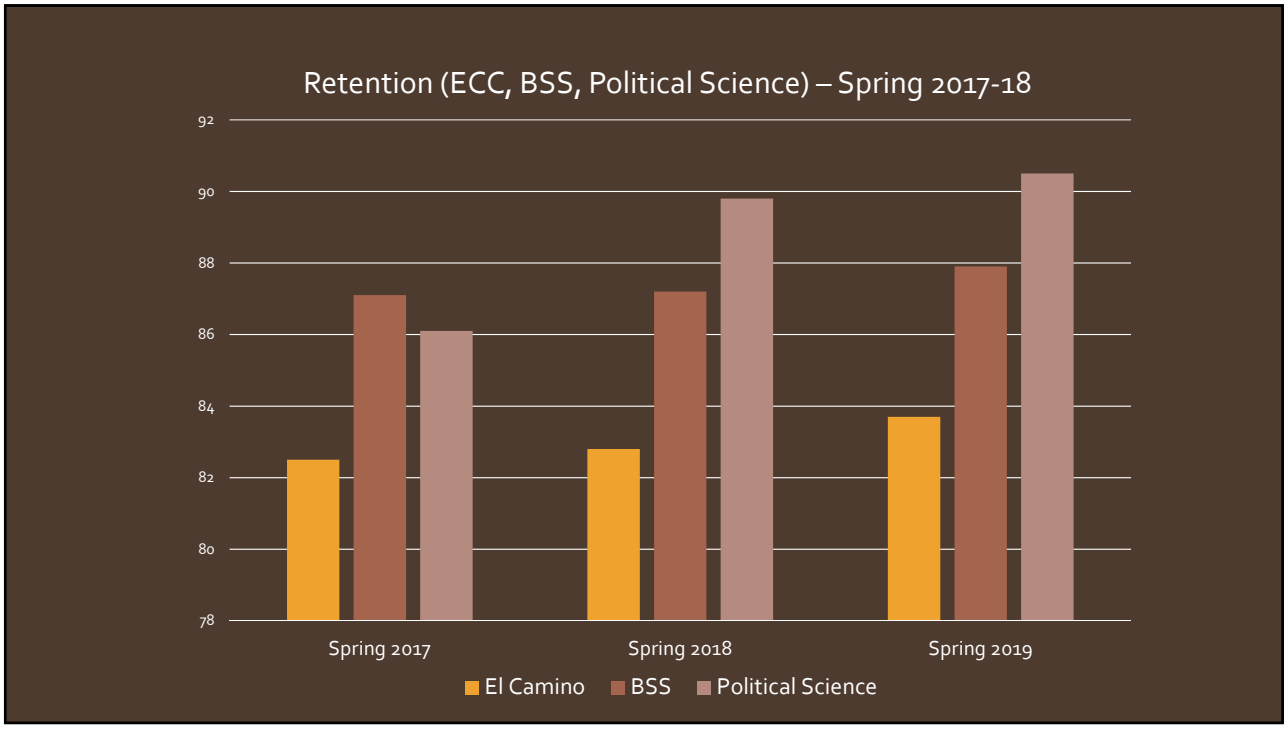
POLITICAL SCIENCE AAT DEGREES 2018-19

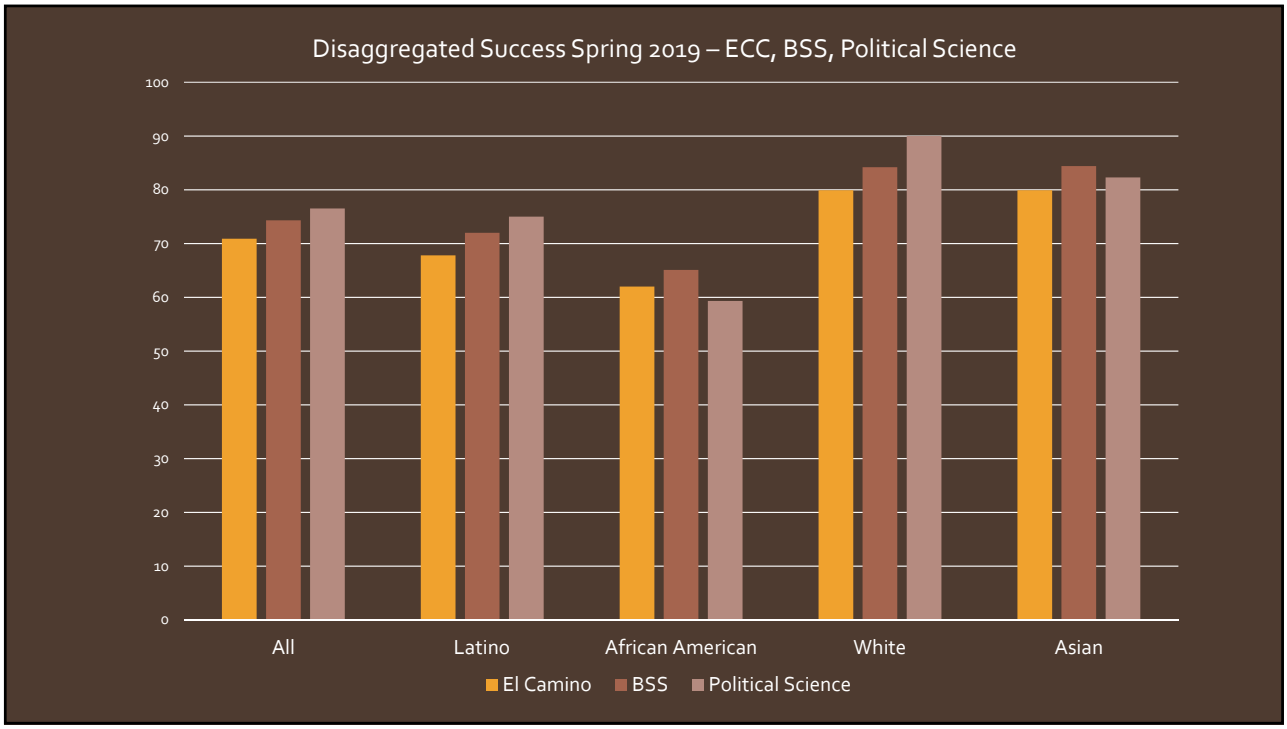
(Source: ECC Degree Dashboard)

