NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL (NISP) FOR A NEW PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION

1. **Institution**: University of West Alabama
2. **Date of NISP Submission**: July 7, 2023
3. **Contact Person and Title**: Tina Jones, Provost
   - Telephone: 205-652-3833
   - E-mail: jnj@uwa.edu

4. **Program Identification**:
   - **Award Level**: Bachelors
   - **Title**: Politics and Justice
   - **Degree nomenclature (e.g., MBA, BS)**: BA
   - **6-digit CIP**: 451099

5. **Program Administration and Implementation**:
   - **Name of College/ School**: College of Liberal Arts
   - **Name of Dean**: Amy Jones, PhD
   - **Name of Department**: English, History, Social Sciences
   - **Name of Chairperson**: Kendrick Prewitt, PhD

   - **Proposed program implementation date**: 1/1/2024
   - **Anticipated ACHE meeting to vote on proposal**: 9/8/2023
   - **Anticipated date of approval from institutional governing board**: 12/8/2023
   - **Other considerations for timing and approval (e.g., upcoming SACSCOC review)**:
     The program will require a notification to SACSCOC. Because the existing Political Science minor provides the basis for the program, it will not require a full program approval.
6. Program Design:

Brief Description of Program and Objectives:

The Politics and Justice major offers a well-rounded education in political institutions, values, ideologies, and behavior. It emphasizes a broad training in the various methods of the study of politics, from political theory to statistical analysis. Graduates of the Politics and Justice program will be prepared to enter a wide variety of careers, including in government, non-profit agencies, and media. In addition, the Politics and Justice major prepares students for graduate study in law and the social sciences.

Graduates of the University of West Alabama’s Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Justice program will:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking in the application of theories of justice to contemporary political issues.
2. Demonstrate the ability to communicate rationally and judiciously on matters of politics and questions of justice.
3. Understand various political processes, such as paths of policy formation in the United States.
4. Demonstrate competency in methods of political analysis, such as political theory and quantitative research methods.

Proposed delivery format (100% in-person, 100% online, hybrid, multiple formats):

100% in-person

If hybrid, what % of program will be delivered online?

If multiple formats, which ones?

Total Credit Hours required to complete the program (if range, enter minimum):

36 credit hours will be required for the major, and 120 credit hours required for the degree.

Please identify any specialized accreditation agency that may apply to this program and explain why your institution does or does not intend to seek specialized accreditation.

N/A

Will the curriculum require work-based or experiential learning (internship, practicum, etc.)? If yes, please explain. Definitions and examples of different types of work-based learning are available at https://www.alapprentice.org/.
Work-based or experiential learning will not be required, but will be encouraged. Students in the Political Science minor already earn independent study credit for relevant internships, and this will continue (and be developed) with the Politics and Justice major.

Will the program be designed to meet educational requirements licensure and/or certification required for entry-level employment? If yes, please list license and/or certification(s).
No.

7. Employment Occupational Alignment
Using the federal Standard Occupational Code (SOC) System, please indicate the top three occupational codes related to post-graduation employment from the program. A full list of SOCs can be found at https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/find/family/title#17. A list of Alabama’s “In-Demand Occupations” is available at https://ache.edu/Instruction.aspx

SOC 1  19-3051.00  Urban and Regional Planners
SOC 2  43-4031.00  Court, Municipal, and License Clerks
SOC 3  23-2011.00  Paralegals and Legal Assistants

Relationship to other programs within the institution:
Is the proposed program associated with any existing offerings, including options within current degree programs? If yes, please explain. If this is a graduate program, please list any existing undergraduate programs which are directly or indirectly related. If this is a doctoral program, also list related master's programs.
The only related program is a minor in Political Science. Many of the courses overlap.

Will this program replace any existing programs or specializations, options, or concentrations within existing programs? If yes, please explain.
No.

8. Relationship to programs at other Alabama public institutions:
List programs at the same degree level that use the same or similar CIP codes. If no similar programs exist within Alabama, please list similar programs offered within the 16 SREB states.
The most similar programs in Alabama are in Political Science:
AAM POLITICAL SCIENCE BA
ASU POLITICAL SCIENCE AND GOVERNMENT BA
AU POLITICAL SCIENCE BA
AUM POLITICAL SCIENCE AND GOVERNMENT BS
JSU POLITICAL SCIENCE BA
TROY POLITICAL SCIENCE BA/BS
UA POLITICAL SCIENCE BA
UAB POLITICAL SCIENCE BA
UAH POLITICAL SCIENCE AND GOVERNMENT BA
UM POLITICAL SCIENCE BA/BS
UNA POLITICAL SCIENCE BA/BS
USA POLITICAL SCIENCE BA

If the proposed program duplicates, closely resembles, or is similar to any other offerings in the state, please provide justification for any potential duplication.

