

PROGRAM REVIEW Fall 2018

Program: Geography

Division: STWM

Date: Oct. 20, 2018

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.

Time Frame: This Program Review should reflect on program status during the 2017-18 academic year. It should describe plans starting now and continuing through 2018-19. This document also provides the opportunity to describe more long-term plans (optional).

Sections: The first section of this Program Review 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 an SLO/SAO update. The fourth section is a review of curriculum. Only programs with curriculum need to complete Section 4.

Topics: A list of topics of particular interest to Program Review readers can be found here:

<https://goo.gl/23jrxt>

Help: Contact Karin Spirm: kspirm@laspositascollege.edu

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: Meet with your dean to review this document before October 22.
- 4) Send an electronic copy of this form to Karin Spirm and your Dean by October 22.

Links:

Program Review Home Page: <https://goo.gl/XATqjJ>

Fall 2017 Program Review Updates : <https://goo.gl/pkv76m>

Frequently Asked Questions: <https://goo.gl/ilhRtt>

Section One: Program Snapshot

No Significant Changes Option

Contact person: Thomas Orf

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 Review was submitted in the following semester: Fall 20_____.

A. Program Description: Briefly describe your program, including any information or special features of your program that will provide helpful context for readers of this Program Review.

The Geography Department is a productive department that although housed in the STEM area, includes courses that are both in the STEM division as within the Social Sciences general education framework. It has been, and will continue to be in the future, a science as well as a social science discipline. It is a one-person full-time faculty member department, with currently three part time faculty members in addition to the full-time faculty member. During the past year, we had as many as four part time faculty members in the division but never any higher numbers than that. The number of courses being taught by full time compared to part time were, on average, 2 classes for every full-time member to every one for part time. The discipline currently does not have the need (nor desire) to add another full-time faculty member based on enrollments and demand data. In addition to the above staff, geography shares a lab tech with physics.

The geography department houses a GIS lab (although it shares that lab with engineering) to be used for our GIS class and a weather station which is housed on top of the science building. The department also has various types of lab equipment and maps that are scattered around on the second floor of the science building, the full-time faculty members office and classrooms of 1826 (geography / geology classroom) and 1828 (geography / geology lab)

B. Changes to Program and Needs: Describe any significant changes to your program or your program's needs since the previous Program Review Update (Fall 2017).

There have been a few changes that have happened for the past several years that are worth noting

- 1) Enrollment has been steady compared to the college enrollment as a whole. Changes have occurred in that another DE section of GEOG 1 was added to the academic year to help demand. No other courses were added. Since additional sections were not created for the discipline as a whole, a section was taken from the regular in class sections of GEOG 1 from the summer.
- 2) The Weather Station was severely updated on October 18, 2017. This happened from a contract that was purchased last year for upkeep and maintenance of the weather station. As a quick history lesson, the Weather Station (which has been around since the 90s) was purchased by Weatherbug from the television station that originally gave us the station as a donation 10 years earlier. Once that purchase was completed, Weatherbug (at that time in the 90s) modernized the station but then left us to do the upkeep of it. Since the station was way above the roof in the science building, none of the faculty or staff were able to adequately take care of the station. Over time, it went into disrepair. After consulting several people on campus and Weatherbug, it was decided that we would purchase a maintenance package from Weatherbug itself that would last for several years in which they would do all the upkeep and maintenance for the station. When the weather bug people came out to inspect and do maintenance on the system, they decided we had old equipment and changed out most of it for a new state of the art weather station. Thus, we now have a state-of-the-art system that can be used by students and the community since the data goes to the weather bug website. It was also decided that the contract will be renewed when it comes up again in three years.
- 3) All course outlines were updated during the past 2 academic years. Every one of them are now up to date.
- 4) The GIS las was updated with the most updated software for the GIS class
- 5) New Maps were purchased for the Geography / geology classroom.

Mark an X before each area that is addressed in your response.			Definitions of terms: https://goo.gl/23jrxr		
	Community Partnerships/Outreach	X	Facilities, Supplies and Equipment, Software	LPC Planning Priorities	Services to Students
X	Curriculum committee items		Financial/Budgetary	LPC Collaborations	SLO/SAO Process
X	Enrollment Management		Human Resources	Pedagogy	Technology Use
	External Factors		Learning Support	Professional Development	

C. Reflection: What plans from the [2017 Program Review](#) or any [previous Program Reviews/Updates](#) have been achieved and how? You may also describe achievements that were not planned in earlier Program Reviews.

The main update was on the weather station which was needed for several years. As far as the other areas within the discipline, the number of and type of courses has remained constant which is what we were expecting since the last program review.

