

PROGRAM REVIEW Fall 2020

Program: Geography

Division: STEM

Date: Oct. 31, 2020

Writer(s): Thomas Orf

SLO/SAO Point-Person: Thomas Orf

Audience: Deans, Vice Presidents of Student Services and Academic Services, All Planning and Allocation Committees. This document will be available to the public.

Uses: This Program Review will be used to inform the campus and community about your program. It will also be used in the processes of creating Division Summaries, determining College Planning Priorities and allocating resources. A final use is to document fulfillment of accreditation requirements.

Please note: Program Review is NOT in itself a vehicle for making requests. All requests should be made through appropriate processes (e.g. Instructional Equipment Request Process) or directed to your dean or supervisor.

Time Frame: This Program Review should reflect on program status during the 2020-21 academic year. It should describe plans starting now and continuing through 2021-22.

Sections: This Program Review has been shortened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Program Review Committee understands that you are completing this program review in a time of stress and disruption and that this may affect many of your responses. Sections and questions are marked with the name of the committee or office that will use the information.

- The first section focuses on general program reflection and planning.
- The second section has specific questions to be filled out by all programs this year.
- The third section is a review of curriculum, to be filled out only by programs with curriculum.

Topics: The Program Review Glossary defines key terms. Writers should review this glossary before writing: <https://bit.ly/2LqPxOW>

For Help: Contact Nadiyah Taylor: ntaylor@laspositascollege.edu.

A list of contacts for help with specific sections is provided on the Program Review website under the “tools for writers” tab. [<https://bit.ly/3fY7Ead>]

Instructions:

- 1) Please respond to each question as completely as possible.
- 2) If the requested information does not apply to your program, write “Not Applicable.”
- 3) Optional: Communicate with your dean about completing this document.
- 4) Send an electronic copy of this form to Nadiyah Taylor and your dean by Monday, November 2.

Links:

Program Review Home Page: laspositascollege.edu/instructionalprogramreview

Fall 2019 Program Reviews: laspositascollege.edu/programreview/pr2019.php

Frequently Asked Questions: laspositascollege.edu/instructionalprogramreview/programreviewfaqs.php

Section One: Program Snapshot [Program Review Committee]

For assistance with this section, contact the Program Review Committee Chair. [<https://bit.ly/3fY7Ead>]

No Significant Changes Option

Contact person: _____

By marking an X in the box above, the writers of this Program Review indicate that there have been no significant changes to their program or their program's needs in the past year. In this case, programs may opt not to complete Program Review Section One: Program Snapshot.

Programs must still complete all other sections (as applicable).

Please note: Choosing this option means that your program's information may not be included in the yearly Division Summary.

The No Significant Changes Option may only be used for two years in a row; after two years, programs must complete a full Program Review including the Program Snapshot. Our program's most recent Program Snapshot was submitted in the following semester: Fall 20_____.

A. Accomplishments: What plans were achieved during AY19-20? You may describe achievements that were or were not planned in earlier Program Review. Your response may include actions regarding COVID-19. Please highlight any positive impacts to students.

Mostly, Geography has not made any major changes since the last program review. However, here are the accomplishments during the year.

- 1) Geography continues to offer courses and a degree that has classes in both the social sciences and STEM areas of the college which makes it a very diversified discipline at LPC. Classes overall enrollment has been strong (although challenging recently) which will be discussed in the next section.**
- 2) Geography has one full time instructor and two part time instructors in the discipline. This helps in making sure we offer all the required courses for the program. While many disciplines the same size as geography offers anywhere between 2-3 different courses, Geography offers 6 different courses (5 of them each semester).**
- 3) The Geography department maintains a weather station on top of the science building.**
- 4) The Geography department now has a lab assistant who has gone a long way in helping the discipline grow and market itself to the community and college as a whole.**
- 5) The Geography department has updated several pieces of lab equipment for the GEOG 1 lab during the semester.**
- 6) All the Geography courses are now DE approved. It is now possible that any of the geography courses can now be offered via DE for future semesters. It was noted in previous Program Reviews that this was extremely important for GEOG 5 to become DE**

eligible since its enrollment has been lower than the other courses. This has now been completed.

