

Foothill College 2014-15 Comprehensive Program Review
Program Review Committee Feedback Winter 2016, May 5, 2106

Economics

FINAL

Thank you for your time and effort in completing the Comprehensive Program Review this year. We know it is a lot of work but we hope it has been helpful. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to improve on behalf of our students. The program review allows others throughout the college to learn about your work and how it supports the college mission, educational master plan, and equity goals.

The Program Review Committee read and discussed each comprehensive program review during a series of meetings in winter 2016. Our feedback is outlined below. We would be happy to meet with the department if there are any questions.

Commendations / Strengths

PRC commends the department for the approach they have taken in assessing the PL-SLOs through the use of pre-tests and post-tests across various ECON courses.

PRC notes that the updated Economics department website should be helpful to students as they look for prerequisite and other information about departmental courses.

PRC commends the department for its efforts to reach out to students to improve success rates, including through the use of embedded tutoring, and special programs (e.g. India).

PRC commends the department for its innovative curriculum and its support for the campus-wide drive for equity.

Suggestions for Improvement

Following the rubric guidelines, the PRC rated the Data & Trend Analysis & Institutional Standards sections of the program review document as a yellow due to the declining enrollments and course success rates below the standard (particularly online courses). These two areas should receive enhanced monitoring in the future. More research is warranted to understand why the decline in enrollment was higher for African-American, Latino, and Filipino students as compared to Asian and Whites students (targeted students enrollment decline of 27%; all other students enrollment declined of 18%).

PRC suggests the department look more closely at the data by grade, for example examining trends in D, F, W grades.

Program Review Committee (PRC) Members:

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PRC wonders if the SLO reflections could include more analysis of the data -- all SLOs should be assessed and reflected on and include a more thorough discussion of the data that details why “no action needed as we were satisfied.”

PRC supports the VPI recommendations to address low online course success rates such as a departmental meeting to review the data and discuss online course quality, and to explore tutoring support for Economics.

PRC concurs with the need to involve adjunct faculty more visibly in the efforts to increase student success rates.

Recommendation – **Green**

The program is recommended to continue in the regular program review cycle.

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