

# PROGRAM REVIEW WORKSHOP: MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENT

## Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) at Cal State LA:

- **Knowledge: Mastery of content and processes of inquiry**  
Cal State LA graduates have a strong knowledge base in their academic major and can use powerful processes of inquiry in a range of disciplines. They engage contemporary and enduring questions with an understanding of the complexities of human cultures and the physical and natural world and are ready to put their knowledge into action to address contemporary issues.
- **Proficiency: Intellectual skills**  
Cal State LA graduates are equipped to actively participate in democratic society. They are **critical thinkers** who make use of **quantitative and qualitative reasoning**. They have the ability to **find, use, evaluate and process information** in order to engage in complex decision-making. They read critically, **speak and write** clearly and thoughtfully and communicate effectively.
- **Place and Community: Urban and global mission**  
Cal State LA graduates are engaged individuals who have contributed to the multi-lingual and multiethnic communities that constitute Los Angeles and the world of the future. They are aware of how their actions impact society and the environment, and they strive to make socially responsible decisions. They are community builders sensitive to the needs of diverse individuals and groups and committed to renewing the communities in which they live.
- **Transformation: Integrative learning**  
Cal State LA graduates integrate academic learning with life. They engage in community, professional, creative, research and scholarly projects that lead to changes in their sense of self and understanding of their worlds. Graduates integrate their knowledge, skills and experience to address complex and contemporary issues and act ethically as leaders for the 21st century.

## The Big Five Core Competencies as Defined by WASC

1. **Critical thinking**  
The ability to think in a way that is clear, reasoned, reflective, informed by evidence, and aimed at deciding what to believe or do. Dispositions supporting critical thinking include open-mindedness and motivation to seek the truth.
2. **Quantitative Reasoning**  
The ability to apply mathematical concepts to the interpretation and analysis of quantitative information in order to solve a wide range of problems, from those arising in pure and applied research to everyday issues and questions. It may include such dimensions as ability to apply math skills, judge reasonableness, communicate quantitative information, and recognize the limits of mathematical or statistical methods.
3. **Oral Communication**  
Communication by means of spoken language for informational, persuasive, and expressive purposes. In addition to speech, oral communication may employ visual aids, body language, intonation, and other non-verbal elements to support the conveyance of meaning and connection with the audience. Oral

communication may include speeches, presentations, discussions, dialogue, and other forms of interpersonal communication, either delivered face to face or mediated technologically.

