

Los Angeles City College  
Comprehensive Program Review 2008

Chemistry and Geophysical Sciences Department

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**XII. EPC Validation Review**

**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.*

We believe the department's mission reflects the goals of the department and is in direct alignment with the mission of the college. This department contributes to the college's mission of developing a community of learners through their learner-centered approach.

The mission reflects the activities of the college mission. We recommend a minor rewording as follows: The mission of the Los Angeles City College Department of Chemistry and Geophysical Sciences is to deliver a contemporary, rigorous curriculum in all of our disciplines at every level to prepare our students, and to teach with a student-friendly and learning-centered approach to allow students to achieve their goals and to meet and excel established educational and industry standards.

**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 Fall 2005 enrollment for the campus increased but the department's enrollment decreased; also, the campus' enrollment remained flat during Spring 2006, while the enrollment for the department decreased. Perhaps something occurred during that academic year such as a decrease in section offerings, that could be addressed to explain occurrence.

The student retention and success rates 85% and 70% respectively are noteworthy. We suggest that you may want to apply for basic skills funding for supplemental instruction in some areas or classes.

Enrollment and FTEF are strong. We need to verify accuracy on full time faculty.

**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.*

This Department is NOT a Vocational department.

**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 department is to be commended for completing all Title 5 updates for the current cycle. The next step will be to assess SLO and revise courses and delivery based on the assessment. Program outcomes are being planned.

## V. Departmental Engagement

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

The department has provided a full description of engagement. All faculty members are engaged in a variety of campus committees and community activities.

We concur that the initiative on environmental and sustainability awareness is exciting and offers opportunity for developing for course and program development.

## VI. Professional Development

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

We noted that the majority of faculty--both full time and adjunct--are actively involved in professional development activities that are relative to the improvement, growth, and advancement of the programs in the department. Activities include recycling, speaker series, grants, publications, off campus presentations.

## VII. Support and Activities

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

The department has provided a full description of its needs, and the lack of secretarial support is particularly noteworthy. A department of this size with such an interdisciplinary focus should have adequate support in this area. We recognize the department's need for clerical support.

Until a district-wide marketing program is established that will support the Chemistry Geo/Physics, we recommend that the department utilize existing resources within the department and college.

## VIII. Resources: Personnel, Equipment and Facilities

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

With the completion of the new SciTech Building and recent funding for equipment updates, the department continues to make necessary improvements.

We recognize additional and on-going resources are necessary to sustain the viability of the program, including full-time replacement faculty, staff, clerical support, and equipment upgrades.

## 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 was frugal in spending SIEF and has been able to upgrade and maintain equipment that is adequate for the program.

We note and concur with the following areas of concerns:

1. Decline in interest in higher level physical sciences
2. Need to expand and diversify geoscience discipline
3. Need to increase retention through the enforcement of prerequisites

## X. Final Summary by Discipline

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

The department is to be commended for addressing challenges, for establishing goals and action plans, and for identifying appropriate outcomes.

Well defined goals, detailed outcomes and action plans. Job well done.

## XI. Department Strengths and Weaknesses

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

Strong, dedicated faculty and staff have developed state-of-the art industry-standard program.

Facilities are outdated; however, the weakness is being addressed with the new SciTec Building.

It is apparent by the nature of the program that there exists a strong need to replace faculty in order to sustain this outstanding program.

## XII. Recommendations/Commendations

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

Commendation: This department has done a superior job in clearly analyzing their challenges, strengths and opportunities.

1. The departmental commitment to developing a student-centered curriculum and friendly atmosphere within their department is commendable.
2. Student Retention and Success rates are commendable.
3. Completion of Title V updates for the current cycle is commendable.
4. Professional development and departmental engagement are commendable. Noteworthy examples of department activities include speaker series, recycling program, grants, publications, and off campus presentations

Recommendations:

1. We suggest that the department may want to make use of supplemental instruction in some classes to further increase student success.
2. Proceed with coursework and programs related to initiative on environmental and sustainability awareness.
3. Request that prerequisites for advanced courses be activated.
4. Work with Honors Program to develop honors sections.
5. Establish need of certificate program in Geographical Information Systems.
6. Until a district-wide marketing program is established that helps to promote the department, we recommend that the department utilize existing department and college resources.
7. Continue to reach out to the community and make the department even more visible, allowing the community to see the fine work of the department.