

Los Angeles City College
Comprehensive Program Review 2008

Philosophy 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 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 enrollment and achievement trends are consistent with those of the campus.

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 indicates that it has updated all classes, but Philosophy 1 does not appear in the data table. It is recommended that the comment section include the identification of SLOs.

The department should be commended on the alignment of core competencies that will be addressed during SLO assessment.

Deeper analysis is recommended in the section on course scheduling.

The department does not offer sequenced classes, yet they indicate in a later section that students underperform in the highly conceptual classes offered in the department.

The committee does not understand the "ad nauseum" discussions regarding weak afternoon classes and would like those discussions included in this document.

The department is to be commended on the methods used to determine that courses are taught consistently with the course outlines.

V. Departmental Engagement

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

The department indicates it has faculty members on several campus committees.

VI. Professional Development

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

The committee requests that there may need to be some elaboration on the professional development activities of the faculty. The table indicates that each faculty member attended a convention in the last six years.

VII. Support and Activities

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

The department does not indicate any staffing needs.

The department indicates general health and safety needs and custodial needs that are shared by the entire campus.

The department indicates some use of academic support services by students and faculty. The committee would recommend that the department encourage students to use academic support services in order to improve success rates.

The department is to be commended on awarding the Eugene MacKnight scholarship every spring semester.

VIII. Resources: Personnel, Equipment and Facilities

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

The department does not indicate any need for faculty or staff.

The department indicates it will need computers, printers and a screen in the future.

The department does indicate a need for office space.

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 indicates that it will incorporate technological trends.

The department mentions in several places that "we assume our students will generally be unprepared for college level work and that teaching techniques will have to be altered to meet specific situations." The committee would recommend that the department investigate ways to teach philosophical concepts in a way that will encourage student success.

X. Final Summary by Discipline

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

The department indicates that success rates are satisfactory, yet in numerous places the students are referred to as being unprepared for college.

The department has indicated that Student Learning Outcomes do not apply.

XI. Department Strengths and Weaknesses

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

The weakness identified by the department--finding ways to convey philosophical ideas in a manner that is relevant and comprehensible to students--is commendable but that weakness is not addressed anywhere in the program review. In fact, in the departmental planning assumptions section, the department specifically states that they make no assumptions about curriculum or pedagogy. There are no new goals related to improving instruction.

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. The department is commended on its alignment with the LACC Core Competencies.
2. The department is commended for its annual scholarship.
3. The department is commended for its methods of assuring course consistency with course outlines.
4. The department is commended on its currency with course Title 5 updates.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The committee recommends a more thorough analysis throughout the entire program review, especially in the section on course scheduling.
2. The committee recommends that the department begin assessment of SLOs.
3. The committee recommends that the department investigate ways to strengthen student success.
4. The committee recommends expanding the section on professional development to more clearly reflect what the faculty has done in the past six years.
5. The committee recommends that the department encourage students to use academic support services.
6. The committee recommends that if any additional equipment and technology will be needed in the future, that it be addressed in the document.