The study of politics in some form is present, for good reason, at the vast majority of institutions of higher learning. Politics has an impact on all of our lives, so there is a perpetual interest and need for students to learn about politics in the process of learning about themselves and the world around them. However, this Politics and Justice major is different from most Political Science programs in that it is broader in methodology and scope. Quantitative research methods are part of the program, but there are also courses that directly confront contemporary political issues to a greater extent. Also, the emphasis on justice and leadership also means there is a greater than average focus on theoretical and normative aspects of politics, including an emphasis on the American founding and the theories of justice that underlie it. But, again, there will be significant overlap with many Political Science programs, and this will have the benefit of helping students develop a similar range of skills that employers, graduate programs, and law schools would expect of a Political Science graduate.

If you plan to explore program collaboration with other institutions, please explain.

N/A

9. Projected program demand
What is the primary methodology you will use to determine the level of student demand for this program? (Survey of current or former students, enrollments in existing programs or courses)

The Political Science minor has consistently been one of the most popular minors at the institution. Student surveys will also be conducted in the Fall of 2023.

What is the primary methodology you will use to determine state need for this program? (Labor market information, expert market analysis, state or regional economic development strategy)
Labor market information will be researched, and expert market analysis has already been conducted. A recent independent report commissioned by the University of West Alabama highlighted the need for a major in the study of politics. See below for a quote from that report:

“Minor rationalization is essential if UWA is to achieve net positive revenue for its campus undergraduate programs. The two most popular minors (Social Work and Political Science, both lacking major alignment) are viewed as the kernels of future high-enrollment majors.”
1. Date of Proposal Submission: September 8, 2023

Full program name and level: Politics and Justice, Bachelors

Degree nomenclature (e.g., MBA, BS): BA

CIP Code: 45.1099

2. Learning Outcomes:

Succinctly list at least four (4) but no more than seven (7) of the most prominent student learning outcomes of the program.

i. Gain civic literacy, with a view to both historical and contemporary questions of politics and justice.

ii. Write clearly and cogently on matters of politics and justice, with sensitivity to competing ideas.

iii. Demonstrate competency in social science research methods, including quantitative analysis.

iv. Think critically about political processes, institutions, and concepts, in both domestic and international contexts.

v. Evaluate contemporary issues in light of various tools of analysis, including theoretical and quantitative methods.

3. Employment Outcomes and Program Demand

Please describe how the proposed program prepares graduates to seek employment in the occupations (SOC codes) identified within the NISP. Note: you may also indicate any updates to those codes here.

The proposed program will prepare graduates for a wide range of career opportunities in politics and justice, including the following:

i. SOC 1 19-3051.00 Urban and Regional Planners

   a. The curriculum demands an understanding of government processes, as well as contemporary issues. Furthermore, the curriculum includes a
course on leadership, which will offer students examples of effective management in the sphere of politics.

ii. SOC 2 27-303 1.00 Public Relations Specialists

a. The specific subset of public relations that will be of most obvious interest to students will be in the realm of public affairs. Aside from the education in government and contemporary issues, the curriculum has several writing-intensive courses that will help students hone their communication and argumentation skills. Students will, therefore, have the potential to be a great asset in many areas, such as in campaigns and in legislative offices.

iii. SOC 3 23-1011.00 Lawyers

a. Students seeking to be lawyers will, of course, require further education. However, this program will prepare students for law school with its writing-intensive curriculum and its emphasis on critical thinking and discussion. Students in the current Political Science minor have already been assisted in attaining internships at legal offices, and the program coordinator is also the university's pre-law advisor. Thus, while other programs can certainly be successful in preparing students for law school, this program is especially well prepared for it.

Please explain whether further education/ training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations you have selected.

Further education will be required for students seeking to become lawyers. Also, most urban and regional planners have a master's degree. However, there are positions in local government, associated with urban and regional planning, that will not require further education.

Briefly describe how the program fulfills a specific industry or employment need for the State of Alabama. As appropriate, you should discuss alignment with Alabama’s Statewide or Regional Lists of In-Demand Occupations (available at https://ache.edu/Instruction.aspx under “Policy/Guidance”) or with emerging industries as identified by Alabama’s Innovation Commission or the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama (EDPA).

