

2020-2021 Program Review Progress Report Thematic Summary

COMMITTEE MISSION AND GOALS

The goals of the West Valley College Student Learning and Program Effectiveness Committee are to:

- x Develop a streamlined process that integrates learning outcome assessments and program self-evaluation.
- x Encourage thoughtful and meaningful dialogue among faculty and staff on methods and practices that help students achieve their goals.
- x Assist faculty and staff in managing learning outcome assessment data and supporting evidence for continuous quality improvement in compliance with accreditation standards.
- x Support program self-evaluation and planning based on thoughtful student assessments, collaborative dialogue, and meaningful program review.
- x Act as the faculty and staff voice to ensure a transparent and systematic process that improves linkage and accountability between program review and resource allocation.

THEMATIC SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

As part of the integrated planning process, the Student Learning and Program Effectiveness Committee (SLAPEC) informs College Council deliberations and annual goal planning by identifying critical themes as they are revealed in program reviews. These themes are presented in an thematic summary that builds upon West Valley College's systematic processes for continuous quality improvement. This summary serves to inform planning, resource allocation, and participatory decision making. It is presented to the Academic Senate, Class Senate, and College Council and is shared broadly for college-wide dialogue.

The 2020-2021 thematic summary is based on the SLAPEC members' view of 64 program review progress reports submitted via eLumer by November 2021, from a total of 68 college programs. It is compiled from the individual theme reports prepared by the SLAPEC Committee members from the set of comprehensive program reviews each member was assigned to read. The prepared theme report included a summary of the common themes noted in the following areas: (1) Program Strengths, (2) Program Challenges, (3) Student Learning Outcomes, (4) Eliminating the Equity Gap. The report also identified Program Highlights proposed for inclusion in the final summary. The co-chairs compiled the following

PROGRAM STRENGTHS

Identified Themes

Collaboration, participation; adaptability, growth; student success and support

Introduction

Programs identified and summarized their strengths at the time of completing the program review progress report. Themes within these responses were noted by SLAPEC members

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Challenges (tutoring, funding)

The discussions of SLOs and their results gave programs a chance to reflect on the challenges they are facing and the needs of their students. Programs like World Languages, Computer Science, and Engineering report that increased tutoring services for their students would be a huge benefit to student success and retention. Some programs reported that their work for other areas of the college like accreditation—or even just work to survive the pandemic—caused the SLO process to be neglected.

Programs recognize that the multitude of challenges students have faced this past year—challenges many continue to face—have had a large impact on their individual SLO results. The cumulative results of the program. While it is difficult to fully understand the impact of the pandemic on SLO and student learning, programs recognize the value in continuing to assess and learn from SLOs.

Successes (student achievement, sharing strategies and best practices)

Details and Examples

Curriculum and Best Teaching Practices (solutions to barriers)

Programs Around College

Many programs have faculty, staff, and administrators that serve on committees with a focus on implementation of the college's Anti-

courses at WVC. Continuing this collaborative work will increase enrollment for the program and success for students while practicing equitable and inclusive outreach strategies.

Admissions & Records

The Admissions and Records program experienced a 38% increase in graduation petitions for Spring 2021. The only reason all of these were handled and processed on time (even for those submitted late) was the herculean efforts of A&R professionals. This was despite reduced staffing for the program, and while making sure A&R professionals continued to meet the demands of all other regular and assigned duties.

In addition to this success, the program also played a central role in enabling program staff to handle "if" features in Degree Works for West Valley programs. All WVC course and program elements for 2017 to present were coded in under 14 months. In the same time frame, the program also completed transfer and catalog mappings for six priority feeder schools. As a result, both students and counselors can now use Degree Works for complete educational planning.

Finally, Admissions and Records worked to establish a strong process for bp, form, and web review of critical department services. Because of this effort, many program functions have been enhanced with automated workflow and with improved web resources.

Anthropology

The Department Chair of the Anthropology program was featured in a film entitled "Stakeholders' Values for Archaeology and Heritage in Silicon Valley" produced by the San Jose State University Department of Anthropology for the March 2021 annual meeting of the Society for California Archaeology. The film was also aired as part of the Santa Cruz Archaeology Society Film Fest in 2021.

Art and Photography

The Cilker School of Art and Design has been awarded accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Art & Design (NASAD). The NASAD Commission awarded the accreditation in April 2021 following self-study and peer review processes.

Communication Studies

The Professional and Workplace Communication Certificate introduced by the Communication Studies program in Fall 2020 has been a huge success and is growing in popularity. In the Spring 2021 semester alone, 48 students earned the certificate. This certificate is not only serving student needs and creating more opportunities for students to be successful, but also likely increasing enrollment. The Professional and Workplace Communication Certificate also applies to a major.

In addition to the success of the certificate, the program also increased its course offerings with the Honors program to include Honors Introduction to Persuasion along with Honors Public Speaking.

Finally, Communication Studies faculty and staff worked to revise multiple courses, the entire department webpage, and the department miss/MCID 20t m t(e)-6 (i)7.6 5d17 TD [(H)-0ajcsent1-4 (a)-3.3 ncre(e)-3 (s)9.6

In addition, the Geography program worked with the SJSU Social Science Division to build a strong relationship between the colleges with the goal of developing courses that fulfill the CSU Ethnic Studies requirement.

Health Care Technologies

The Health Care Technologies program saw 10 of 11 students who completed their internships and the HTCH program during 2020-2021 obtain employment in the field. In addition to this success, the program was able to offer students the only Ortho Tech Certificate in all Northern California.

Library

During the 2020-2021 academic year the Library program worked to make sure the library building was the one place on campus open to students and that Library resources were accessible and available to students as well. The Library was open both to serve as a study space and as a place to circulate textbooks, technology, and other library materials.

Mathematics

Park Management, Geospatial and Unmanned Aircraft Technology

The Park Management program saw its students continually get employed by Santa Clara County National Park Service, Marin Peninsula Regional Open Space District, Santa Clara Open Space Authority, Palo Alto Parks and Open Space, and the City of San Jose Regional Parks. The program also received FAA approval as members of the UAS Collegiate Training Initiative. Faculty and students in the program continued work in the community via Adopt a Park and Creek participation alongside the program's student-led Park Management Club.

In addition to these highlights, faculty in the program were actively involved in service to the college through the Guided Pathways Committee, Caring Campus Initiative, Sustainability Committee, and Community Advisory Committee. The program was able to renew its lease agreement with Santa Clara County Parks and acquire an equipment trailer to be used in classes which require equipment to be brought to various learning sites.

A final highlight for the program was the acquisition of a large donation that will directly help and support its students.

Physical Sciences

The lab tech for the Physical Sciences program, Kenny Smith, worked diligently to purchase and assemble hundreds of lab kits for all the program's lab classes. This project included the immense task of not only disbursing but also collecting these kits from every student. In addition to this work, he made demonstration and lab videos to assist faculty in the conversion to online learning and generally did whatever was asked of him whether by staff, faculty, or students. Kenny Smith was the Physical Science MVP of the 2020-2021 academic year.

Another highlight for the program was the extra work and creativity shown by the program's amazing associate and full-time faculty. Their work ensured online lectures and labs were both educational and meaningful.

Sociology

One positive outcome of teaching virtually in a pandemic for the Sociology program was the growth in

into different aspects of the future of fire in California, was another highlight. The program was able to launch the Sustainability Study Canvas course for faculty to access as a resource, and, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and social distancing, student interest remained strong in projects such as computer refurbishing (followed by donations to students in need) and the regenerative garden/farm which are projects that require in-person activity.

Transfer Center