- 7) The Geography program now participated in the Global Studies Program. We have had GS 1 taught by a geography faculty member in the past and GS 2 will be taught by a geography faculty member in the spring semester.

Mark an X before each area that is addressed in your response.				Definitions of terms: https://bit.ly/2LqPxOW		
X	Community Partnerships/Outreach	X	Facilities, Supplies and Equipment, Software		LPC Planning Priorities	Services to Students
X	Course Offerings	X	Financial/Budgetary	X	LPC Collaborations	SLO/SAO Process
X	Curriculum Committee Items		Human Resources		Pedagogy	Student Equity
	External Factors		Learning Support		Professional Development	Technology Use

B. Challenges, Obstacles and Needs: Describe any significant challenges, obstacles or needs for your program. Your response may include issues regarding COVID-19. Please highlight any negative impacts for students.

- 1) Geography is one of the few STEM disciplines that has had an enrollment decline similar to what is seen in other parts of the campus. Most STEM disciplines have growth in enrollment, but Geography is not one of them. Most of the decline is in the social science areas of geography but there is also significant decline in the science oriented classes as well. Causes are mainly due to 1) enrollment declines due to COVID 19 which is across the college as a whole; and 2) Cannibalization from other courses most specifically ANT, and other STEM courses competing with Geography for the limited number of general education students the college has. Enrollment decline is the number one challenge for Geography for the short term future.
- 2) There is starting to be significant shortages in some types of lab equipment that are more expensive in cost. Steps are being taken with getting some of these replaced but limited funds hurt.
- 3) Geography is starting to see philosophical differences by the discipline being in STEM. Geography IS a social science and not a science discipline and although it has a lot of science oriented general education courses, the division does not have a good grasp of really what are the social science needs of the department. Geography may need to be transferred back to the Social Science Division on campus.
- 4) Geography has had problems with getting its weather station maintained by the individuals who own it (even though we have a contract with them to maintain the station). We are working to solve these issues long term.

Mark an X before each area that is addressed in your response.				Definitions of terms: https://bit.ly/2LqPxOW		
	Community Partnerships/Outreach		Facilities, Supplies and Equipment, Software		LPC Planning Priorities	Services to Students
X	Course Offerings	X	Financial/Budgetary		LPC Collaborations	SLO/SAO Process
	Curriculum Committee Items		Human Resources	X	Pedagogy	Student Equity
	External Factors		Learning Support		Professional Development	Technology Use

C. IR Data Review: Describe any significant trends in your program’s data from the office of Institutional Research and Planning. (Note: Not all Programs have IR data available; if your program does not have a data packet or dashboard data, you may note that in the response box.) You may also discuss any other data generated for your program by the Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

IR Data packets are available here: <https://bit.ly/2lYaFu7>

Course Success Rates Dashboard can be found at the bottom of this page: <https://bit.ly/2Y9vGpl>

For assistance with this question, contact the Director of Institutional Research and Planning. <https://bit.ly/3fY7Ead>

Geography enrollment, fill rates and overall FTES generation has been declining for the past year. Most of this is related to COVID, but not all. As stated in the previous response under challenges, there is signs of competition for limited number of students in general education between Geography and other disciplines. The Deans of both STEM and Social Sciences needs to be examining the data for possible issues. The bottom line is that LPC is probably offering too many competing classes in many disciplines for the limited number of students that we currently are serving. The good news is that this trend is relatively recent and will probably turn around once we get past the COVID crisis.

Mark an X before each area that is addressed in your response.				Definitions of terms: https://bit.ly/2LqPxOW		
	Community Partnerships/Outreach		Facilities, Supplies and Equipment, Software		LPC Planning Priorities	Services to Students
X	Course Offerings		Financial/Budgetary		LPC Collaborations	SLO/SAO Process
	Curriculum Committee Items		Human Resources		Pedagogy	Student Equity
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D. Short Term Planning: What are your most important plans, either new or continuing, for next year? Describe plans starting now and continuing through AY 21-22. (Optional: You may also describe long-term plans if desired.)

