

Los Angeles City College  
Comprehensive Program Review 2008

Psychology Department

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**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 ideas presented in the mission statement provide sufficient details to guide the development of goals and activities of the department. In addition, the department's mission statement is aligned with the college mission statement. However, it is somewhat difficult to understand because it is stated in one sentence.

**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 analysis addresses both college and community needs.  
Good description and analysis of enrollment and student achievement trends.

**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.*

Employment outlook data cited is out of date. Current projections for 2004-2014 forecast employment increases of 15%-23% in related social service areas.

Excellent understanding of the career ladders available to students is demonstrated, along with knowledge of the range of employment options. Advisory board recommendations seem to be very good, and the department response to them is appropriate. Plans to begin an AOD program are solid.

Continued accreditation of the programs appears to be in jeopardy due to insufficient numbers of faculty.

**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.*

Course SLO development is proceeding along with the college curriculum process. Since department Title 5 updates are current (except for one course that needs to be archived), SLO development is up to date.

However, the first SLO course assessment is not planned until Spring 2009; perhaps this date could be moved up.

Department should be commended on the development of program outcomes for all 4 programs. Careful description of the alignment of department learning outcomes and college core competencies is provided.

Proposed new courses should be listed. These include, according to other sections of the program review, Forensic Psychology, Art Therapy, Interpersonal Relationships, and Domestic Violence.

## **V. Departmental Engagement**

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

The department is clearly engaged at all levels: with their students, with other departments, and with community groups.

## **VI. Professional Development**

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

The department should be commended on the impressive, on-going professional development of all of its faculty, both full time and part time, and for its awareness of the importance of staying current in the mental health field. The area of professional development may be an area where grant money would be helpful.

## **VII. Support and Activities**

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

Safety and cleanliness are fundamental to any learning and working environment. This is also reflected in the department's mission statement. However, this need has not been met.

The department notes the increasing need of students for language and math skills (Advisory Committee recommendation and 'new departmental planning assumptions'); the department might want to consider making use of the academic support services available on campus, and listed in this section.

## **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 full description of its resource needs, including its need for faculty, support staff and equipment and technology.

## **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 are aligned with the needs identified in the program review and with college goals. However, goal #4, which is to add one new faculty member, is inappropriate. The second sentence of Goal #4 would be appropriate, "Increase the clinical expertise of the full-time faculty members."

The New Action Plans seem to be incomplete.

Need goal and action items for the development/enhancement of the AOD certification program. Two action plan are described in Section III, and need to be reiterated in Section IX. It is unclear whether or not the AOD program is already in place. Please clarify the relationship between the existing drug/alcohol program and the AOD counselor certification program.

## **X. Final Summary by Discipline**

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

The need for additional faculty is addressed, however the workplace environment, a major concern, is not addressed.

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

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

Strengths are stated in terms of student needs and enrollment, as well as response to the community and college.

Weaknesses related to the college's inadequacy of funding which has resulted in a severe faculty deficit.

## **XII. Recommendations/Commendations**

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

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Recommend editing mission statement. Consider breaking it in several sentences.
2. Support hiring full-time emergency AOD instructor to attract more students since, as pointed out in review, few colleges in L.A. area offer this.
3. List possible new courses in section IVd.
4. Archive Psych 72.
5. Move up the first course SLO assessment to Fall 2008.
6. Review the section on Academic Support Services to verify that no academic support services are used.
7. Complete the New Action Plan matrix.
8. Add a goal related to workplace environment.
9. Investigate the possibility of additional external funding and grants.

### **COMMENDATIONS**

1. The department is to be commended for its focused pursuit of excellence.
2. This department is clearly student-focused with a realistic view of its positive role in responding to community a labor market needs.
3. This department has implemented a number of new initiatives aimed at improving student outcomes and positively interfacing with the college and community.