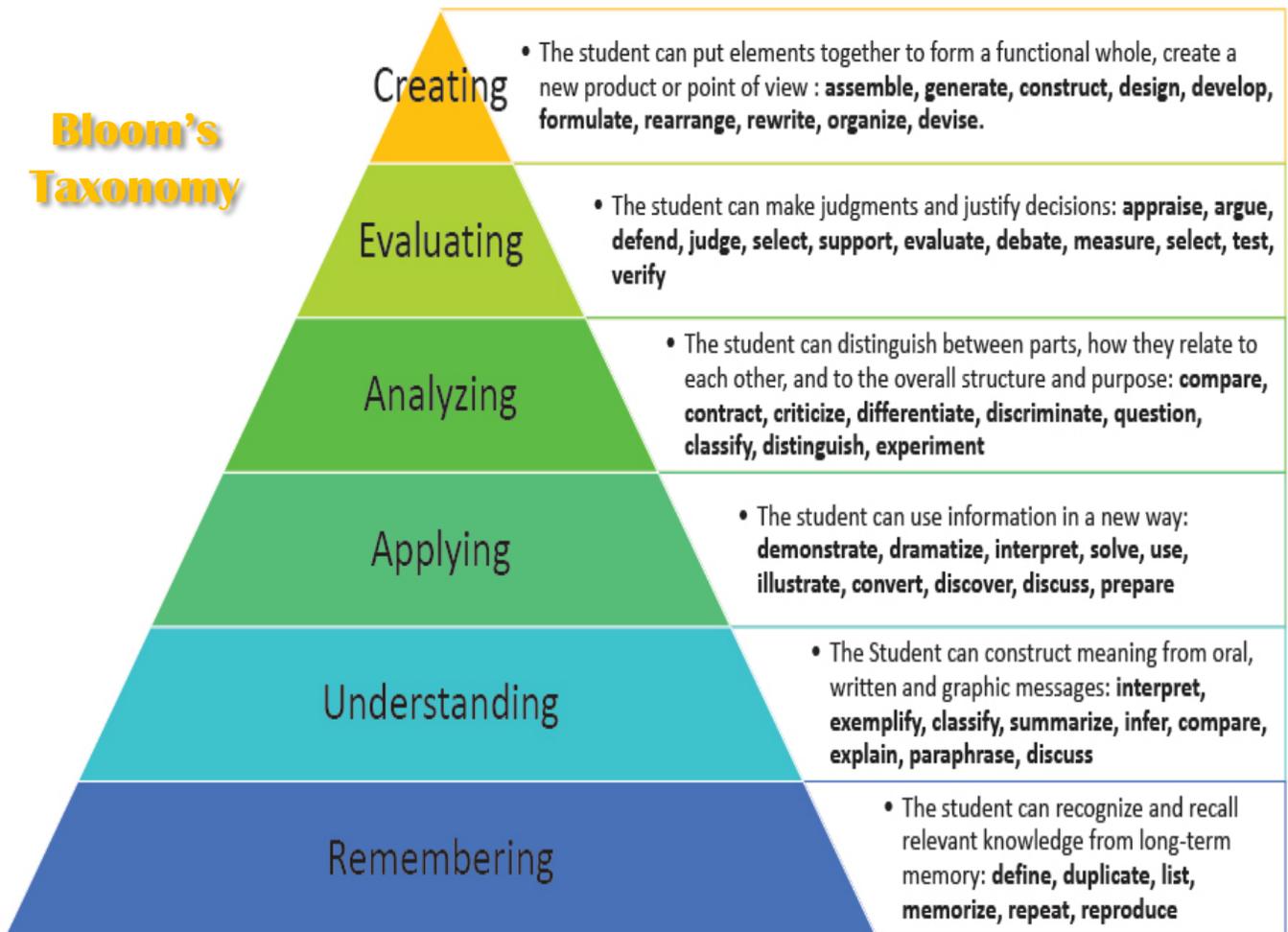
#### 4. **Written Communication**

Communication by means of written language for informational, persuasive, and expressive purposes. Written communication may appear in many forms or genres. Successful written communication depends of mastery of conventions, faculty with culturally accepted structures for presentation and argument, awareness of audience and other situation-specific factors.

#### 5. **Information Literacy**

According the Association of College and Research Libraries, the ability to “recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use the needed information” for a wide range of purposes. An information-literate individual is able to determine the extent of information needed, access it, evaluate it and its sources, use the information effectively, and do so ethically and legally.

### **BLOOM’S TAXONOMY**



## **Program Learning Outcomes for Political Science B.A.**

1. **Active Citizenship and Civic Engagement** - Students should demonstrate knowledge of U.S. political institutions and processes, including the importance of civil society and community involvement. They should have an understanding of contemporary political issues, local and national problems, and their historical contexts.
2. **Critical Thinking and Political Communication** - Students should demonstrate critical thinking skills through their understanding of the theories and methods of political science, and should have the capacity to present and defend their views effectively in written and/or oral format.
3. **Political Power and Decision Making** - Students should demonstrate an understanding of the institutions and processes in which political decisions are made, and the values, interests and other sources of influence that inform those decisions.
4. **Foundations of Political Science** - Students should have a basic knowledge of the content of the major subfields in political science: American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and Political Theory.
5. **A Global Perspective** - Students should develop a comprehension and appreciation for the diversity of political institutions and traditions.