

Los Angeles City College
Comprehensive Program Review 2008

Cinema/Television Department

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.

The Cinema/Television Department mission aligns well with the college mission and reflects the goals stated in Section IX.

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 has provided an excellent analysis of their student retention and achievements. The relation of the department's trends to the college's trends is well discussed and tracked. The increase in degrees and certificates is positive.

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.

The department meets annually with their advisory board and takes into consideration their recommendations, such as creating a "production assistant" certificate and new courses.

Being in the Los Angeles area has a plus and a minus side. There are many comparable programs around from which students can choose but the cost at LACC is much lower.

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 its excellent job in analyzing each course, offering and altering classes based on student demand and industry standards. Eight courses need updating and work on program SLOs has not begun.

V. Departmental Engagement

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

A sizable portion of the faculty contributes to departmental committees. Interdepartmental collaboration is limited to requiring that students take outside courses towards their skills certificates. The department works with outside entities to increase interest in the programs. We suggest a more focused outreach to local feeder schools for enrollment and businesses for job placement, to include other arts departments and to be facilitated by the Administration.

VI. Professional Development

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

Professional development activities for two faculty members are missing. The full and part-time faculty publishes, reviews, directs, screens, advises and remains active in the industry by attending conferences and serving on committees.

VII. Support and Activities

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

The department has described the need for secretarial support however this need has not been met. The department may want to look into the hiring of a classified employee to handle student inquiries, mail marketing and other related duties.

With regards to availability and adequacy of academic counseling, the suggestion of on-line counseling could be restrictive in terms of the latest information on major prep work to the various CSU/UC institutions, transfer updates, registration time lines, etc. The department might want to consider attending a counseling meeting to inform counselors of new curriculum, etc. in addition to working with a counselor who will serve as a liaison for the department.

The description for marketing is thorough and well planned. One added suggestion would be to work with School Relations on campus as a recruitment tool for incoming high school students.

The department shows an impressive compilation of scholarships and awards that reflect the Cinema/TV program. If not already advertised, the department should encourage students to apply to scholarships offered through the Foundation to assist with ongoing costs for student supplies, etc.

VIII. Resources: Personnel, Equipment and Facilities

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

A full and accurate description of resources in terms of personnel, equipment and facilities has been provided. While the need for classified staff was not mentioned in this section it was noted in the previous area of support and activities. The need for instructional media assistants was noted.

The department may want to consider forming a partnership with film making departments from local UC/CSU and private institutions for the purpose of an internship program.

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 provided an exceptionally good cost analysis of the last six years.

With concern over decreasing funding, the department might want to consider grant writing to private and federally funded programs given the plight of continued rising costs of equipment.

X. Final Summary by Discipline

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

Yes, the department needs to update their equipment and labs in order to maintain their classes. Each goal has a detailed action plan to make the classes consistent with industry standards. As a vocational program, this is a crucial need. In addition to equipment, they have addressed the need for 3 additional staff members. These would include two full time instructional assistants to supervise labs for students to use outside of class time as well as one secretarial/grant writing staff member. This staff member would help seek out private grants and find ways to further advertise LACC's Cinema/TV program to help it compete with other schools in the area.

XI. Department Strengths and Weaknesses

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

The strength of this department is in its faculty members. The quality of instruction is high and the student retention and success rates reflect this fact. Additionally, the professional development of the faculty is very impressive.

The weakness of this department lies in its outdated equipment. If this department will survive the change from analog to digital, it must be given the funds to update its labs and other technical equipment. They have begun to update, but much more must be done (as outlined in this Program Review) if they will be able to remain a competitive Cinema/TV program and truly prepare students for the workplace.

XII. Recommendations/Commendations

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

This Program Review is very well done. It is thorough and precise in its evaluation of each course offered by the department. Additionally, it provides a strong case for the funds needed to keep this program current and viable.

We would recommend providing some additional information about the success rates for two of your advanced classes, Cinema 15 and Cinema 16. It seems unusual that such advanced classes would have such low success rates. We also were curious if you were given the additional instructional assistants to supervise the labs, would non-Cinema/TV students who use the same labs (ex. Photo 46), also be able to use the computer outside of class time? Our last recommendation would be to consider an interdisciplinary Entertainment Technology certificate. If given the funds for the new computer labs, it might prove successful to offer courses in Maya and 3-D Studio Max to give people training in the growing field of video game entertainment.