

Los Angeles City College
Comprehensive Program Review 2008

Psychology 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 mission of the Psychology Department is closely aligned with the college mission and reflects the department's goals and activities. I would suggest dividing the mission into three or more parts for easier reading. Suggestion below:

The mission of the Psychology Department is to be a safe, clean, aesthetically pleasing, and technologically advanced oasis of learning in which skillful and knowledgeable faculty provide challenging and creative courses and learning opportunities; to provide offerings that facilitate a high level of academic success leading to a certificate, degree or transfer; to prepare students for a smooth and successful transition to employment for those students in the Human Services Program and other related occupations; and to provide skills and knowledge necessary for personal success including increased self-esteem, psychological well-being, improved relationships with friends and family, and self-fulfillment.

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 stability of the department's FTES is notable between 2002 and 2007. When the overall college dropped from a high of 8000 in fall 2003 to 6500 in fall 2007 (19%) the department's FTES remained almost the same, dropping less than 2%.

The enrollment stability and student retention and success as pointed out by the department accurately reflects the data.

To maintain and grow enrollment, the department is considering adding a few new courses and offering courses online. I agree with the departments assessment of the data and the plans to reach additional students by adding new and relevant courses and by offering online classes.

I concur with the department concerns regarding the loss of full time faculty. The recent loss of the only full-time licensed certificated (CCBADC/CAADAC) faculty in the LACC Drug and Alcohol Program puts department at risk to loose its State Accreditation status and that postion must be filled in a timely way.

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 is to be commended for the extensive research and analysis of labor market data. The Drug and Alcohol Program is a successful example of partnering an exceptional educational program with community organizations to provide relevant experience and prepare students for a successful transition into the workplace.

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.

I concur with the department's assessment of trends, and the analysis of scheduling is confirmed by the stability of enrollment and success and retention rates. The afternoon sections are the only exception to successful scheduling. That trend is reflected campus-wide and can be accounted for in part by the fact that a large number of our students work in the afternoons or have family responsibilities at that time.

V. Departmental Engagement

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

The department is to be commended for taking a regional professional leadership role. I attended the 2007 regional workshop held during spring break and witnessed the outstanding program, world class speakers, and a standing-room-only audience consisting of educators from virtually all community colleges within the region. The end of the year department events are also outstanding and hundreds of students and family and friends as well as community leaders attend and celebrate as students receive degrees and certificates.

Evidence of the department's outstanding work in developing partnerships is reflected in the more than 100 community-based training sites for students in the Human Services Program. Further evidence is the fact that LACC is the only CAADAC certified and accredited community college in the region.

In revising this portion of the program review, I would include your Creativity and Problem Solving classes and your role in the award winning program with the County of Los Angeles. 2007 Workforce Excellence Award presented by the City of Los Angeles.

VI. Professional Development

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

The extensive list of professional activity provides evidence of the stellar quality and leadership of the faculty. I concur that funds are necessary to support the faculty in staying abreast of advances in their fields and maintaining the quality of the program.

VII. Support and Activities

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

The serious issues described in this section have been reported on a number of occasions and continue to be of concern. I concur that priority should be given to the safety and health issues outlined, particularly call buttons and improvement in bathroom facilities.

The computer lab equipped, with projection system, speakers, smart board and software indicate that progress has been made in improving media materials and equipment for classroom purposes.

Providing faculty with access to a locked storage area for the library materials is recommended.

VIII. Resources: Personnel, Equipment and Facilities

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

The critical need for this department is replacement full time faculty. As noted earlier the Drug and Alcohol Program is at risk of losing accreditation status unless a full time qualified instructor is hired to replace the faculty member who left the department in 2006 (Carrie Canales).

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's review in this section indicates that budget is adequate, yet FTEF and support are inadequate. Since staffing and support are determined by budget, it would appear that budget is inadequate.

Goals 1,2,3 will enhance the excellence of the program and the reputation of college. Goal 4 should be restated with emphasis on improved program, increased faculty/student contact, and aligned with the college goals (#1, #3, #4).

X. Final Summary by Discipline

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

To address the concerns of understaffing, goals should be written to improve student contact with faculty, increased feedback, and improved ability to stay current if discipline. Action item may include replacing faculty.

XI. Department Strengths and Weaknesses

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

I concur with the departments assessment and analysis of strengths and weaknesses. Weaknesses may become more apparent if faculty load continues for an extended period. With a 40% decrease in full time regular faculty the department may see faculty burn out; an increase in faculty to student ratio may lead to enrollment loss.

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 department is to be commended for sustaining enrollment and contributing to student success over many years by continuous improvement of curriculum, partnering with more than 100 organizations in the area to provide relevant training sites, by implementing new technology, through the use of outstanding pedagogy, and by modifying schedules to meet student needs. The department members stay abreast of new and emerging trends and technology and implement those changes in the classroom. By providing professional activities for other educators and community partners, the department has taken a leadership role in the area while providing students with a relevant curriculum and programs that lead to degrees, certificates and employment in the field.

Recommendations are to keep up the good work and use every means availability and every opportunity possible to replace full time faculty who have retired or transferred with new and equally stellar faculty members.