

Program Review Update 2025

Program: Communication Studies

Division: Arts & Humanities

Writer(s): Natalie Kellner & Tim Heisler

SLO/SAO Point-Person: Jim Dobson

Email your completed form to Karin Spirn and your dean by November 3.

Helpful Links:

- ★ [Tools for Writers](#) - with contacts and info for help with specific sections.
- ★ [Program Review Glossary](#) - defines key terms you can review when writing.
- ★ [Discipline Data Packets](#) – institutional research about disciplines and student services
- ★ [Course Success Rates Dashboard](#) – allows you to research your program's success rates

Detailed information and instructions appear at the end of this form. For help, please contact Karin Spirn at kspirn@laspositascollege.edu.

1. Please describe your program's most important **achievements** in year 24-25.

- Sections offered in 2024/2025 have increased by 10% since last academic year. These numbers include
 - Summer offerings
 - In person classes (face to face sections) have started to rebound. Face-to-face enrollments rose to 16% of students (from 9%), confirming recovery from pandemic-era DE reliance
- We offered and held an Umoja class.
- We offered a cohort (with the English Department) of COMM 1000 for the Veterans Program.
- We are asked to consider adding sections every semester for the last 6 semesters AFTER the schedule has been released and registration begun. This is due to how fast the classes are filled and the lengths of the waitlists for our classes. Spring 2025 increased enrollment in CMST by 12.5 %.
- We offered 3 modalities: Face to face, Asynchronous, and Hyflex.
- We have updated our curriculum. The statewide revision of COMM 1000 is complete.
- We continue to have a successful forensics team. We took a middle team (6 students) to Nationals and finished with a Gold Medal as a team in the Wheeler Division Middle school division. We won a total of 14 individual awards.
- We held 2 Speech Performance nights. One in the Fall and one in the Spring.
- We hosted a homeschool Speech and Debate tournament for middle through High School age students. The event used almost every building on campus and was held over 4 days. This event brought hundreds of young students and their parents to our campus.
- We hosted a collegiate Speech and Debate tournament. We used almost every building on campus for this event and it lasted 3 days. We brought in schools from Florida and Southern California.
- We were able to raise over \$14,000 dollars to help support travel for the Forensics Team.

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- We travelled 10 students to Seoul, Korea for the International Forensics Association Tournament. This was one of the largest teams we have ever travelled. Student earned the First Place Team Trophy for the two-year college division. In addition, they won twelve awards, four of them being first place trophies.

2. Please describe your most important **challenges** in year 24-25.

- We continue to work with and develop a smoother process with the business office for use and distribution of the Forensics budget. We met with VP Sean Brooks to discuss future travel to ensure the team is able to use fundraised money towards student travel internationally and domestically.
- Working with the foundation: Using the funds in our account for the team and knowing what funds are in the account. There is currently no balance statements provided or notification when donations are made.
- Tracking and communicating with Communication Studies majors. Students can go through the program without having met with a full-time CMST instructor.
- More than 53% of our courses are now being taught by adjunct faculty.
- The Forensics budget has not increased in over 15 years. Our main source of funding has been the bookstore which no longer exists. This is a primary concern for our program as we are a nationally and internationally recognized program.
- With the new CSU/UC patterns, we are expecting a sizable jump in our enrollment for the COMM 1000 course. The concern is that this will come as a surprise when it shouldn't. Additionally, when new sections are needed, they will likely be last minute and asynchronous. This would be problematic and cause for an unbalanced schedule. I don't believe a process exists for this anticipated MAJOR overnight growth.

3. What SLO(s) or SAO(s) if any did your program assess or discuss since your last program review? Please describe any findings and planned actions.

- 59% of faculty completed CSLO assessments
- 2024/25 we plan to assess our PSLO that focuses on ethical and responsible community participation.
- 2024/25 we plan to assess our PSLO that explores students understanding/application of discipline principles.
- Our CMST 10 course is currently submitted to the curriculum committee for the statewide change to COMM 1004.

4. What are your upcoming plans? Please note any ways that these support student achievement and equity.

- With the new CSU/UC patterns, we are expecting a sizable jump in our enrollment for the COMM 1000 course. We are expecting a 15-20% growth rate.
 - As such, we will need two new full-time faculty hire and additional sections. The CMST Department has submitted a request for a new hire and await response if approved.

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- We will need to try to get CMST 46 (Argumentation and Debate) approved as an Oral Communication course for the state.
- We have launched a major fundraising effort due to the continued growth and size of the traveling Forensics team. Nationals will be in Bethesda, Maryland and Internationals will be held in Athens, Greece this year and we do not have the budget to send a full team despite their efforts and success. We are hopeful these funds can be collected. That said, we are NOT fundraisers and every minute spent on fundraising is time NOT spent on our classes and coaching.
- We will continue to host the speech and debate tournaments to raise funds but more importantly, provide community service. Unfortunately, as we fundraise and host events, the college has been hitting us with heavy bills for our use of the facilities to host fundraising events. Conversations have been had with our Dean and VP so we hope that our future fundraising efforts won't be limited due to costs of facilities. For example, a \$650 facilities fee = 1 plane ticket for a student to travel to Nationals. Every penny counts for our team.
- We will need to review the program map to ensure it complies with the new statewide GE patterns.
- Our CMST 10 course is currently submitted to the curriculum committee for the statewide change to COMM 1004.

CTE REPORT (CTE DISCIPLINES ONLY)

1. Does this program continue to meet a labor market demand?

- Yes or No:
- Explanation/evidence:

2. Are there similar programs in the area? If yes, list the programs and their institutions.

- Yes or No:
- Explanation/evidence:

3. Has the program demonstrated effectiveness as measured by the employment and completion success of its students? Provide employment and completion success based on Perkins Core Indicator Report.

- Yes or No:
- Explanation/evidence:

4. Does the program provide opportunities for review and comments by local private industries? Attach most recent Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

- Yes or No:
- Explanation/evidence:

Detailed Instructions and Information

Instructions:

1. Please answer each question with enough detail to present your information, but it doesn't have to be long.
2. If the requested information does not apply to your program, write "Not Applicable."
3. Optional/suggested: Communicate with your dean while completing this document.
4. Send an electronic copy of this completed form to Program Review chair Karin Spirn and your Dean by November 3.
5. Even if you don't have much to report, we want to hear from you, so your voice is part of the college planning process.

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 inform the audience about your program. It is also used in creating division summaries, determining college planning priorities, and determining the allocation of resources. The final use is to document the fulfillment of accreditation requirements.

Please note: Program Review is NOT 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 your program status during the 24-25 academic year. It should describe plans starting now and continuing through 2025-26. It is okay to include information outside of these time windows as needed.

Program Review Process: Comprehensive Program Reviews will be completed every three years, in alignment with the SLO/SAO cycle. On the other years, programs will complete an update.

SLO/SAO Process: SLOs and SAOs should be assessed according to a three-year plan, with comprehensive reporting on the third year. For more information, contact SLO chair John Rosen: jrosen@laspositascollege.edu

Equity is a guiding principle. Here is the LPC definition:

Las Positas College will achieve equity by changing the impacts of structural racism, ableism, homophobia, and systematic poverty on student success and access to higher education, achieved through continuous evaluation and improvement of all services. We believe in a high-quality education focused on learning and an inclusive, culturally relevant environment that meets the diverse needs of all our students.

LPC Equity Definition: Equity is parity in student educational outcomes. It places student success and belonging for students of color and disproportionately impacted students at the center of focus.