- 1) **Modify the number of Geography class sections due to enrollment declines**
- 2) **Seriously consider moving Geography from the STEM division to the Social Sciences. More time must be taken to consider this issue since it should not be taken lightly. This moved in not being considered for the upcoming academic year.**
- 3) **Put pressure on the owners of the weather station to help maintain it being fully functional.**
- 4) **Increase marketing for Geography to the college and community as a whole.**

Mark an X before each area that is addressed in your response.			Definitions of terms: https://bit.ly/2LqPxOW				
X	Community Partnerships/Outreach		Facilities, Supplies and Equipment, Software		LPC Planning Priorities		Services to Students
X	Course Offerings		Financial/Budgetary		LPC Collaborations		SLO/SAO Process
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Section Two: Institutional Planning Topics (Required for All Programs)

A. Equity [Student Equity and Achievement Committee]: Please describe any recent actions your program has taken to increase equity and/or any challenges your program faces in promoting equity and equity-based decision-making? Areas to consider include students impacted by race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, age, or disability status, as well as students who are disproportionately impacted due to the shift to remote instruction.

For assistance with this question, contact the Director of Student Equity and Achievement. [<https://bit.ly/3fY7Ead>]

- 1) **Geography 2 and Geography 12 have several curricular units that deal with equity. These units have been expanded that now include discussions plus videos that help with the subject.**
- 2) **Geography participated in offering classes in the Global Studies Program which also emphasizes some of these issues.**

B.

SLOs/SAOs [SLO Committee]:

You should complete ONE of the following three sections. Please choose the option that is most appropriate for your program:

B1: Instructional Programs with PSLOs

B2: Instructional Programs without PSLOs or with Special Circumstances

B3: Non-Instructional Programs

Skip to the section you chose. If you are not sure which option to pick, contact the SLO Committee Chair or Program Review Committee Chair for assistance.

B1: Instructional Programs with PSLOs

In this year's Program Review, and in support of Accreditation, we would like a snap-shot on how your program plans to collect, discuss and report assessment findings to develop best practices for teaching and student learning ("closing the loop").

As a program, please select one PSLO for a degree or certificate to focus on. This PSLO should reflect one area of your program that you would like to investigate in depth. For example, your selection may focus on an area to improve student success, to update pedagogy, equity issues, or to examine a new degree/certificate, etc.

In this section, describe your plan for assessment data to be collected, analyzed and discussed, and reported out in next year's Program Review. Your plan should identify the CSLOs that feed into your selected PSLO so that a complete data set is collected. You may choose to do this over one or two semesters. In next year's Program Review, you will be asked to summarize your SLO assessments, analysis of those findings, and proposed changes that may be implemented to improve teaching and student learning.

For assistance with these questions, contact the SLO Committee Chair. [<https://bit.ly/3fY7Ead>]

B1a. In the space below, insert the complete wording of the PSLO and potential reason(s) for selecting it for analysis.

“Upon completion of the AA-T in Geography, students are able to assemble and analyze spatial information (maps, data, surveys, qualitative observations, etc), using traditional and modern mapping technology methods.”

This PSLO is in the heart of what Geography is as a discipline. All geography courses deal with spatial data and therefore can be mapped. It is by far the easiest and yet more accurate (as well as viable) data tool geography as a discipline has for examining and implementing change for student success.

**B1b.
In
the**

table below, list the CSLOs that feed up to the identified PSLO and check the semester or semester(s) that the CSLO will be assessed and data entered into eLumen.

(If this different than the submitted SLO template plan, please update and resubmit the template plan. Send the updated template to mwiest@laspositascollege.edu and ahight@laspositascollege.edu)

Complete Name of CSLO	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Summer 2021
Upon completion of GEOG 1, students will be able to understand the reasons why the seasons change		X	X
Upon completion of GEOG 1L, students will be able to diagram and identify (explain) earth / sun relations).		X	
Upon completion of GEOG 2, students will be able to explain the Demographic Transition Model.	X		
Upon completion of GEOG 5, students will be able to locate and label on a map the different countries of the world as discussed in class.	X		
Upon completion of GEOG 12, students will be able to identify the different climates that exist in California	X		
Upon completion of GEOG 8, students will be able to define different type of fronts and use these fronts on the map to predict the weather for a specific area		X	
Upon completion of GEOG 15, students will be able to produce a printed map which demonstrates the basic concepts of cartographic design.		X	

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B1c. When will analysis and discussion of the assessment data be completed (during next year’s Program Review is an option)? The reporting out of the “closing the loop” analysis will be part of next year’s Program Review.

