

Los Angeles City College
Comprehensive Program Review 2008

Life Science 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's mission to provide quality and rigorous courses that meet the needs of the community and offer UC/CSU transferable courses for Life Science majors and non-majors reflects the department's goal, activities, and is aligned with the college 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's analysis and explanation of the enrollment trends and student achievement is clear, concise, and thorough and offers concrete data as well as narrative information that offers insight into the department's direction.

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's analysis of enrollment trends does accurately reflect the data. The department is in the process of developing SLO's at the course level; and updating the Title V Outlines for its courses (specifically, Bio 3, Bio 3H, Micro 20, & Micro 40 which were last updated in 1999). An adequate analysis of course scheduling has been provided, with detailed examples.

V. Departmental Engagement

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

Given the information provided by the department, over the past 6 years, the department has been involved in relatively few interdepartmental (on-campus) collaborations due to the time constraints imposed by their sizeable growth and limited support. The department reports working with the Science club and the Environmental Club (started in Chemistry Department).

The department has formed a collaboration (off-campus) with the local hospital SEIU Healthcare worker union to offer classes for their students, raised community awareness through environmental club activities, and collaborated with Mt. San Antonio College to put on a specially funded Microbiology class.

Also, the faculty in this department are involved in other areas such as:

Faculty Evaluation - G Gonsalves, D Hicks.

Technology Committee -- examines our current equipment needs and makes recommendations: G Gonsalves, D Hicks.

Student Aid & Mentoring -- deals with matters regarding supplemental student aid, especially the EOP&S SI program: G Gonsalves, K Khollesi, M Garcia, D Hicks, S Phommasaysy

VI. Professional Development

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

The department has not provided any evidence of professional development in this review. However, as the Division Dean for the past four years, I am aware of a few professional conferences that the faculty have attended.

VII. Support and Activities

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

The department has provided a description of their support needs. The main theme's(needs) noted are:

- * - Secretarial support - to assist the faculty with paperwork and clerical job related duties.
- * - Instructional support (a Lab Assistant is seriously needed) for tech support. Without this, the department feels that the labs cannot be fully compliant and it is difficult to maintain proper health and safety guidelines.
- * Custodial support - to meet the high needs for paper towels, soap, cleaning, etc. that are often not met (or not met fast enough without many complaints) which would affect our ability to meet health and safety guidelines.

VIII. Resources: Personnel, Equipment and Facilities

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

The department has provided a description of resources needed.

The department feels that new desk top and lap top computers are needed for instruction and everyday use to perform their teaching and other professional duties.

The department also feel that newer equipment (ex. projectors) and other discipline related equipment is needed as the old equipment is obsolete and not current with industry or classroom standards.

Lastly, the department feels better support from the custodial department is needed and necessary.

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.

Yes, the planning goals and action plans reflect the issues raised in the self study, and are aligned with the Educational Master Plan and College Strategic Plan as they emphasize access and retention.

X. Final Summary by Discipline

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

Yes, some of the major concerns are addressed in the goal and action plans; specifically; FTEF concerns, equipment, and student support/retention concerns.

XI. Department Strengths and Weaknesses

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

As reflected by the department's narrative; the department's strength is that it has shown massive growth in student enrollment, FTES, and student retention and success and provides quality and rigorous classes that fulfill transfer and prerequisite requirements.

The department's weakness (as expressed by the faculty) is its lack of support from the college in the form of additional full-time faculty member, additional classified staff (a laboratory technician), and an increased life science supply budget; and the lack of modern equipment and support to keep the department competitive in a world of rapidly increasing technology.

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 Life Science Department is to be commended on its high enrollment and success rates; and its efforts to address retention concerns.

I recommend that the following for this department:

- 1.) That any and all outstanding Title V Outlines be updated.
- 2.) SLO's be established, at the course level for all classes in the department by the end of the fall 2008 semester and/or before the beginning of spring 2009.
- 3.) That the department continue to pursue the matter of hiring a Lab Tech based on the (increased) number of Anatomy, Biology, Microbiology, and Physiology sections the college is offering to address the shortages in the Nursing and Occupational Health professions.
- 4.) Increase departmental and campus engagement by becoming involved on more campus committees and activities and meeting as a department on a monthly basis.
- 5.) Increase professional development opportunities by attending conferences, seminars, Campus/District/off-campus meetings, and/or workshops that offer value to the profession (discipline) that will allow you to enhance your knowledge, teaching, pedagogy, or professional development.