Public relations specialists (255 annual openings) are listed as in-demand at both the state and regional level. Lawyers (430) are in-demand at the state level and in each of the regions (1, 4, 5, 7) surrounding region 3, where UWA is located. Paralegals and Legal Assistants (520) are also in high demand.

Please describe how you will determine whether graduates are successful in obtaining relevant employment or pursuing further study.
Surveys will be composed and sent to graduates at regular intervals.

Briefly describe evidence of student demand for the program, including enrollments in related coursework at your institution if applicable. If a survey of student interest was conducted, please briefly describe the survey instrument, number and percentage of respondents, and summary of results.

The Political Science minor is traditionally one of the most popular on campus; there are currently 29 students enrolled in Political Science and related minors. A recent independent viability study commissioned by the University of West Alabama highlighted the need for a major in the study of politics. According to that report:

“Minor rationalization is essential if UWA is to achieve net positive revenue for its campus undergraduate programs. The two most popular minors (Social Work and Political Science, both lacking major alignment) are viewed as the kernels of future high-enrollment majors.”

Enrollments in upper division courses are trending upward. Furthermore, the university lacks a major in the field of politics, which is typically one of the most popular choices at colleges and universities. A recent report from the Education Advisory Board (EAB) encouraged the university to consider a program in politics with a broad curriculum that goes beyond the scope of many “Political Science” programs. The curriculum of the proposed Politics and Justice major was designed with that goal in mind.

4. Specific Rationale (Strengths) for Program

What is the specific rationale for recommending approval of this proposal? List 3-5 strengths of the proposed program.

i. The curriculum is broad and holistic. It demands critical thinking in multiple forms, from writing to quantitative analysis.

ii. With decreasing test scores in civics across the nation, there is a dire need for increased education in responsible citizenship. In emphasizing political processes, history, and contemporary political issues, the program will be a resource for such responsible citizenship. This will be true for those majoring in the program, as well as those students who will take the coursework as electives.

iii. The University of West Alabama does not currently offer a major program in the area of politics. It is a core academic study, and in order for the university to offer a well-rounded set of programs to students in this region, such a program is necessary.
iv. The program combines tradition with innovation. There are traditional Political Science courses, such as those in political philosophy, but there are also innovative courses that many other similar programs do not offer, such as on contemporary political issues. It is a liberal arts program, but one that seeks to package that education in a novel form.

Please list any external entities that have supplied letters of support attesting to the program’s strengths, and attach letters with the proposal.

The Jack Miller Center has written a letter of support (attached).

5. Program Resource Requirements

A. Faculty. Please provide or attach a brief summary of primary and support faculty that includes their qualifications specific to the program proposal. Note: Institutions must maintain and have current and additional primary and support faculty curriculum vitae available upon ACHE request for as long as the program is active, but you do not need to submit CVs with this proposal.

Primary – Full-time

I. Jacob Snyder, Associate Professor of Political Science
   a. Education
      i. PhD in Political Science from Michigan State University
      ii. MA in Philosophy from Kent State University
   b. Courses Taught
      i. American Government
      ii. Comparative Government
      iii. Modern Political Thought
      iv. Ancient Political Thought
      v. American Political Thought
      vi. Introduction to Philosophy
      vii. Logic and Critical Thinking
      viii. World Religions
   c. Publications
Primary – Part-time
1. Kirsten England, Adjunct Instructor of Political Science
   a. Education
      i. PhD in Political Science from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville
   b. Courses Taught
      i. American Government
      ii. State and Local Politics
      iii. Introduction to Public Administration and Public Policy
      iv. The Executive
2. Matthew Ford, Adjunct Instructor of Political Science
   a. Education
      i. JD from Mississippi College School of Law
      ii. MAT in History from the University of West Alabama
   b. Courses Taught
      i. Introduction to Law
      ii. Constitutional Law
3. Melissa Bailey, Adjunct Instructor of Political Science
   a. Education
      i. PhD in Public Administration and Public Policy from Auburn University
      ii. Master of Public Administration from Auburn University
      iii. Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from Auburn University
   b. Courses Taught
      i. State and Local Politics
      ii. Public Administration
      iii. American Government for Secondary Teachers
      iv. Teaching/Pedagogy in Political Science

Please provide faculty counts for the proposed program:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Faculty Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Full-Time</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Part-Time</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Full-Time (to be hired)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Part-Time (to be hired)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Briefly describe the qualifications of any new faculty to be hired:

A PhD in Political Science or a related field. In order to teach a broad range of the curriculum, the ideal candidate will have a background in both political theory and empirical Political Science.
B. Staff. Will the program require dedicated staff?   Yes   No

If so, indicate the number or percentage of FTEs.

