### Co-Curricular Unit Assessment Plan

**Les Aspin Center for Government**  
Submitted: August 1, 2006

At the completion of a term of course-work at the Les Aspin Center the student is able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Performance Indicators</th>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Use of the Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Integrate theoretical concepts of political science, theology, and philosophy with first hand observations.                                                                                                                                                                                | Determine whether the background, elections, and legislative activity of a single member of Congress conforms with the “norm.”  
Understand the manner in which the federal government supports cultural institutions  
Distinguish between corporate, public, single issue, and ideological interest groups and how they seek to affect policy.  
Understand the position of the Catholic church on public policy issues.                                                                                                                                            | Research Papers, midterm and end of each term | Data will be compiled from each faculty member and an annual report that summarizes assessment information will be produced.                                                                                             |
| 2. Apply leadership skills in group work projects, presentations, and class discussions.                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Generate discussion questions for class seminars that encompass relevant course material.  
Conduct presentations that integrate class readings, lecture material, and observations from internships.                                                                                                                                     | Faculty evaluation of student participation in class seminars (each class period) | Data will be compiled from each faculty member and an annual report that summarizes assessment information will be produced.                                                                                             |
| 3. Articulate the impact of competing public policy positions on legislation                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | *Understand the role of constituencies, committees, parties, and interest groups in the formation of legislation.  
*Understand how interest groups and lobbyists provide information and strategic advice to members of Congress and bureaucrats.  
*Distinguish between the policy positions typically pushed by | Research paper that focuses on a piece of legislation sponsored by the member of Congress for whom they intern. (midterm and end of term)  
Research paper that focuses on a particular interest group and their attempts to influence public policy. (mid-term and end of term). | Data will be compiled from each faculty member and an annual report that summarizes assessment information will be produced.                                                                                             |
Democratic members of Congress versus Republican members.

4. Evaluate the success or failure of public policies in the context of persistent social problems such as homelessness, addiction, and unemployment.

| Democratic members of Congress versus Republican members. | Articulate a position on a specific social problem based on primary research. Discuss social problems with staff members in their internships. Understand how Washington DC is hampered in its ability to address these issues by a lack of representation at the national level of government. | Course exams and research papers (midterm and end of term). | Data will be compiled from each faculty member and an annual report that summarizes assessment information will be produced. |