

SAN DIEGO  
MESA COLLEGE



# Program Review

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

Instructional Program - Radiologic Technology (RADT)

### Executive Summary

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

Successes: We are very fortunate with high student retention rates and 100% job placement.

Challenges: Typically, we lose students due to financial reasons. Nearly 70% of our students fall into the low-income status according to the Mesa Data Dashboard. I would like to see more support for students with economically challenged backgrounds. If we could design a funding source to include money for housing that would have a significant impact.

Another challenge is no college budget to upgrade or replace outdated x-ray equipment. Mammography is one of the advanced certifications students can obtain while in the program which leads to greater employment opportunities and higher pay. Currently, we are using old equipment in “demo mode” so the machine is functional for students to practice positioning, but not able to take any x-rays. The program would like to offer screening mammography to the wider campus community as part of the new San Diego Mesa College Health & Wellness Community Clinic, but we need new mammography x-ray equipment. This could provide a cancer screening exam at a significantly reduced cost and our students could gain valuable clinical experience at the same time.

**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.**

The Rad Tech program added a new lab course, RADT 70 Orientation to X-Ray Equipment that begins in the summer before students go to clinical or start the fall positioning lab course. This course teaches students how to use the x-ray equipment in a safe lab environment before they are graded in lab or using the equipment on real patients. This should improve the retention rate and reduce stress and anxiety during the first fall semester. In fall 2022, students seemed better prepared and less stressed in clinical and performed exam competencies sooner when compared to students in years past. It is still a new course, so I will continue collecting data for future program reports.

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

I asked my working students if they are utilizing financial aid and many do not qualify because they have too many units. This seems to be a barrier for students trying to change their career pathway and they feel like they are being penalized for all of their previous coursework, especially if they paid for those courses. It seems like the Federal system needs to be updated.

Over the past 20 years, scholarship awards have remained at very low amounts, typically \$500 and it would seem reasonable to raise the amount of money awarded for scholarships. Many students do not feel the time investment to complete the scholarship application is worth the small amount of money awarded. In some cases, the student must return unused scholarship funds not spent on tuition, fees, and textbooks.

**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**

## Summary and Reflection

### Executive Summary Complete

Yes

### Data Reflection

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#### Trends observed in program/service area's data.

Two things I notice in the data: First, we have seen a drop in 1st time ARRT national exam pass rates with students who received Academic Accommodations from the college. Apparently, the college accommodations did not meet the ADA federal standards so students did not receive the same accommodations on the ARRT national exam.

Secondly, I would like to see more graduates attain a bachelor's degree. This would be more likely if Mesa College offered a BS degree in Radiology Administration, etc. Graduates would be more inclined to take advantage of this opportunity through Mesa College as opposed to transferring to a university. Our graduates become employed at local hospitals that typically offer tuition reimbursement as part of their benefit package. This would allow our graduates to obtain a bachelor's degree from San Diego Mesa College at a much lower cost and advance into leadership roles in administration or education (faculty program directors & clinical coordinators).

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

The greatest equity gap in our program is related to financial instability. Students who struggle financially seem to struggle more academically because they are working too many hours, experience higher rates of anxiety, and have less time to study and complete the coursework. If we can create a program that supports students in need, then we can begin to close the equity gaps. I would love to start a Sponsorship Program that would focus on students in need and provide them with financial support so they can go to school and learn without worrying about money.

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

The program discussed the learning outcomes assessment data at the Advisory Committee meetings. The drop in the ARRT first-time pass rate was discussed at length and the committee asked why the college would provide academic accommodations that were above and beyond the federal guidelines. This information was also shared with students right before graduation, so they were fully aware of the potential issues and why their accommodations may be denied.

The committee was supportive of a bachelor program offering at the community college level and hoped to hear more updates. The committee did not have any suggestions for financial support to students in need, but supported the idea of a Sponsorship Program at the college level.

The committee was also surprised by the \$500 average scholarship award but offered no solutions. The industry partners did confirm that tuition reimbursement is a benefit for graduates within 6 months to one year of employment.

#### Related Documents for Charts and Graphs

### Data Reflection Complete

Yes

## Summary and Reflection

### Practice Reflection

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

The program works with students to ensure clinical placements are close to home or work to reduce the cost of gas and time traveling to and from clinical. Second-year courses are mostly online to reduce the time traveling to and from campus.

Creating a Sponsorship Program to focus on students in financial need could have a positive impact in reducing the equity gaps in the Rad Tech program.

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

Financial Aid legislative changes could have a major impact in reducing educational costs for students changing careers.

Scholarships need to be much higher than \$500 to have any impact.

Hire more staff in the Financial Aid Office at Mesa College – many students have complained about long wait times and/or no email responses.

### Related Documents for Charts and Graphs

### Practice Reflection Complete

Yes

### Mid-Cycle Updates

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

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

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

## Summary and Reflection

### FAFSA Application

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**Unit Goal:** Goal 1: Ensure every student completes a FAFSA application.

**Goal Status:** Active

**Beginning Year:** 2022 - 2023

**Projected Completion Year:** 2029 - 2030

#### Mapping

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

- Completion - Objective 3: X

Action Plans	Action Plan Update
<b>Action Plan Status:</b> Active <b>Action Plan:</b> 1. Schedule Financial Aid Workshops during first summer semester orientation course. <b>Action Plan Cycle:</b> 2023 - 2024	
<b>Action Plan Status:</b> Active <b>Action Plan:</b> 2. Meet with students individually to discuss financial aid options <b>Action Plan Cycle:</b> 2023 - 2024	

### Replace Equipment

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**Unit Goal:** Goal 3: Replace the Demo Mammography Unit with a Digital Unit

**Goal Status:** Active

**Beginning Year:** 2023 - 2024

**Projected Completion Year:** 2024 - 2025

#### Mapping

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

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

Action Plans	Action Plan Update
<b>Action Plan Status:</b> Active <b>Action Plan:</b> 1. Apply for Perkins to remove old x-ray unit and upgrade space for new digital x-ray mammography unit.	

## Summary and Reflection

Action Plans	Action Plan Update
Action Plan Cycle: 2023 - 2024	

### Sponsorship Program (Copied on 12/04/2023, 14:38:58)

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**Unit Goal:** Goal 2: Create a Sponsorship Program for CTE students

**Goal Status:** Active

**Beginning Year:** 2023 - 2024

**Projected Completion Year:** 2029 - 2030

#### Mapping

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

- Scholarship - Objective 2: X

### FAFSA Application (Copied on 12/04/2023, 14:39:58)

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**Unit Goal:** Goal 1: Ensure every student completes a FAFSA application.

**Goal Status:** Active

**Beginning Year:** 2023 - 2024

**Projected Completion Year:** 2029 - 2030