

SAN DIEGO
MESA COLLEGE



Program Review

Summary and Reflections with Unit Goals, Action Plans, and Updates

Instructional Program - History (HIST)

Executive Summary

Describe the successes and challenges your unit has faced since the last comprehensive review.

Discipline faculty have continued to work to improve instruction, student enrollment/retention, and to contribute to the function of Mesa College as a whole. Discipline faculty serve on many of the major committees on campus and are heavily involved in several aspects of equity and student success initiatives on campus. Program faculty have rallied to address the needs of students through the COVID years and to continue to develop, revise, and deliver quality discipline courses to students in various modalities to both serve the mission of the two-year college and the specific vision of Mesa College.

Challenges are multitudinous and not unique to this discipline. Weathering the transitions to, and out of, COVID protocols has had an overall damaging effect to the discipline. While faculty have worked to adapt courses to serve student needs through these transitions, the reality is that there are far fewer students in the past three years. As is true generally, enrollment has declined substantially over the past few years. The return to on-campus course offerings has been quite uneven. Even with a limited palette of live courses compared to pre-COVID numbers, enrollments have been soft overall. Anecdotally, student persistence and attendance in live courses has been noticeably poorer than in the pre-COVID classroom. Many classrooms sit empty for substantial portions of the day due to far fewer live courses in the discipline, department, school, and college overall. Online enrollment remains fairly strong, but challenges also have emerged in that modality (false enrollments, student retention patterns, etc.).

If applicable, describe any major curricular or service changes your unit has engaged in and the impact of those changes since the last comprehensive review.

No major changes to curriculum in the past cycle.

If applicable, describe the impact of any new resources (human, fiscal, etc) on the unit and/or action plan implementation.

Not applicable in the past cycle.

If you assess OUTCOMES, please confirm that the outcomes have been reviewed for accuracy. If you do not assess Outcomes, skip this question.

Reviewed & Accurate

Related Documents for Charts and Graphs

Executive Summary Complete

Yes

Data Reflection

Trends observed in program/service area's data.

Enrollment:

Looking at the data for the History discipline over the past four years, the following data emerge. Measuring per four terms (Summer, Fall, Intersession, Spring) each year, the following represents History enrollment data: 19/20: 3895; 20/21: 3552; 21/22: 3116; 22/23: 3454. Decline during the COVID period emerges, with a bit of a rebound during the past year, though not to pre-pandemic levels.

Course Success Rates:

Success rate data over the past three available years reflects a variable trending. In the 19/20 year, History

Summary and Reflection

courses saw a 68% success rate. For 20/21, the success rate increased to 71%. During the 21/22 year, the success rate dipped to 67%. The Mesa success rates over this span were 73%, 75%, and 73% respectively. While lower than the college success rates, the discipline data follows a similar variable trend to the overall college rate.

Course Retention Rates:

The Mesa retention rate averages for the three years were: 19/20: 84%; 20/21: 88%; 21/22: 87%. For the discipline, the numbers were identical each year to the college average: 19/20: 84%; 20/21: 88%; 21/22: 87%.

Program GPA:

Over the three-year data window analyzed, the GPA for the History discipline was as follows: 19/20: 2.77; 20/21: 2.82; 21/22: 2.72. Comparatively, the Mesa overall GPAs were as follows: 19/20: 2.98; 20/21: 2.99; 21/22: 2.94. Again, the variability in these data follow a similar pattern at the discipline level compared to the college level.

Program Learning Outcomes:

The most recent data available for measuring program learning outcomes come from the 2021-22 academic year, when the following were measured: Personal Action and Civic Responsibilities (measured across three courses), Global Awareness (measured across three courses), Communication (one course), and Critical Thinking (one course). The school target is a 70% Satisfactory rate minimum, with 75% and above being ideal. All measures exceeded the target as follows: Personal Action and Civic Responsibilities (93%); Global Awareness (89%); Communication (87%); and Critical Thinking (87%).

Awards:

Over the past three measurable academic years, a total of 72 degrees have been awarded in the discipline. Of that number, 58 degrees were Associate of Arts for Transfer degrees, 12 Associate of Arts Degrees, and two (2) Liberal Arts and Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences History degrees. The yearly breakdown is as follows: 19/20: 29 (25 AA-T, 4 AA); 20/21: 19 (14 AA-T, 5 AA); 21/22: 24 (19 AA-T, 5 AA).