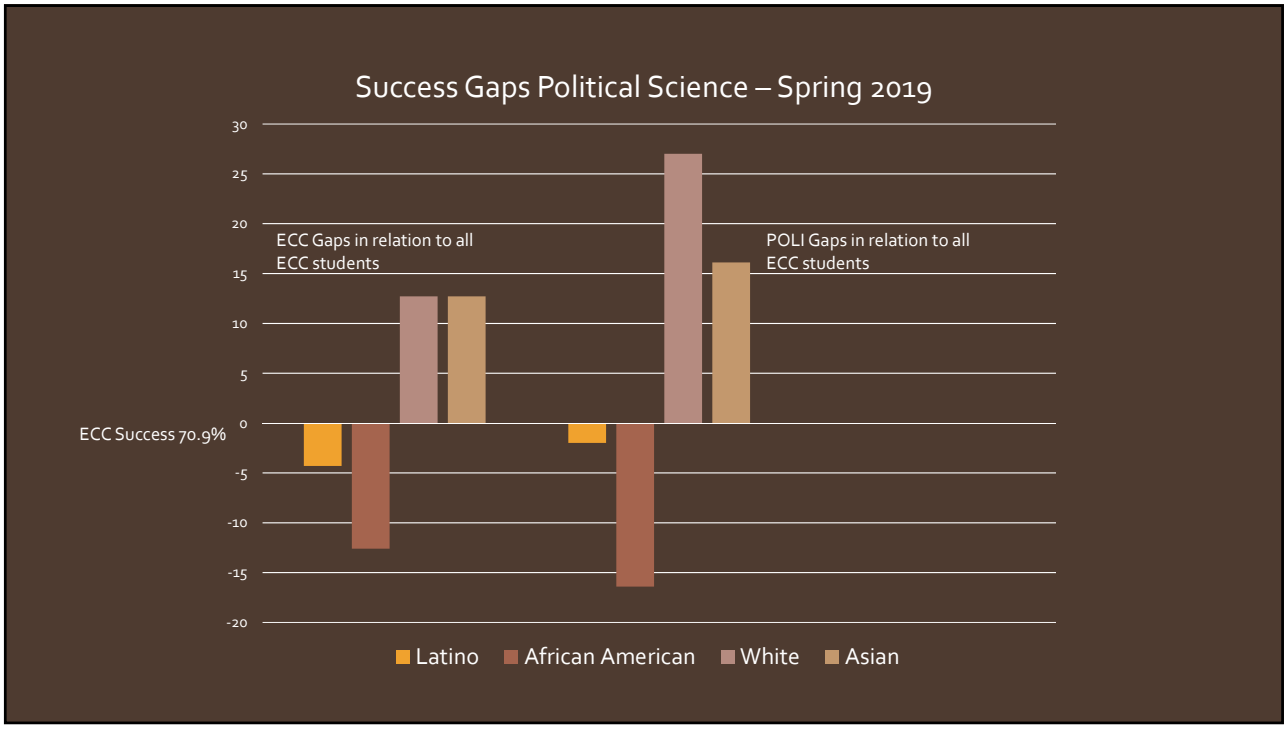


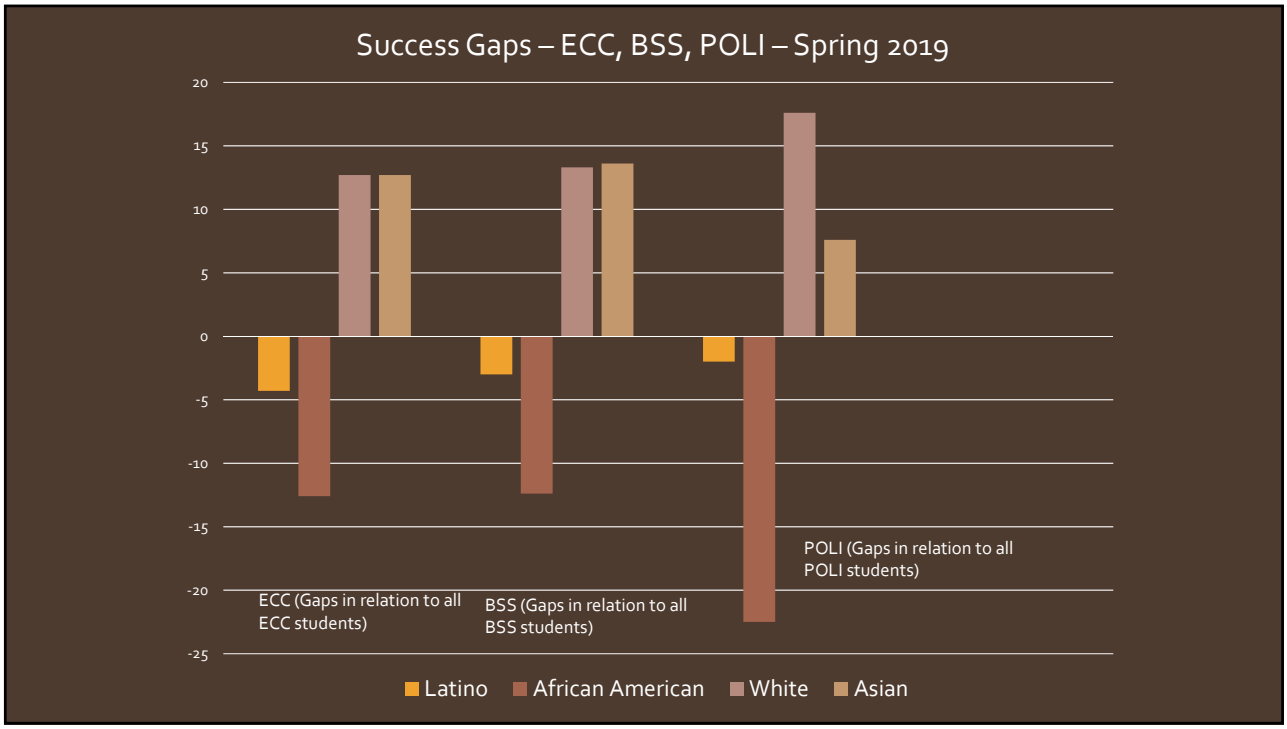
Dark blue: POLITICAL SCIENCE
Light blue: ECC


Success Rates (ECC, BSS, Political Science) – Spring 2017-19
78
76
74
72
70
68
66
64
Spring 2017
Spring 2018
Spring 2019
El Camino
BSS
Political Science


Retention (ECC, BSS, Political Science) – Spring 2017-18
92
90
88
86
84
82
80
78
Spring 2017
Spring 2018
Spring 2019
El Camino
BSS
Political Science


Disaggregated Success Spring 2019 – ECC, BSS, Political Science
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
All
Latino
African American
White
Asian
El Camino
BSS
Political Science


Success Gaps Political Science – Spring 2019
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
-5
-10
-15
-20
ECC Success 70.9%
ECC Gaps in relation to all ECC students
POLI Gaps in relation to all ECC students
Latino
African American
White
Asian



Counseling Announcements

September Counseling Events

Transfer Center will be offering virtual services:

» Month of September Highlights

Fall University Virtual Fair
Thursday, September 24th
10am-1pm
Link:
https://www.elcamino.edu/student/studentservices/transfercenter/universityfairs.aspx

Transfer Workshops!
Don't forget to register and attend our transfer workshops! We offer TAG workshops, UC Strategies workshops, CSU strategies workshops, and, of course, CSU and UC application workshops for those students applying Fall 2020 for Fall 2021 admission. Come join us!
Link:
https://www.elcamino.edu/student/studentservices/transfercenter/workshops.aspx

- Events and Announcements
- Question: Should we have a second meeting this semester?