

Los Angeles City College
Comprehensive Program Review 2008

Life Science 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 department's mission statement does reflect the goals and activities of the department, and its emphasis on providing transfer and career-technical instruction directly addresses the college's strategic planning goals.

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 provided a thorough and comprehensive analysis of its enrollment trends, FTES generation, and student success rates; the data demonstrate an astounding growth rate within their department that is counter to the campus-wide trend toward decreased enrollments.

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.

Analysis of enrollment trends accurately reflects data; however, it would be particularly insightful if an analysis of course offerings, that is specific courses/disciplines within the department, were provided in the areas of program delivery and effectiveness. Also, in component IV.b on Title 5 Updates and Student Learning Outcomes, the identification of course SLO's, although in progress, has not been determined for any of the courses taught in the department, yet the program review indicates that SLO assessment is scheduled to begin Fall, 2008. In the area of Title 5 Updates, several courses are significantly behind schedule.

V. Departmental Engagement

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

The department maintains an evaluation, technology, and student mentoring committee with full-time and adjunct faculty. In its interdepartmental engagement, faculty participate in the Environmental Club, Science Club, and Senate Fellowship Committee.

VI. Professional Development

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

Although the department shows tremendous increases in its enrollment and student success measures, members of the department have little or no professional development participation or activities--conferences, presentations, professional organization membership, etc.,

VII. Support and Activities

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

In component VII.a Instructional Support Services, the department indicates that in the areas of media services, library references, and library resources, the department is effectively supported; however, in the areas of instructional support, secretarial services, and health & safety program needs, the department is insufficiently supported. It is also noted that the department does not extensively use on-campus resources for tutorial and basic skills instructional support.

VIII. Resources: Personnel, Equipment and Facilities

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

Resources, personnel, and equipment needs are clearly identified in relation to additional laboratory technicians, the need for current instructional software, for additional computers for instruction, and for replacement of used and obsolete laboratory equipment.

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.

Goals and action plans clearly reflect departmental needs, specifically as they relate to maintaining its enhanced enrollment through additional faculty and classified hirings as well as its goal of developing a state-of-the-art laboratory with current instructional equipment, software, and laboratory equipment.

X. Final Summary by Discipline

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

The department identifies within each discipline that FTES/FTEF, Student Learning Outcomes, Professional Development, physical facilities, and resources need improvement in Anatomy, Biology, Microbiology, and Physiology; and, in its goals and action plans, the issues of concern are addressed.

XI. Department Strengths and Weaknesses

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

The department emphasizes its recent growth FTES, its improvement in student retention, and its increases in student success as primary strengths, but the areas of concern, indicated in each discipline, involved FTES/FTEF, Student Learning Outcomes, professional development, physical facilities, and resources.

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:

1. That the department be commended for its on-campus partnership efforts as evidenced by the success of the activities of the Environment Club.
2. That the department be commended for its tremendous growth in enrollment, increase in completion rates, and improvement in student success.

Recommendations:

1. That the department focus priority on the completion of all Title V updates, given that all courses, with the exception of one, are overdue.
2. That the department continues its identification and assessment of Student Learning Outcomes
3. That the department more clearly provide a course/course analysis of its program delivery and effectiveness (IV.a)
4. That the department develop more on-campus interdepartmental collaboration that involve on-campus student learning support services (OSS, English Writing Center, Pi Shoppe, Learning Skills, All-College Computer Lab, and Teaching/Learning Center)
5. That faculty members in the department participate more actively in professional development activities, namely conference attendance, conference presentations, professional organization memberships, etc.,