Describe any equity gaps in the data. Are there differences and/or patterns observed by demographics (e.g. race/ethnicity, gender, age, etc.)

By viewing the History discipline data using the Equity Gap Analysis tool in the Data Dashboard, several trends emerge. Retention rates in History courses for Black (83.8%), Latinx (84.0%), and Native American (72.7% for 33 total students) students lag behind those for other subgroups, though are not far from the overall retention rate (86.3%). Success rates for the same three racial/ethnic groups reflect larger gaps compared to the overall success rate of 68.5% (Black 52.6%, Latinx 62.9%, Native American 51.5%). The overall calculation of the equity gap data reveals that Black students have a -6.7% gap, Latinx a -8.6% gap, and Native American students a -7.0% gap in History courses using the past three years student data. A focus on only the past four academic terms (Summer 21, Fall 21, Intersession 22, Spring 22) reveal related short-term trends. The equity gap for Black students was much larger in this short-term period (-19.0%), but it is fair to note that the student number was comparatively small to other groups. Native American enrollment in this period was too small to yield viable data. The Latinx gap actually shrank (-4.2%) compared to the three-year trend.

In terms of Age, equity gaps only proved disproportionate for one age group (18-24) over the three-year timespan, with a -3.6% equity gap. Other groups (especially under 18 and the 40-49 range) had highly positive equity gap numbers.

When looking at trends by DSPS status, DSPS recipients reflected a positive equity gap (4.9%), while non DSPS students had a -4.9% equity gap.

First generation students over the three-year span had a negative equity gap (-11.6%). Equity gaps by gender were negligible statistically, though students identifying as non-binary did have a -15.2 gap (based on 15 students over three years).

In terms of students earning degrees in the discipline, negative gaps over the past three years exist in terms of age (-12.4% 18-24; -1.2% 25-29), gender (-14.1% Female); and ethnicity (-6.8% Asian/Pacific Islander, -1.6% Native American, -0.8 Filipino, -3.3% Latinx). These gaps generally mirror those for the discipline nationally.

Summary and Reflection

Describe the discussion(s) that took place about the unit's learning outcomes assessment data.

The Social Science Outcomes Coordinator held a discussion of Outcomes before our department meeting. During that discussion, data were presented for each outcome and broken down by course number/description. Students are meeting (and often exceeding) expectations established for learning outcomes. Ongoing discussion about the appropriateness of learning outcomes and target data points ensued, with the decision to retain current outcomes targets for the next measurement cycle.

Related Documents for Charts and Graphs

Data Reflection Complete

Yes

Practice Reflection

Describe current practices your program/service area has engaged in that you believe impact the above data trends and equity gaps.

We have undertaken a number of initiatives as History discipline faculty over the past few years to address equity gaps. Discipline faculty have all engaged in a variety of trainings, workshops, curricular revision discussions, and other initiatives designed to both identify and work to remedy equity gaps rooted in the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, disability status, income, and other factors that impact our student body, particularly students who are impacted by multiple equity gap factors. All faculty work to consistently evaluate both instruction and assessment approaches to address the various needs of our students, as well as to reflect Mesa's commitment to equity and accessibility for all students.

In future semesters, a detailed analysis of equity gap data will be central to discipline discussions of solutions for closing (and then eliminating) equity gaps, focusing on discussions of curriculum, assessment methods, planning for development of future courses, and further engagement with student outreach. Discipline faculty have been active for years in outreach efforts on campus (tabling, Mesa Cruise, advertising courses on campus through digital boards, flyers, etc.) and will continue to engage in these efforts to connect to the diverse body of students on our campus.

What other factors (internal or external) might also impact the above data trends and equity gaps?

