

Los Angeles City College  
Comprehensive Program Review 2008

Family and Consumer Studies 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 Family and Consumer Studies mission statement supports LACC's multi-fold mission of offering "educational opportunities that ready students for employment, transfer, advance study, and life-long-learning with an educational program that meets the dynamic and changing needs of the community."

Their mission is supported by ongoing planning and budgeting goals reflected in their understanding that they must constantly seek funds not only outside their under-funding by Program 10100, but outside VTEA and SIEF as well. They actively seek funding through grants outside the college.

**II. Department Overview**

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

**Enrollment:**

The department has carefully analyzed the enrollment data and determined that their numbers generally mirror the college data although the department's numbers have declined at a slower rate than that of the college as a whole.

Positive issues identified are increased numbers in TBAs due to the addition of FCS 21 online classes in demand by students needing to complete graduation requirements, enrollment increase and service to the community by reinstatement of bilingual Korean and Spanish courses and development of two CD lab courses and their new AA to BA program in CD and FCS transfer courses is showing increased enrollment.

The not-so-positive issue of LATTC's negative effect on the CD program due to LATTC's lack of pre and co-requisites has been taken up by the CD District Discipline committee.

Their analysis of FTES figures for the department follow similar trends in the college figures ending with an upward trend in steady positive growth for the department. Their AA to BA program has resulted in increased demand for certain courses required by CSULA and the adding of sections to meet this demand.

**Student Achievements:**

The department's success rate is 77% compared to the college's 63%. The department has developed several strategies, particularly in CD, that underscore their success rate. It's clear that they are in constant awareness of the needs of their students and act to support these needs.

To correct inconsistencies in certificate awards the department will increase awareness of certificate applications with adjunct faculty. Also, counseling and advisement has been instituted to guide students in choosing between vocational and transfer degrees.

**FTEF**

No new FTEF is expected in the near future although the increased demand for bilingual classes in CD will require additional adjunct faculty soon.

**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.*

Analysis of labor market demand:

A comprehensive market analysis pertaining to Child Development and Dietetics is based on the following sources:

- California Labor Market Projections 2004-2014
- Economic Impact of the Early Care and Education Industry in LA County
- American Dietetic Association

Projected 29-36% increase in employment of preschool teachers in LA County  
Projected 25.8% increase in need for administrators

Projected 37-38.1% need for child day care overall

Projected 50 job openings per year for dietetic technician.

As the numbers show in the following 10 years there is an evident demand in the child development field and a modest demand in the dietetic technician field.

Advisory board activities:

- An impressive advisory board membership
- All advisory board recommendations are effectively addressed followed by comprehensive measures.
- Identified issues:
  - DTR exam results,
  - Need for bilingual courses,
  - LACC Child Development program does enforce pre-co-requisites for English which often causes students to “shop” near by programs such as LA Trade Tech.

All specific issues such as the ones mentioned above and others have been addressed or continue to be addressed as needed, by concentrating all efforts towards successful results.

#### **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 aware of a state wide reduction in enrollment in “school age” courses/programs that they hope will be addressed at the release of a new 2008-09 grant linking “school age programs” with training and education and thus increase demand for courses.

In addition to full morning and evening core class scheduling the department is meeting student demand by offering more Saturday classes, online classes and increasing Summer and Winter offerings online thus accommodating traditional and non-traditional students. It is clear that the department is very aware of student demand and enrollment trends in their courses and is flexible in their scheduling.

The department has done a stellar job in their completing all course updates and SLOs and they have completed an assessment of a CD course as well.

#### **V. Departmental Engagement**

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

The department has formed committees for important tasks and each committee has a coordinator and a team accountable for the committee's responsibilities. The role of each committee is clearly defined.

Family and Consumer Studies department has established strong academic and community partnerships-- notably, the CSULA/LACC Child Development Transfer Partnership program.

Many of the interdepartmental collaborations listed were not very recent (b. #6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12) possibly due to department energy concentrated in crucial intradepartmental committees supporting projects involving student success and completion and assessment of SLO's.

## VI. Professional Development

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

All faculty members, adjunct and regular, have evidenced ongoing professional development. The department does in-house training that meets discipline-specific needs. The variety of conferences the faculty participated in is impressive. The faculty members are active in many district wide and department committees.

## VII. Support and Activities

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

The Department has presented the ongoing challenges due to inadequate support services such as:

- need for clerical support
- need for instructional assistant
- inadequate dietetics laboratory facility
- insufficient student counselors support
- need for assistance with marketing efforts
- Library references have been described as insufficient to support the program, however no specific comments were provided.
- custodial services though described as inadequate, were not specifically addressed.

## VIII. Resources: Personnel, Equipment and Facilities

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

Yes, the department did provide a full description of resources needs  
Some of the personnel needs were addressed in section VII such as: instructional assistant.

- It seems that with the move to the new facility the need for another instructional assistant will become vital to maintaining the program instructional goals.
- In the next 5 years three full time faculty are planning to retire.
- There is a need for technologically smart classrooms.
- The food lab must be updated as it is presently out of compliance.

## 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.*

In line with the EMP and the CSP, FCS is acting on their continuing goals as follows:

- to foster academic excellence by strengthening the educational programs and quality of teaching that leads to greater student success by the hiring of a student tutor through VATEA funds and they are noticing an increased success.
- to create a student centered state of the art learning environment that focuses on student needs, enhances skills and reduces the barriers to success by increasing the available lab times for students to practice skills and master course content.
- to expand the Child Development Program Services to increase opportunities for career ladder advancement with certificates and transfers by providing access to information, lab hours and instructional assistants and moving 3 labs and a literacy lab to new building in support of hiring 2 new CD instructional assistants.
- to create a state of the art learning environment for dietetic students by hiring of student tutors, updating their website, continued collaboration with Learning Skills and future replacement of antiquated labs with new commercial equipment currently in storage for lack of space and adequate ventilation in the current lab spaces.

## X. Final Summary by Discipline

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

Yes. See above.

## **XI. Department Strengths and Weaknesses**

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

The department has fully identified the strengths and weakness in their programs due to constant and consistent analyzing of their programs in terms of educational excellence, student demand, barriers to student success, and changes in labor demand and employer requirements. Their analyses lead them to create strategies for improving services to students.

To improve their programs they will continue offering tutoring to improve the Dietetics DTR exam pass rate. CD is in need of more bilingual classes in Spanish and English, a part time coordinator for outreach advisement on certificates and career ladder options, and more release time for the department chair.

## **XII. Recommendations/Commendations**

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

Commendations:

We commend the Family and Consumer Studies Department on their extremely thorough analysis of their health in all areas of this review, especially:

- Completion of all course updates with SLOs.
- Completion of the assessment of a course.
- Vigilance in regard to student demand for courses and the department's flexibility in scheduling including FCS 21 and CD online classes for Summer and Fall 2008, as well as regarding barriers to student success and the department's strategies to improve services supporting students with mentoring, tutoring and lab practice.
  - Monitoring of labor market demand and industry requirements to provide students with up-to-date course materials and technology.
  - Initiating grants for funding support.
  - Identification and ongoing follow through on planning and budgeting for a student-centered learning environment of academic excellence and steady expansion of program services leading to opportunities for career ladder advancement and transfer.
    - Great efforts in maintaining their full accreditation status by the Commission on Dietetic Education of the American Dietetic Association and the successful employment of the LACC DSS certificate holders.

Recommendations: In order to continue the quality of the programs offered by the Family Consumer Studies Department we recommend that the College should make every effort possible to provide the necessary support services and resources.