Las Positas College

PROGRAM PLANNING UPDATE (Instructional) AY 2015-2016

Name of Program	Division	Author(s)
VCOM	Arts, Letters, Social Sciences	John D. Hogan

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This Program Planning Update covers the academic years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

2. The planning should be for the academic year 2015-2016.

3. Use the Save As feature in Word to save this template with your program name, so that you do not overwrite the original template. Please use your program's catalog rubric and this format when naming your document:

<p align="center">Rubric INS PPU 15_16</p>

<p align="center">e.g., ESL INS PPU 15_16</p>

4. If the document displays in large type with only File, Tools, and View tabs at the top of the page, select **View, Edit Document**. You will then be able to type where it says "Click here to enter text" and you will be able to click on the check boxes to select them.

5. In each section, click in the box under the instructions and fill in your information. The box will expand as you type. If a section is not pertinent to your program enter N/A in the box; do not leave it blank.

6. When you have completed the form, run the spell-checker (**click inside the text in the first box**, then click on the Review tab and find Spell-Check in the far left corner of the ribbon).

7. Please address your questions to your Program Review Committee representatives or the PR Chair Karin Spirn. Concerns, feedback and suggestions are welcome at any time to PRC representatives or co-chairs.

8. Instructions for submitting your Program Planning Update will be available at the start of the fall semester.

I. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Review of academic years 2012-13 and 2013-14

SLO Assessment Review

Review your program's SLO assessment results through spring 2014 and respond to the following questions.

1. Discuss how assessment results indicate success in student learning. Identify results that indicate a need for improvement.

> Assessment in the Visual Communications Department center around the finished artwork produced by the students, and critiqued by instructors and their peers. Interaction with the local community and VCom through The Design Lab, will result in increased community exposure to the student's work. While the classroom is the laboratory for ideas, their artwork displayed in the

community will provide real-world learning assessments that will help the students learn at a far quicker rate than the confines of the classroom.

It is noted a re-establishing a visual database of SLO outcomes (student artwork) will better document for measuring learning outcomes in the VCom department. Observable change in the student development can be viewed

Please note, evidence of success in student learning outcomes, specific to the VCom department, can be found in the recent department ratings document. Based on the recently published 2013-2014 report, the Visual Communications Department is working above its percentile rating of student success.

2. Discuss how distance education courses assessment results compare to face-to-face courses, if applicable? (*Respond to this question if your program has distance education courses*.)

At this time VCom has not introduced distance education to its curriculum. The potential to teach Visual Communications to students who cannot attend normal classes, who work full-time, who need to develop their computer and design skills is an opportunity Las Positas College can exploit, and provide world class WASC accredited education at an affordable price.

3. Discuss how your discipline, or someone in your discipline, made changes in pedagogy as a result of SLO assessment results.

A recent example of changes in pedagogy was introduction of a design assignment based on a request from the Science Department. Presented without warning, and with a strict deadline of the class period, the class members generated several solutions to the request. One of the solutions, a poster for the Science Lecture Series, was chosen by the Science Department, and the resultant outcome may be seen on the campus bulletin boards.

4. Give an example of a change in the number of units and/or lab hours based on assessment data, if applicable.

There have been no recent changes in the units or lab hours at VCom at present.

We have, at this time requested several of the VCom classes be upgraded from two to three units.

This request is based on the articulation agreement requirements necessary for upper division transfer to other colleges and universities.

The request is also based on the nature of a discipline requiring substantial time and effort, to achieve student learning outcomes sufficient for entry into upper division education or into the

workforce.

5. Did your program discover the need for additional resources (for AY 2015-16) based on the assessment results?   YES ☐ X   NO ☐

If yes, please explain.

In an effort to apply 21ˢᵗ century technology to the VCom program, we are presently researching a large format printer, 3-D Printer and a Laser cutter/engraver for our department to help students produce outcomes that are of portfolio quality. While hand skills are an essential in the curriculum, tools that facilitate creative output are necessary to expedite the learning process. Our students need to include traditional and up-to-date outcomes as examples in their body of work, their portfolio.

SLO Process

1. Describe how your program reaches consensus when writing student learning outcomes that are used in multiple sections.