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	Enrollment Management		Human Resources		Pedagogy	Technology Use
	External Factors		Learning Support		Professional Development	

D. 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 packets available; if your program does not have a data packet, 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: <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/research/progrev.php>

Course Success Rates Dashboard can be found at the bottom of this page: <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/research/outcomes.php>

As stated above, geography seems to be along the same lines as other disciplines. There is a concern with the DE data which I will explain in E below, but everything else looks as what was expected.

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X	Enrollment Management		Human Resources		Pedagogy	Technology Use
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E. Other Data Review (Optional): Describe any significant findings based on other data regarding your program. Possible sources of relevant information might include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Data generated by your program

- **CEMC Data**
- **Labor Market Data**

There has been a major characteristic noted for the GEOG 1 DE course that is not really shown on the data from IR but is of significance. Although IR shows the success rate for the DE course is lower than the college as a whole (expected) what I found is that the students who actually finished the DE course had higher grades on average than other non-DE courses. That prompted a concern. After reflection and research, it was found that many of the tests and assignments that were on the GEOG 1 DE Canvas website had been compromised and placed on the internet for purchase. Documented cheating was obtained for a total of 5 students over a year and it was suspected that there were even more involved. The cases were turned over to Student Services for discipline however a bigger trend opened up. After consulting with Sarah Thompson and several of the English and Math faculty, it was found that this was not an outlying experience and that cheating and purchasing test and assignments was actually widespread. Changes would have to be made. A college wide committee was formed to examine cheating in regular and online course and how to combat the problem. For geography, the following changes were made to the Geography 1 DE course

- 1) Assignments were created by instructor instead of taking them from the text. These assignments were changed every semester.
- 2) The test bank questions were modified (unfortunately not all of them due to time limitations) to make it harder for the student to cheat
- 3) Safeguards were put into place to help catch people trying to download answers (which has resulted in more being caught)

I heard of a huge safeguard that will come from the OEI in which a program will be implemented into Canvas which monitors students when they take the quiz. Scott. V. has mentioned that program will be implemented sometime in the next year and will be free to everyone since it is part of the OEI program that we have joined. Since this program it will actually monitor students when they take a test online and prevent students from opening other windows while they are taking their test, it should come closer to eliminating downloading answers for quizzes.

Mark an X before each area that is addressed in your response.			Definitions of terms: https://goo.gl/23jrxt				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Partnerships/Outreach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Facilities, Supplies and Equipment, Software	<input type="checkbox"/>	LPC Planning Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services to Students
<input type="checkbox"/>	Curriculum committee items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial/Budgetary	<input type="checkbox"/>	LPC Collaborations	<input type="checkbox"/>	SLO/SAO Process
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrollment Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pedagogy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology Use
<input type="checkbox"/>	External Factors	<input type="checkbox"/>	Learning Support	<input type="checkbox"/>	Professional Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	

F. Impacts to Students (Optional): Discuss at least one example of how students have been impacted by the work of your program since the last Program Review Update (only if you did not already answer this in Questions B-E).

See answer under B and E above.

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X	Enrollment Management		Human Resources	Pedagogy	Technology Use
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G. Obstacles: What obstacles has your program faced in achieving plans and goals?

Geography still has minimal budget so updating equipment is still a major obstacle.

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H. Short Term Planning: What are your most important plans (either new or continuing) for next year? Describe plans starting now and continuing through AY 2018-19.

There are several important goals short term over the next year.

- 1) Maintain current geography enrollment. Given enrollments at LPC, the district and the community colleges around the state as a whole, it is important that geography maintains exactly what is has now in terms of number of sections, productivity and number of students.
- 2) Maintain the GIS lab which includes the most current software
- 3) Keep the part time faculty that we have

4) Monitor the DE course for further cheating concerns. Hopefully the program Scott. V. discussed will be implemented in Canvas minimizing cheating in the future.

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I. Long Term Planning (Optional): Please detail any long-term plans for the next 3-5 years. (Only if you have significant plans, such as implementation of a grant project, creation of long-term initiatives including those using restricted funds such as Equity or SSSP, construction and outfitting of a new building).

The only major increase that I see is that we do need to increase our pool of part time instructors. Finding geography part time faculty is extremely hard and if one of them can't teach for us for whatever reason, it can be a major burden finding a replacement. Marketing is needed to find appropriate part time faculty.

In addition, an increase of the budget in geography for supplies is necessary long term. There is not enough money to replace torn and outdated equipment. This has been an ongoing problem in geography for quite some time.

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Section Two: Current Topics (Required for All Programs)

- A. Educational Master Plan: A list of goals and strategies appears on page ii of the Educational Master Plan, which can be accessed here:**

http://www.laspositacollege.edu/about/assets/docs/LasPositas_Ed_Master_Plan.pdf

If applicable, describe how your program’s upcoming plans reflect the goals described in the college’s Educational Master Plan (your plans are described in Section 1, Questions H-I, or on a previous program review if you did not complete this year’s Program Snapshot).