B2: Instructional Programs without PSLOs or with Special Circumstances

If your department does not have PSLOs, you may choose one CSLO to focus on. This option may also be used if there is a strong departmental rationale for focusing on a single CSLO.

As a department, please select a course to focus on. The selected course and one of its CSLOs should reflect an area that you would like to investigate in depth. For example, your selection may focus on a course to improve student success, to update pedagogy, to analyze equity issues, etc.

For assistance with these questions, contact the SLO Committee Chair. [\[https://bit.ly/3fY7Ead\]](https://bit.ly/3fY7Ead)

B2a. In the space below, describe the rationale (such as this is not a degree-granting program, we focus mainly on non-degree courses, etc.)

B2b. In the space below, insert the complete wording of the CSLO and reason(s) for selecting it for analysis.

B2c. In the table below, list the CSLO and check the semester or semester(s) that the CSLO will be assessed and data entered into eLumen.

(If this is different than the submitted SLO template plan, please update and resubmit the template plan. Send the updated template to mwiest@laspositascollege.edu and ahight@laspositascollege.edu)

Complete Name of CSLO	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Summer 2021

B2d. When will analysis and discussion of the assessment data be completed? (During next year’s Program Review is an option.) The reporting out of the “closing the loop” analysis will be part of next year’s Program Review.

Next years program review

B3: Non-Instructional Programs

In this year’s Program Review, and in support of Accreditation, we would like a snap-shot of how your student service area plans to collect, discuss, and report assessment findings to develop best practices for teaching and student learning (“closing the loop”).

Please select one SAO to focus on. This SAO should reflect an area of your program that you would like to investigate in depth. For example, your selection may focus on an area to improve student success, increase best practices, to address equity issues, or to examine a new service/program, etc. The intent is for this section to be useful for reflection to develop best practices for serving students.

For assistance with these questions, contact the SLO Committee Chair. [<https://bit.ly/3fY7Ead>]

B3a. In the space below, insert the complete wording of the SAO and potential reason(s) for selecting it for analysis.

B3b. When and how will this SAO be assessed and data entered into eLumen? (If this different than the submitted template plan, please update and resubmit the template plan. Send the updated template to mwiest@laspositacollege.edu and ahight@laspositacollege.edu)

B3c. When will analysis of the assessment data will be completed (during next year’s Program Review is an option)? The reporting out of the “closing the loop” analysis will be part of next year’s Program Review.



Section Three: Curriculum Review (Programs with Courses Only)

For assistance with this section, contact the Curriculum Committee Chair. [<https://bit.ly/3fY7Ead>]

The following questions ask you to review your program's curriculum. To see the last outline revision date and revision due date:

- 1. Log in to CurricUNET**
- 2. Select "Course Outline Report" under "Reports/Interfaces"**
- 3. Select the report as an Excel file or as HTML**

A. Title V Updates [Curriculum Committee]: Are any of your courses requiring an update to stay within the 5 year cycle? List courses needing updates below. Reminder: updates to course title or units, and course deactivations, will require updating any program they are associated with. List programs requiring updating in question (B).

No courses require updates within the 5 year cycles.

B. Degree/Certificate Updates [Curriculum Committee]: Are there any programs requiring modification? List needed changes below.

No degrees / Certificates need updated or modifications

C. DE Courses/Degrees/Certificates [Distance Education Committee]: Detail your department's plans, if any, for adding DE courses, degrees, and/or certificates. For new DE degrees and/or certificates (those offered completely online), please include a brief rationale as to why the degree/certificate will be offered online.

ALL geography courses except for GEOG 1 (which was completed earlier) have now been updated to be considered for DE. They are now all eligible. GEOG 5 will be offered as a stand-alone asynchronous course in spring semester for the first time.