My program offers only one section of each course.   ☐

Due to the lack of a full-time instructor, Visual Communications, in spite of its present student population, has not had the opportunity to grow and develop further to introduce multiple sections of our courses. With support, and proper marketing of what it can offer, we will see growth in the Visual Communications Department and its ability to field multiple sections, and establish learning outcomes that individual instructors can use as a guide to their own unique teaching styles to achieve student success.

2. Describe how your program reaches consensus when developing and evaluating assessment results for student learning outcomes that are used in multiple sections.

My program offers only one section of each course.   ☐

While SLO assessments reside with the individual instructors, the Visual Communications

Department, comprised of adjunct professors routinely meet, at their own expense to discuss and to arrive upon a group consensus as to the validity of our individual SLO assessments

3. What methods does your program use for documenting SLO related discussions? Check all that apply.

Program emails   ☐

Program meeting minutes/agendas   ☐

Blackboard/other website   ☐

Other (please describe):   ☐

Presently we rely upon group meetings, with each instructor taking notes and incorporating the results into their own teaching methods. With the introduction of a full-time instructor to the department, Visual Communications will establish methods of documentation of student work, organize discussions into the nature and success of student learning. The full-time instructor will provide an overall perspective to the department to help it achieve its true potential.

II. PROGRAM ANALYSIS

Review of academic years 2012-13 and 2013-14

Review the student data provided by the Office of Institutional Research and any additional data your program has collected. Then respond to the sections below.

A. Data Review

If applicable, summarize any **changes** in your program's data since the Annual Program Review of 2011-12 or observed significant trends that will affect program planning or resource requests.

NOTE: Only include changes that affect student learning, program planning or resource requests.

N/A

B. Program-Set Standard for Successful Course Completion Rates

Your program-set standard for successful course completion rates (i.e., number of grades of 'A', 'B', 'C', 'CR', and 'P' divided by total grades) is calculated by averaging successful course completion rates for your program over a five-year period and then multiplying that result by 95%.

In order to determine if you have achieved your program-set standard for successful course completion rates for a given year (e.g., 2012-13), you will need to assess if your program met or exceeded 95% of the previous 5-year average (i.e., 2007-08 through 2011-12) for your program; these calculations are done for you (*see links below*).

1. What was your program-set standard for successful course completion rates in 2012-13 and 2013-14?

	Program-Set Standard for successful course completion	**Did you meet your program-set standard? (Yes or No)**
2012-13	http://tinyurl.com/mmfwqfe	Yes
2013-14	http://tinyurl.com/q6dah55	Yes

2. If your program did not meet your program-set standard, discuss possible reasons and how this may affect program planning or resource requests.

It must be noted our program surpassed set-standards in spite of our lack of a full-time instructor to coordinate the department curriculum.

C. **Curriculum Review**

1. Review your program's current curriculum. If applicable, describe any internal or external impacts which will affect your curriculum plans for 2015-16.

The need for the department to shift emphasis from traditional print media to media as it relates to visual storytelling, web based delivery of graphics and other emerging technologies that relate to the overall intent of the department.

D. **Human Resources**

1. Have there been changes in the number of full-time or part-time faculty associated with your program since the Annual Program Review of 2011-12? If yes, briefly describe the changes.

> There have been two additional adjunct faculty brought in to the VCom department. Both individuals bring talent and experience to the department, allowing the department to meet the needs of the VCom student population.
>
> The retirement of the only full-time instructor has left VCom running with only adjunct faculty. In spite of the remarkable success of the talented experience adjuncts keeping the department alive and running.
>
> It has been some time since VCom has had the support of instructional assistants, and could use such support in the future, for both student and instructor.

2. Have there been changes in the number of full-time or part-time classified staff associated with your program since the Annual Program Review of 2011-12? If yes, briefly describe the changes.