As in any public-serving institution, changes (and proposed changes) in legislation, decisions made at the statewide level for both community colleges and the four-year systems we feed into, and, to put it bluntly, the availability of students who choose to enroll are all factors that impact the data trends and existing equity gaps. As the data show, certain student populations (for example Black and Native American student groups) enroll in very low numbers in our courses. A multitude of factors impact these trends (overall low student numbers, student choice to enroll in other disciplines that address the same transfer requirements, etc.). Much of this is beyond the purview or influence of discipline faculty. Recent legislative changes (such as the creation of the Area F designation) will undoubtedly have some impact on future enrollments in the discipline as some students gravitate to courses offered in other disciplines to fulfill the new requirement. Additionally, the History discipline has lost multiple veteran full-time faculty in the past five years, with most positions going unreplaced. This has hampered the ability of full-time faculty to more fully address some of the data trends. Additionally, due to scaling back of course offerings, several energetic and highly-regarded adjunct faculty members have departed due to lack of available courses.

Related Documents for Charts and Graphs

Practice Reflection Complete

Yes

Summary and Reflection

Mid-Cycle Updates

Are there any edits or updates to the Executive Summary above?

No edits of note. Not enough time has elapsed since prior cycle to compile usable data to compare to prior semesters. Anecdotally, student presence on campus seems stronger than the past few semesters.

Are there any edits or updates to the Data Reflection above?

Enrollment: As Fall 23 semester is still ongoing, there is not a method to compare enrollment data to prior academic terms (enrollment is still actively calculated and changing day-to-day, so no final data on enrollment is yet available).

Course Success Rates: 22/23 data in the discipline indicates a bounce-back to 71%. The overall Mesa success rate increased to 75%. History success rates for 22/23 therefore came closer to the college average compared to prior year statistics.

Course Retention Rates: 22/23 saw the college retention rate increase to 88%. For the History discipline, the 22/23 retention rate held at 87%.

Program GPA: The History discipline saw a notable increase in the 22/23 GPA (2.86). The prior year GPA was 2.71. The overall college GPA increased slightly to 2.96. As with success rates, the History discipline GPA gap therefore closed compared to the 21/22 academic year.

Program Learning Outcomes data is being compiled presently. Data for the 23/24 cycle will be added in the program review process for the 24/25 update to this report.

Awards: 22/23: 20 degrees awarded (17 AA-T, 3 AA)

Equity Gaps:

Retention rates for the most recent four semester cycle (SU22-SP23) indicate that Black (83.5%) and Latinx (86.9%) students in History courses have statistical gaps, though the Latinx gap in History is slightly better than the college average for Latinx students (86.8%). The same two subgroups show gaps in Success rates (55.9% and 67.0% respectively). The overall campus success rate stood at 74.6% during this academic year. The overall equity gap calculation reveals that Black (-16.0%) and Latinx (-6.0%) students in History courses continue to have notable equity gaps. Compared to the previous academic year data, the Black student gap closed slightly while the Latinx gap increased slightly.

Age gap data indicates positive equity data for students under 30. However, equity gaps for the 30-39 age group (-9.7%); 40-49 age group (-14.1%); and 50 plus (-24.2%) exist in the discipline. This is a notable shift, as older demographics have previously shown minimal or positive equity gaps. One possibility is the increased percentage of online courses requiring more older students to take online formats, though more data will be needed to make any determinations.

DSPS status continued to show a positive equity gap (3.0%) for DSPS recipients and a negative gap (-3.0%) for non-DSPS recipients. Both numbers have retreated toward equilibrium compared to prior long-term data.

The first-generation student equity gap increased compared to the prior report slightly (-15.0%). Equity gaps continued to be negligible based on gender identity.

In terms of students earning History degrees in the 22/23 academic year, negative gaps continued in terms of females (-21%) and Latinx (-19.0). The only equity negative age group for this year was 30-39 (-8.0%). However, keeping in mind the relatively small sample size, not much can be made of this single year data.

Discussion of these issues among discipline faculty and more broadly in the Social Sciences department continue to focus on methods of closing and eventually eliminating equity gaps.

Are there any edits or updates to the Practice Reflection above?

As the prior program review happened only a few working months ago, the discussion in this area has not evolved significantly as of this report. The same topics raised continue to be under consideration. No substantial updates.

Summary and Reflection

Goal 1: Develop strategies to increase History enrollment and student success rates over the next three years.

Unit Goal: Goal 1: Develop strategies to increase History enrollment and student success rates over the next three years.