Geography provides transfer courses as well as an Associates Degree for students planning transfer to a four-year school. We also offer one technical course (GIS which is also a transfer course) that can help in that area as well. In addition, Geography also has an AAT degree.	
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- B. Program-Set Standard (Instructional Programs Only): Did your program meet its program-set standard for successful course completion? yes no**

Program-set standard data can be found on this page:
<http://www.laspositacollege.edu/research/outcomes.php>

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

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- C. Facilities: Do you have any facilities needs that are currently unmet? If yes, please describe.**

Everything is currently met.

- D. Professional Development**

Section 87153 of California Education Code specifies the type of Professional Development activities that may be funded by the Community College Professional Development Program. You can review these activities here: <https://qoo.gl/w8sqBM>

D1. Summarize the aspects of professional development that have been working well for your program. This might include the process of obtaining funds, the types of training your program members have been attending, etc.

There is a state-wide geography organization that give advice to curriculum, current trends, etc. Several of the part time faculty have gone to the yearly conference because it has been local. Current funds available for professional development helps for this. However, changes in GIS occurs frequently which will require training as necessary. Funds may need to be find for this funding.

D2. Summarize any needs, desires and visions your program has regarding professional development, as well as any challenges.

see comment above

E. Program Review Suggestions (optional): What questions or suggestions do you have regarding the Program Review forms or process?

This process seems to cover everything important and the process is simple. Thank you Program Review Committee.

Section Three: SLOs/SAOs (Required for All Programs)

A. In the box below, copy and paste your “Plans for Analysis of SLO/SAO Data” from last year's Program Review. This plan can be found in the [2017 Program Review](#) Section 1 Question L.

(If discussing multiple PSLO/SAOs copy the box below as needed.)

Circle One: CSLO PSLO SAO
Course, Program Name, or Student Service Area: GEOG 1 – Physical Geography
Text of CSLO/PSLO/SAO: Upon completion of GEOG 1, students will be able to understand the global wind patterns and how they form
If you plan to analyze a PSLO, identify the courses that are mapped to the PSLO. All the GEOG 1 classes were to analyze this CSLO

B. Below, report on your program’s progress on the plan described in Question (A) above.

Text of CSLO/PSLO/SAO: Upon completion of GEOG 1, students will be able to understand the global wind patterns and how they form
SLOs: Assessment data collected from _____6_____ sections over ___2_____ semesters. SAOs: Assessment data collected from _____ students over _____ semesters.
Describe the quantitative or qualitative results: Results show positive growth of pre and post based on the data provided. Information, however, is lacking showing that all instructors got together to share results.

A better system needs to be put in place having all the geography faculty (full and part time) get together to go over the results on the CSLOs in that they are all being analyzed, and the faculty are getting similar results, but they are not sharing information with each other.

What changes in student achievement are evident across the semesters you analyzed? What are some possible explanations for these changes?

Scores improved for the most part. Curriculum changes to that particular until is the main reason for the scores in that CSLO.

DO you plan to continue tracking this SLO in the next year? Explain.

Yes, for one more year. We like to have several years data to notice a trend

C. Planning: What are your future plans (either new or continuing) for SLO/SAO analysis for next year? Identify the PSLOs, CSLOs, or SAOs that your program plans to focus on the upcoming year with subsequent analysis (next year's program review). (Copy the box below as needed.)

Circle One:

CSLO PSLO SAO

Course, Program Name, or Student Service Area:

GEOG 5 – World Geography

Text of CSLO/PSLO/SAO:

Students will be able to describe the locations of different cities on the map

If you plan on analyzing a PSLO, identify the CSLOs that feed into the PSLO that will need to be assessed.

N/A

D. SLO/SAO Suggestions (optional): What questions or suggestions do you have regarding SLO/SAO planning, assessment and reporting?

Discuss and reflect upon student achievement for this CSLO/PSLO/SAO. Discuss any actions taken so far (and results, if known) and your action plan for the future:

See comment above. Geography is analyzing their CSLOs but are not sharing with each other. What is needed is a yearly meeting of all geography faculty to discuss results. This was done

two years ago to create the three-year cycles of CSLOs in GEOG 1 and GEOG 1L but not to discuss the results.

Sharing of information is not an issue with other CSLOs (beyond GEOG 1 and GEOG 1L) because it is one instructor who is teaching those courses

**Section Four: Curriculum Review
(Programs with Courses Only)**

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

Curriculum Updates

A. Title V Updates: Are any of your courses requiring an update to stay within the 5 year cycle? List courses needing updates below.

No, all of them were updated within the last year.

B. Degree/Certificate Updates: Are any degrees/certificates requiring an update to do changes to courses (title, units) or addition/deactivation of courses? List needed changes below.

No

C. DE Courses/Degrees/Certificates: 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.

Geography is considering adding (and needing approval through the curriculum committee) a GEOG DE course. It is low priority, so it may or may not be done within the next several years.