> N/A

3. If applicable, describe how the changes indicated in 1 and 2 have impacted student learning?

> While we have seen a considerable drop in the overall enrollment, we have seen an increase on program set standard. This may represent a better overall quality of students in the program, or the ability for the present group of instructors to teach the required courses. What it does represent is an inability to streamline the program and ensure students can start and finish their studies in a reasonable amount of time. This uncertainity may cause students to consider alternate for-profit educational institutions that offer identical classes at substantial costs compared to those at Las Positas College

E. **Other information pertinent to the program**

> Visual Communications, as a department faces profound changes in the nature of how humans design for communication. It has been seven years since the introduction of the iPhone, and four years since the release of the iPad. Print as we know it is no longer the prime delivery of information. While printed graphics will have a place in such areas as packaging and display design, the document pioneered by Gutenberg has evolved from ink on paper to pixels on a touch screen. Visual communications will need to refigure itself to accommodate an entire generation interconnected by devices essential to their being. This is the true paradigm shift as evoked by Thomas Kuhn, there is not going back, only forward.

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III. PLANNING

A. Planning Update

Summarize your program's plans, initiatives, and objectives accomplished since the Annual Program Review of AY 2011-12 (include accomplishments for the academic years 2012-13 and 2013-14).

Our accomplishments have been to keep this department alive, to graduate and place students in college and in the business world. With great help from the school we have maintained a competitive edge offering excellent training and education at a fraction of the cost of other institutions.

B. Program Planning for AY 2015-16

As appropriate for your program, please address each of the following areas. For each area, describe your program's plans, initiatives, and objectives for the academic year 2015-16. Focus on how planning will impact student learning or the student experience at Las Positas College.

1. SLO assessments. NOTE: 100% of courses in your disciplines should be assessed a minimum of once every two years. As a guideline, each program should be assessing 25% of its courses every semester.

   1. How does your program plan to use assessment results for the continuous improvement of student learning? Examples might include (Your responses may vary.):

      - changing number of units/lab hours
      - changing pedagogy/curriculum
      - changing assessments

We intend to increase the course unit load from two to three units per class, in keeping with present and future articulation agreements. We intend to expand our department to include Java Script, HTML and CSS programming to our curriculum. Such instruction will coordinate through the Computer Sciences Department. We intend to introduce Animation and Game Design into our program to supply industry needs for designers with training in visual storytelling.

   2. Have your assessment results shown a need for new SLOs?   YES ☐   NO ☐
      If yes, in the table below, state the number of courses in your program and estimate the percentage of courses for which your program will write new SLOs.

Number of Courses	Estimated Percentage for which new SLOs will be written

4	100%

3. What percentage of courses will your program assess in the next academic year (2015-16)?

> Click here to enter text.
>
> 1 course, at 25%

4. In order to budget to pay part-time faculty to work on SLOs during the academic year 2015-16, estimate the number of part-time faculty in your program and the percentage of them who are likely to participate in the SLO process in 2015-16.

Estimated Number of Part-time faculty	Estimated Percentage who will participate in the SLO process
6	3-4

4. Curriculum

   a. Considering the criteria of relevance, appropriateness, achievement of course objectives, currency, and future needs and plans, will your program be making any changes to **existing** curriculum to address any of these criteria? If yes, please describe the changes and your program's reasons for the changes. Please provide any data which supports your program's reasons for the changes to your curriculum. Include a discussion of how the changes will improve student learning.

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>
> Visual Communications, with the departure of its last full-time instructor has been in limbo, in spite of the sincere efforts of the present group of instructors. In the few years since we had a full time instructor, the World has changed, and now we must change to keep up with that world.

   b. Will new curriculum be submitted to the Curriculum Committee for the academic year 2015-2016? If yes, please describe briefly what new curriculum is planned and the rationale for the new curriculum. Please provide any data which supports your reasons for the new curriculum. Include a discussion of how the changes will improve student learning.

> Java Script, HTML and CSS Programming for the WEB and Devices; A course on the programs that support interactivity on the web (coordinated through the Computer Sciences Department
>
> Animation and Game Design: A course covering the history of Animation and Game Design,

with a focus on the activities of creating Animated Figures, Motion Graphics, Story Design and Development, and Game Strategy for the Electronic game Industry.

   Design for Devices: A course emphasizing the design and programming for mobile devices and applications.

5. General Program Planning

Use this area to describe any program plans, initiative, or objectives your program wishes to accomplish in 2015-16 and their impact on student learning or the student experience. Focus on what the plans are and how they are to be accomplished (not resources needed).