Goal Status: Active

Beginning Year: 2022 - 2023

Projected Completion Year: 2025 - 2026

Mapping

Mesa College Strategic Plan: Roadmap to Mesa2030: (X - Highlight the X to Align)

- Completion - Objective 3: X
- Scholarship - Objective 2: X
- Scholarship - Objective 4: X

| Action Plans | Action Plan Update |
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| <p>Action Plan Status: Active</p> <p>Action Plan: Develop new methods for advertising courses and reaching students once enrolled at Mesa to attract more enrollees. Market courses with a more focused emphasis on issues of cultural diversity and connectivity to modern societal concerns.</p> <p>Action Plan Cycle: 2022 - 2023, 2023 - 2024, 2024 - 2025, 2025 - 2026</p> | <p>Submission Date: 11/30/2023</p> <p>Action Plan Update: Discipline faculty have worked to streamline course offerings with the goal of targeting student demand and demographics (class format, class content, etc.), including emphasizing course content related to DEI objectives of the college. This is viewed, in part, as a mechanism to produce course schedules that attract enrollees across semesters, leading to both consistency of offerings (students can rely on courses being consistently offered/offered in particular formats) and student word-of-mouth (perhaps the best way to “advertise” courses). Courses seeing increased enrollment, such as HIST 205, will see a slow rollout of sections to cater to student demand until an equilibrium point is reached. HIST 135 (History of Technology), a course created at the request of STEM department faculty, will be offered for the first time following the COVID shutdown. Faculty continue to evaluate student enrollment trends and collect information to determine the areas/courses students desire to bolster enrollment. Discussion of advertising strategies for classes in the discipline are ongoing, as well as better ways to inform students of the emphasis in the discipline on human diversity and the connective tissue between historical examination and modern societal concerns. Making these more explicit to students is under current consideration by discipline faculty.</p> <p>Update Year: 2023 - 2024</p> <p>Action Plan Progress: On Track</p> |
| <p>Action Plan Status: Active</p> <p>Action Plan: Faculty evaluation of course design, course assessment, and program goals with an intentionality to increase student success rates and attainment of educational goals.</p> <p>Action Plan Cycle: 2022 - 2023, 2023 - 2024, 2024 - 2025, 2025 - 2026</p> | <p>Submission Date: 11/30/2023</p> |

Summary and Reflection

| Action Plans | Action Plan Update |
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| | <p>Action Plan Update: Faculty are continually self-reflexive about the design of History course offerings, continued evaluation of assessment of courses (both internally within courses and of the program more broadly), and the established goals of the program to target increasing student retention and success rates. The decision was made to continue with existing student learning outcomes and mechanisms for evaluating student success in discipline courses in the present evaluation cycle, with an eye toward evolving data/research (online student success rates and methodologies, for instance) to inform methods to foster student success rates and attainment of educational goals for this discipline. Faculty meetings (most recently at a mid-semester department meeting) feature discussions of course offerings to determine what all discipline faculty view as the course content factors which best foster student success, as well as the factors they see as limiting student success and retention in course offerings.</p> <p>Update Year: 2023 - 2024</p> <p>Action Plan Progress: On Track</p> |

Goal 2: Evaluate and adapt course offerings in History to better serve student needs over the next three years.

Unit Goal: Goal 2: Evaluate and adapt course offerings in History to better serve student needs over the next three years.

Goal Status: Active

Beginning Year: 2022 - 2023

Projected Completion Year: 2025 - 2026

Mapping

Mesa College Strategic Plan: Roadmap to Mesa2030: (X - Highlight the X to Align)

- Scholarship - Objective 2: X
- Scholarship - Objective 4: X

| Action Plans | Action Plan Update |
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| <p>Action Plan Status: Active</p> <p>Action Plan: Examine the course outlines of current course offerings and consider the merits of changes (if appropriate) to those courses.</p> <p>Action Plan Cycle: 2022 - 2023, 2023 - 2024, 2024 - 2025, 2025 - 2026</p> | <p>Submission Date: 11/30/2023</p> <p>Action Plan Update: This is an ongoing process. Primarily, as courses come due for six-year review, Mesa discipline faculty (in consultation with City and Miramar faculty in shared courses) will weigh changes to the outlines to adapt to changing student needs. One ongoing example is the review of HIST 123 done conjointly by faculty at City and Mesa. As part of the process, redefining and clarifying the California government aspects of the course outline was undertaken to better align with the requirements for the California Institutions requirement at the CSU-level. Courses during this program review cycle will continue to be vetted and adapted as appropriate.</p> <p>Update Year: 2023 - 2024</p> <p>Action Plan Progress: On Track</p> |