Note: Annual compensation costs for staff to be hired should be included in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table in Part 3.

C. Equipment. Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program?

Yes   No

If yes, please list. Their cost should be included in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table in Part 3.

D. Facilities. Will any new facilities be required specifically for the program?

Yes   No

If yes, please list. Only new facilities need be listed. Their cost should be included in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table in Part 3.

E. Library. Will additional library resources be required to support the program?

Yes   No

Please provide a brief description of the current status of the library collections supporting the proposed program.

The library already contains most of the course texts in its collections, and has access to several journals in the field including the following:

- Fold3.com
- GPO Access
- GPO Monthly Catalog
- U.S. government publications
- LegalTrac

Drawing on a wide variety of the most highly regarded legal publications, LegalTrac® provides indexing for more than 1,400 titles including major law
reviews, legal newspapers, bar association journals and international legal journals.

- **Military & Government Collection**

  Military & Government Collection™ provides full text for nearly 300 journals and periodicals. The database also offers indexing and abstracts for more than 400 journals.

- **Open Textbook Library**

  Open textbooks are textbooks that have been funded, published, and licensed to be freely used, adapted, and distributed. These books have been reviewed by faculty from a variety of colleges and universities to assess their quality. These books can be downloaded for no cost, or printed at low cost. All textbooks are either used at multiple higher education institutions; or affiliated with an institution, scholarly society, or professional organization.

- **Patents Database**

- **ProQuest Military Collection**

  ProQuest Military Collection™ covers topics across all government and military branches, including international relations, political science, criminology, defense, aeronautics and space flight, communications, civil engineering, and more.

- **Reference Shelf**

  Online version of the print Reference Shelf series. Each book in the Reference Shelf annual series of six offers extensive, unbiased exploration of a topic of importance in modern society, in a compilation of notable articles from respected publications, abstracts of 20 to 30 additional articles, and a bibliography of other sources.

**F. Assistantships/Fellowships.** Will you offer any assistantships specifically for this program?

- [ ] Yes
- [x] No

If “Yes”, how many assistantships will be offered? __________

The expenses associated with any *new* assistantships should be included in the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table in Part 3.
G. Other. Please explain any other costs to be incurred with program implementation, including lab start-up expenses or specialized accreditation costs. Be sure to note these on the NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM SUMMARY table in Part 3.

N/A
PROPOSAL FOR A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM (Part 2: Course Info)

Name of Proposed Program:

Program Completion Requirements: (Enter a credit hour value for all applicable components, write N/A if not applicable)

- Credit hours required in program courses: 36
- Credit hours in general education or core curriculum: 48
- Credit hours required in support courses: 21
- Credit hours in required or free electives: 15
- Credit hours in required research: 0

**Total credit hours required for completion**: 120

Maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program:

90 credits.

Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students:

8 semesters.

Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students:

20 semesters, assuming 6 credit hours per semester.

Does the program require students to demonstrate industry-validated skills, specifically through an embedded industry-recognized certification, through structured work-based learning with an employer partner, or through alignment with nationally recognized industry standards? If yes, please explain how these components fit with the required coursework.

No such certifications exist in this field.

Does the program include any options/concentrations? If yes, please give an overview of the options, and identify the courses for each in the table below.

No concentrations are currently part of the program, but they will be considered as the program grows.

Please indicate any prior education or work experience required for acceptance into the program:

None.
Describe any other special admissions or curricular requirements for the program:
None.

