Political Science

2019 Program Review

MJC Program Review 2019

Modesto Junior College's Program Review process is divided into 3 sections:

- Program Analysis (SWOT Analysis)

- Goal Setting and Activities

- Resource Request

Program Analysis

Internal Strengths

1. What strengths does the analysis of student data reveal?

Strong student interest in political science (161 Political Science Program Students), and especially among Hispanic students (93 Hispanic Political Science students 57.76%). Source: Colleague Student Demographic, 2017-18

Increase in Political Science Program awards, from 6 in 2015/2016 to 11 in 2017/2018. Source: Colleague Graduation Report, 2015-2018

High success rates for certain races/ethnicities. 83% for Asian and Filipino/a students, 79% for Pacific Islander students, 77% for White students in 2016/2017.

Source: LaunchBoard Pipline: Milestones
https://www.calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/Community-College-Pipeline.aspx

The Completer Student Transfer Data shows good results. In 2015-2016, 101 students who took non-introductory courses or completed a POLSC award subsequently enrolled for the first time in a four-year institution the following year.

Source: LaunchBoard Pipline: Success
https://www.calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/Community-College-Pipeline.aspx

2. Are there specific aspects of the program that are exemplary or could serve as a model?

The Political Internship Program (POLSC 195 and POLSC 196), and the community partnerships this program establishes. We place about 5 to 8 students in political internships each semester.

3. What do others see as the program's strengths?

Extra-curricular activities. The program sponsors two campus clubs: The Freedom Forum and The Human Rights Club.

4. How well are students meeting program learning outcomes, skills, or competencies; and how are they relevant to careers in your discipline or industries for which you help prepare students?

Our good student success rates help enable students to develop strong critical thinking, research, and oral and written communication skills. These skills and competencies are emphasized in our program learning outcomes. And these skills and competencies are relevant to careers in the discipline, such as research analysts, community organizers, teachers, lawyers, and politicians.

Internal Weaknesses

5. What gaps are observed by reviewing the student data?

Success rates for Hispanic (65%) and African American students (68%) are lower than success rates for Asian (83%), Filipino/a (83%), Pacific Islander (79%) and White students (77%), in 2016/2017. Source: LaunchBoard Pipline: Milestones https://www.calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/Community-College-Pipeline.aspx

While 11 students attained Political Science Program awards in 2017-18, the students were all Hispanic or White, non-Hispanic. Students of other ethnicities did not receive an award in 2017-18.

Source: Colleague Graduation Report and Student Demographic, 2017-18

The regional term-to-term retention rate is 83%. This needs to be higher to improve completion/success/ transfer rates. LaunchBoard Pipline: Milestones 2016-17.

Source: https://www.calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/Community-College-Pipeline.aspx

6. What disproportionate gaps need to be addressed?

As indicated in the answer to Question 5, Hispanic and African American students have a lower success rate than Asian, Filipino/a, Pacific Islander, and White students. Source: LaunchBoard Pipline: Milestones https://www.calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/Community-College-Pipeline.aspx

As indicated in the answer to Question 5, students of ethnicities other than Hispanic or White, non-Hispanic did not receive an award in 2017-18.

Source: Colleague Graduation Report and Student Demographic, 2017-18

7. What are areas in which the program could improve? (curriculum, scheduling, modality, other?)

We need to offer more classes on the West Campus.

We need to offer more face-to face classes. This requires hiring more adjunct faculty who are available to teach on campus during the mornings or afternoons.

8. Where are there gaps in the program on how students are meeting learning outcomes, skills, or competencies?

Because the success rates for Hispanic and African American students are lower, they are not meeting the program learning outcomes as well as Asian, Filipino/a, and White students.

External Opportunities

9. Where are potential opportunities for expansion, improvement, or new program development?

More internship opportunities for students

10. What are some industry or disciplinary trends that could enhance the program?

In 2016-2017, the medium salary for political scientists in the region is ($59,280 entry level) and ($70,470 median), and higher than the salary of Managers, All Others.
Source: LaunchBoard Pipline: Earnings
https://www.calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/Community-College-Pipeline.aspx

External Threats

11. How are changing resources, technology, employer, or transfer requirements affecting the program's ability to serve students?

Certain political internship partners require students to complete a criminal background check to do the internship. The partners sometimes require students to pay for it ($50).

12. What are some current industry or disciplinary trends that could have a negative impact on the program?

If there is an economic recession, it will obviously have a negative impact on job prospects for our political science students.

13. What other obstacles does the program face?

No universities in the region offer a M.A. in Political Science (CSU Stanislaus and the University of Pacific offer a M.A. in Public Administration but that is not the same as Political Science. UC Merced offers a Ph.D. in Political Science but not a M.A.). This makes it more difficult to find a large pool of qualified adjunct faculty.

Goal Setting and Activities

Goals

Program Goal	Mission Alignment	Area of Focus
Increase the number of minority students who earn a degree.	Equity	Student Support
Enhance student internship opportunities with local organizations.	Innovative Education	Internship/Service Learning
Stay current in political science discipline to improve teaching.	Programs / Services based on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning	Professional Development

Activities

Activities	In Support of Goal #	Outcome or Deliverable
Invite students taking political science classes to faculty-led group discussion sessions in the Student Center during the first two weeks of the semester. (This can be accomplished with current available resources.)	Goal #1	Meet early in the semester with 10% of students taking political science classes.
Participate in the colleges Supplemental Instruction (SI) program, as a pilot. (This can be accomplished with current available resources.)	Goal #1	10% of students in the political science SI pilot classes are participating in the SI sessions.
Research Open Educational Resource (OER) content. (This can be accomplished with current available resources.)	Goal #1	25% of program materials are free, and 75% are low cost.
Continue to talk to potential internship partners about joining our internship program, and seek out funding opportunities from the college to pay for criminal background checks that some organizations require before students can do an internship.	Goal #2	20 students placed in internships in a year.
Attend the California Online Teaching and Learning Conference and/or American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference	Goal #3	Revised curriculum and/or class activities.

Resource Requests

Category	Request		Activity	Estimated

		#	Cost
Prof. Devel.	Funding for two political science faculty to attend the California Online Teaching and Learning Conference or the American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference. This will help faculty to stay current in the discipline and improve teaching. In addition, faculty will gain skills and knowledge that help promote equity.	5	2000
Other	Funding to pay for criminal background checks that some students need to do prior to starting an internship. This will provide students more of an opportunity to participate in all available internships.	4	250