

Los Angeles City College
Comprehensive Program Review 2008

Art/Architecture Department

XI. Dean's Review and Recommendations

I. Department Mission

Does the department's mission statement reflect the goals and activities of the department? Is it aligned with the college mission? Explain.

The department mission clearly satisfies the transfer and degree criteria of the campus mission. However, the mission statement lacks clarity and specificity. Tying the mission statement into core competencies including technological literacy, aesthetic awareness and appreciation and intercultural knowledge and exploration would more directly and actively state the mission.

II. Department Overview

Does the department's analysis of trends in enrollment and achievement accurately reflect the data? Have any issues been identified? Explain.

The department acknowledges enrollment rate drops. However, their enrollment decline is less than the campus average. The enrollment data for Architecture showed improvement concurrent with the hiring of a fulltime faculty member.

The department made a wise decision in scheduling introductory classes in the summer to feed higher level courses in the fall and spring semesters.

The department correctly predicted retirements in fall 08, but did not anticipate the death of an additional fulltime faculty member. There are now only three fulltime faculty members remaining in the Art discipline. The department made plans to hire additional adjunct faculty to backfill the fulltime hours. They have acknowledged that fulltime faculty serve students needs more effectively. The department has a compelling need to hire fulltime faculty to fill the void.

III. Vocational Programs

Does the department's analysis of labor market demand, advisory board activities and accreditation status (if applicable) reflect the data? Have any issues been identified and are they adequately addressed with appropriate action plans? Explain.

As of the current program review, the validation as a vocational program for Graphic Design and Architecture has not been approved. Approval is expected soon. This field should be evaluated in the next program review cycle.

IV. Curriculum

Does the department's analysis of enrollment trends accurately reflect the data? Has adequate progress been made in developing and assessing student learning outcomes at the course and program level? Are Title 5 course outline updates current? Has adequate analysis of course scheduling been provided? Explain.

The Title V update section was not filled out. The department has at least 39 classes that are out-of-compliance. This applies to the traditional Art classes. Most of the computer graphics classes have been updated since 2007. Architecture, is also in compliance with Title V.

No information was provided in Section C. 1.a. regarding course level SLOs. This space should be used to identify what has been accomplished in this area. The table in Section 2. indicates that program level SLOs have been developed for the A.A. degree in Graphic Design. However, the table is misleading, as it indicates that assessments have been completed. No assessments have been completed by the department.

Program level SLOs for the A.A. degree in Graphic Design align with core competencies.

The department is developing new Graphic Design curricula to stay ahead of the technology curve.

V. Departmental Engagement

Has the department provided a full description of departmental engagement? Explain.

With the exception of the faculty members who were due to retire, the remaining fulltime faculty are engaged in district, campus and departmental activities.

The department has successfully partnered with Media Arts in several areas.

VI. Professional Development

Has the department provided a full description of professional development? Explain.

Nearly all fulltime and adjunct faculty contributed impressively in this section. It is noteworthy that the department hires adjunct faculty with impressive professional development resumes. The faculty who did not participate in or report their participation should be encouraged to do so.

VII. Support and Activities

Has the department provided a full description of support needs of the department? Explain.

The department presents a compelling need for MacIntosh computers to be included in the All-College Lab to enable Graphic Design students to use them outside of their scheduled classroom hours to do homework.

Instructional assistance support would extend computer lab hours, contributing to student success and increased retention.

VIII. Resources: Personnel, Equipment and Facilities

Has the department provided a full description of resource needs of the department? Explain.

Personnel: The department demonstrates a compelling need for fulltime faculty replacements. They mention not having clerical staff and acknowledge that they do not have sufficient FTEF to warrant having a secretary on staff. The department also indicates there is no budget for instructional assistants. The department might want to consider requesting instructional assistant support in future unit plans.

Equipment: Much of the expensive computer equipment used by the department is outdated and should be replaced. Equipment used by the Architecture discipline also needs to be replaced.

Facilities: Architecture laboratories need modernization. Studio art space has been reduced to allow for Architecture space since the closure of Franklin Hall for renovation, which is problematic. However, the department acknowledges the positive impact from housing the two disciplines together.

IX. Planning and Budget

Do the planning goals and action plans reflect the issues raised in the self study? Are they aligned with the Educational Master Plan and the College Strategic Plan? Explain.

The department acknowledges the tenuousness of depending upon SIEF funding for costly, yearly software upgrades in Architecture that cannot be covered on a Program 100 budget of \$1000 per year.

Expensive computers and software for Graphic Design classes are in need of replacement.

The department acknowledges challenges in creating a curriculum devoted to sustainability and green technology, and the lack of funding to achieve those needs. New course development and part time faculty hires are dependent upon available funding.

Lack of funding is the greatest obstacle for Graphic Design due to the high cost of maintaining this necessary program.

The department has a strong case for replacing some of the recently retired or deceased faculty (at least one) as they have identified not being able to meet student needs as a justifiable rationale for replacement.

X. Final Summary by Discipline

Are all items identified as a Major Concern addressed with a goal and action plan? Explain.

Curriculum: The Art discipline must update all out-of-compliance courses by June 2009. The department should seriously consider paying the adjunct faculty with the ancillary pay provision. This provision should only be used for courses where there is no longer a full time faculty member whose area of expertise includes the specific subject. Architecture and Graphic Design are in compliance.

Personnel: The Art discipline has demonstrated the need for faculty replacements. The Graphic Design program would benefit from an instructional assistant. The Architecture discipline needs to grow through the hiring of adjunct faculty whose area of expertise includes sustainability and green technology.

Equipment: The high technology programs of Graphic Design and Architecture need new computers and updated software to remain current and competitive with other district and neighboring districts' programs.

Facilities: The Architecture discipline has the greatest need for facilities' improvements.

XI. Department Strengths and Weaknesses

Has the department provided an adequate analysis of departmental strengths and weaknesses? Explain.

Strengths: Faculty professional development and new curriculum development addressing modern technology

Weaknesses: Out-of-compliance courses are not being updated; inadequate funding for equipment replacement; inadequate faculty for faculty replacement

XII. Recommendations/Commendations

What recommendations based on your comments do you have for this department? What commendations do you have for this department? Explain.

The department should be commended on the professional development activities of the faculty, including the achievements of the adjuncts. They should also be commended on their thorough analysis of enrollment trends and their honest analysis of departmental weaknesses.

Recommendations:

1. The department should request the use of ancillary funds to pay adjunct faculty to update out-of-compliance courses.
2. The department should request replacement of at least one fulltime faculty member.
3. The department should consider requesting funding for an instructional assistant to cover the hours of operation of the Graphic Design computer lab.
4. The department needs to replace outdated equipment to retain students and to be competitive with neighboring colleges.
5. Plans need to be made for the future location of the Architecture program.