Summary and Reflection

| Action Plans | Action Plan Update |
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| <p>Action Plan Status: Active</p> <p>Action Plan: Consider the possibilities of creation of new courses/reimagining of past courses to address the needs of our diverse student population and to increase interest and enrollment in discipline courses.</p> <p>Action Plan Cycle: 2022 - 2023, 2023 - 2024, 2024 - 2025, 2025 - 2026</p> | <p>Submission Date: 11/30/2023</p> <p>Action Plan Update: Discipline faculty continue to consider these possibilities. Two recently created courses (HIST 135 and HIST 205) are still in the early stages of being offered and, based on student demand, will evolve in terms of sections offered, regularity of offering, and course content. American Environmental History, long in the planning stages, will be developed and begin working through the curriculum approval process in Spring 2024. Other course possibilities (both redeveloping past courses and creating new courses) is under persistent consideration by discipline faculty.</p> <p>Update Year: 2023 - 2024</p> <p>Action Plan Progress: On Track</p> |

Goal 3: Explore options to increase student accessibility and affordability for History course offerings over the next three years.

Unit Goal: Goal 3: Explore options to increase student accessibility and affordability for History course offerings over the next three years.

Goal Status: Active

Beginning Year: 2022 - 2023

Projected Completion Year: 2025 - 2026

Mapping

Mesa College Strategic Plan: Roadmap to Mesa2030: (X - Highlight the X to Align)

- Scholarship - Objective 4: X
- Scholarship - Objective 5: X

| Action Plans | Action Plan Update |
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| <p>Action Plan Status: Active</p> <p>Action Plan: Collectively weigh the benefits and pitfalls of the ever-expanding vista of OER materials available in our discipline. Consider whether free/reduced cost course materials serve the needs of students and maintain the academic standards and rigor of the discipline.</p> <p>Action Plan Cycle: 2022 - 2023, 2023 - 2024, 2024 - 2025, 2025 - 2026</p> | <p>Submission Date: 11/30/2023</p> <p>Action Plan Update: All discipline faculty are involved in examining the available OER resources, as well as new publisher-generated resources. Some discipline faculty use varying degrees of OER resources, with a number of individual courses in the core surveys (HIST 109/110, HIST 100/101) now being cost-free in terms of course materials. Discipline faculty have also been active in examining and reviewing publisher-generated resources (print and electronic) to determine quality and cost-benefit analysis of those materials. Discipline faculty share information on their individual findings and are engaged in broader disciplinary discussions about the future of OER resources and their development.</p> <p>Update Year: 2023 - 2024</p> <p>Action Plan Progress: On Track</p> |
| <p>Action Plan Status: Active</p> | <p>Submission Date: 11/30/2023</p> |

Summary and Reflection

| Action Plans | Action Plan Update |
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| <p>Action Plan: Consider the access difficulties many of our students have to technology (computers, Internet access, printers, etc.) to help inform decisions for course design and material usages to ensure student accessibility and potential for success in discipline courses.</p> <p>Action Plan Cycle: 2022 - 2023, 2023 - 2024, 2024 - 2025, 2025 - 2026</p> | <p>Action Plan Update: As with the consideration of OER resources, discipline faculty are engaged in discussions about the practicality and DEI-related issues surrounding student access to technology. OER resources, of course, require more persistent and consistent access to technology that many students still struggle to maintain for a plethora of reasons. Many students who do have technology access often are limited to a phone or small tablet, making performance using electronic resources difficult (reading online texts on phone screens, taking notes, and a multitude of other factors). There is no one-size-fits-all approach to this question, which necessitates further careful consideration of this issue.</p> <p>Update Year: 2023 - 2024</p> <p>Action Plan Progress: On Track</p> |