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Objectives for VCom 2015-2016

Introduce a full-time faculty into the program, to both teach and to coordinate the department curriculum.

Re-establish the Design Lab with an intent to provide design services for the academic departments, administration, and the community at large.

Introduce a Motion Graphics class focusing on Adobe After Effects and Flash as part of the revised curriculum.

Introduce an Animation class, focusing on the history and application of the discipline in a traditional and digital manner.

Note: Animation will require Lunchbox, some light tables and space to test animation drawings.

IV. Resource Requests for AY2015-16

Complete all areas that apply to your program's resource needs for 2015-16 (**not all areas apply to all programs**).

For each request, in the rationale section:

- Describe how meeting this request will improve student learning or the student experience.

- Provide any data or evidence which supports this request.

A. **Enrollment Management**

1. Request: New FTEF. Indicate amount being requested.

   VCom is at a crucial moment in its history. It needs a full-time faculty to lead it into the present era, to coordinate the curriculum of its adjuncts, support the Dean who has limited time to devote to a single department. The full-time instructor will need to promote and market the department to potential students and their parents (if necessary), as well as contact and develop relationships within

the college and outside within the community of Livermore. The full-time instructor will also have to establish connections with colleges and universities and companies to develop articulation agreements. Finally VCom will need a full-time instructor because our students need to either transfer to a four-year program or join the work force.

2. Rationale for request(s).

With over 300 students, the department is large enough to support such a request, and it is necessary for the survival of the program.

B. Human Resources

1. Request: New or replacement faculty position(s).

This is a replacement request.

2. Rationale for faculty position request(s).

A full-time faculty person can do what a group of part-time faculty members cannot do, provide leadership and vision to the program

3. Request: Classified staff position(s) (for example, new or replacement classified staff position(s) or increasing classified hours/position level).

N/A at this time

4. Rationale for classified staff position request(s).

VCom should have a budget for classified position sufficient to support its needs in the upcoming year.

C. Financial

1. Request: Maintenance of, or increase in, existing program budget (e.g., for supplies, etc.).

> VCom is a department dependent upon ever changing technology. Of necessity, the department needs to keep at pace, if not ahead of the technology curve.

2. Rationale for financial request(s).

> The nature of the business behind VCom

D. Technology (software only – discuss hardware in section E)

1. Request: Upgrade existing software or purchase new software.

> As we venture into motion graphics, Animation and Game Design, we will need tp purchase software from Autodesk, or similar 3D type software, Centiq workstations, and other related technology found in upper division educational institutions and in business.

2. Rationale for technology request(s).

> To grow the department and make it more viable.

E. Facilities, Equipment (include technology hardware), and Supplies

1. Request: Renovation or upgrade of existing facilities or new facilities.

> 2015-2016 may be the last year we can use the existing Macs in our classroom. Stephen Gunderson will provide leadership on this level of requests

2. Rationale for facilities request(s).

> Steve Gunderson is extremely knowledgeable of the types and quality of such hardware/software applicable to the VCom program.

3. Request: Upgrading of existing equipment or purchase of new equipment.

> VCom requests the following equipment as part of its essential needs to provide a quality up-to-date program for the students.

A large format printer

3D Printers 2-3 that can handle different materials and configurations.

Laser Cutter, engraving machine sufficient to create type of prototypes the students will   need to create in order to graduate, or find employment.

4. Rationale for equipment request(s).

These pieces of equipment are ordinary and necessary for the learning process. Such equipment can be found in nearby colleges and companies. Both need our students as upper division students or as employees.

5. Request: New supplies

While VCom receives support from the occasional donated supplies, materials, typical of the profession should be readily available either in the classroom, or at the student store.

6. Rationale for supplies request(s).

The request is not as a subsidy, but as part of a lab fee that provides some basics during the educational period. VCom is prepared to research the most effective ways to keep costs reasonable to the department.

In closing, if we think of VCom as a creative resource for communication within the Las Positas College community, the department can design and develop cost effective materials supporting all disciplines, and fully interact within the college. We should be able to compete with costs, and we will provide a rich educational experience for all that participate in the design process.