Please complete the table below indicating all coursework for the proposed program, identifying any new courses developed for the program, along with courses associated with each option as applicable. Include the course number, and number of credits. Coursework listed should total the number of hours required to complete the program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number and Title</th>
<th>Number of Credit Hours</th>
<th>* If New Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Major Requirements: 18 hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 110. American Government</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 211. Contemporary Political Debates</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 250. Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 310. State and Local Government</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 360. Methods of Social Research</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 400. Politics and Justice Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Approved Electives from the 300-400 level: 18 hours</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 307. Independent Study in Political Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 311. The Executive</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 312. The Congress</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 313. Introduction to Law</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<td>PS 316. Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 321. Constitutional Law</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 330. Comparative Government</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 340. International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 351. Ancient Political Thought</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 352. Modern Political Thought</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<td>PS 353. American Political Thought</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 370. Statistics for the Social Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 401. Profiles in Political Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 402. Four Great Trials</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 403. American Liberalism and Conservatism</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 411. Environmental Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 498. Selected Topics in Political Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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# Proposal for a New Degree Program
## (Part 3: Program Summary/Business Plan)

### New Academic Degree Program Proposal Summary

**Institution:** The University of West Alabama  
**Program:** Politics and Justice  
**Select Level:** Bachelor's

### Estimated "New" Expenses to Implement Proposed Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>$73,196</td>
<td>$73,196</td>
<td>$73,196</td>
<td>$439,176</td>
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### "New" Revenues Available for Program Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
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<td>Reallocations</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<td>Tuition</td>
<td>29,250</td>
<td>29,250</td>
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<td>81,900</td>
<td>105,300</td>
<td>117,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td>81,900</td>
<td>105,300</td>
<td>117,000</td>
<td>128,700</td>
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### Enrollment Projections

*Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full-time Headcount Year 1 - No data reporting required</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>33.33333333</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part-time Headcount Year 1 - No data reporting required</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Headcount Year 1 - No data reporting required</td>
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<tr>
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<td>14</td>
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### Degree Completion Projections

*Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the average annual degree completions.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<td>Degree Completion Projections Year 1 - No data reporting required</td>
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<td>7</td>
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I am Hans Zeiger, President of the Jack Miller Center, a nationwide network of scholars and educators dedicated to advancing the study of America’s founding principles. The Jack Miller Center has, among its other efforts in supporting and mentoring faculty, worked to build campus centers devoted to the American Political Tradition and liberal education more broadly.

The Jack Miller Center believes that liberal education, far from being the sole property of the elite, should be a vital component of every American’s college education. Furthermore, the study of the American Political Tradition, and the founding principles and texts on which our government is based, is not merely important but actually absolutely necessary for the formation of educated citizens. Accordingly, we applaud the creation of programs such as the Politics and Justice major at the University of West Alabama, as proposed by Professor Jacob Snyder.

We are well-positioned to assess the quality of such programs. The JMC has worked in higher education for almost two decades and has been a strong supporter of liberal education and American Political Thought during that time. Among our accomplishments are the funding of the American Political Thought journal, which provides a publication outlet for serious work in the field, whereas previously a scholar writing on Madison (for example) would have had no clear venue to submit his or her work. We have founded, or supported, numerous programs across the country, such as the Constitutional Studies program at the University of Notre Dame, now the Center for Citizenship and Constitutional Government. We have also convened junior scholars with experts in political theory, American Political Thought, the history of philosophy, and other liberal arts fields for in-depth seminars and mentoring workshops. In short, the JMC is a leading proponent of the sort of program that Professor Snyder now proposes.

Professor Snyder’s curriculum meets the dual goals of training students for the task of American citizenship as well as educating them more broadly for political inquiry. There is a strong component of back-to-the-basics American government material. Professor Snyder proposes an overview course on the American Government (PS 110), as well as electives devoted to the Executive (PS 311), to Congress (PS 312), and to Constitutional Law (PS 321). But students’ education will also be broadened by the examination of perennial political problems as they’ve occurred in other times and places, in courses such as Ancient and Modern Political Thought (PS 351 and 352, respectively. Students will also be invited to turn a critical eye to the issues of their own time, in courses such as American Liberalism and Conservatism (PS 403) and Contemporary Political Debates (PS 211), thus giving them the opportunity to elevate an often-acrimonious public discourse though careful study of the fundamental disputes and alternatives.
I recommend the proposed Politics and Justice major to the University of West Alabama. I do so based on my and my organization’s expertise in supporting similar programs and the faculty who teach in them. Finally, I do so based on Professor Snyder’s own proposed syllabus, which ably meets the requirements of a college education in America today: that, first, a student be educated in the American tradition of political thought, including its fundamental structure as well as the rationale for that structure, and, second, that a student also examine the best that has been thought and said, through a comparative and trans-historical study of the fundamental political questions. It is this union of the practical education for political life as well as the most searching, fundamental inquiry into the nature and ends of politics, that constitutes the truest liberal education.

Sincerely,

Hans Zeiger
President
The Jack Miller Center