Social Science Department
AUP for Academic Year 2022-2023
October 2021

Describe Department/Unit

Connection to College Mission

The mission of the Social Sciences Department is to promote student success and critical thinking by offering high quality course offerings that enable students to fulfill general education, major and transfer requirements through traditional and distance education. To accomplish this mission the department provides • Transfer, general education and major classes in all modes of delivery and at all sites, including Associates of Arts Transfer degrees in Anthropology and Psychology • Learning opportunities that develop ethical and effective citizenry • Working relationship with the Learning Resource Center (LRC), Learning Assistance Center (LAC), and Counseling.

Report on Improvements Made and Gaps Identified in the Prior Year

Student Equity

Actions Taken Last Year

The Social Science department remains committed to the following efforts and goals in our continuous evaluation of how our department can reasonably and effectively lower or eliminate unnecessary barriers to learning:

1) lowering textbook costs across all of its offered classes and using OER resources as much as is feasible without undermining the instructional quality or rigor of the class.

2) improving the transparency of class and instructor expectations by working with instructors in the department on making sure their major behavioral, grading, late-work, discussion posting, and participation expectations/policies are clearly communicated in either their syllabus or class canvas pages, or in other similar forms easily and directly accessible to students.

3) Discussing and evaluating our late-work policies and our first & second week assignments so that students on financial aid and students with families have reasonable flexibility on due dates.

The process of working with adjunct faculty on these issues remains an incomplete one, but a department canvas page has been created with departmental policies and goals, and efforts are ongoing to connect all faculty, adjunct and full-time, to the department and its policies and initiatives, through the canvas page. The department and its canvas page also promulgate the departmental goals of lowering textbook costs to below $50 for each course taught in the department, with the understanding that for some niche courses it might not be as of yet possible to lower costs while maintaining rigor and quality, and the goals of maintaining a canvas shell, checking in with students, and clear policies for student/instructor communication in the syllabus.

Gaps to be Addressed

The student population category with the largest sample population that is showing a significant deficit in student success rates compared to the overall social science average success rate of 71.6% is the economically disadvantaged. The department is continuing to try and lower non-tuition costs, be transparent with expectations, and reasonable flexibility with due dates, as a way to perhaps help mitigate this gap.

There seems to be a significant 8%+ gap when it comes to female students and 20-24 year old students registering lower

success rates than males or other age ranges. This may be due to younger first-time mothers struggling with being overwhelmed. However, given the age range gap appears during the pandemic academic year, it could very well be due to the disruption in life and emotional/mental health caused by the pandemic and the clumsy responses to the pandemic.

Outcomes Assessment: Loop-Back Improvements Made

Actions taken in the prior academic year

In the preceding academic year none of the departments completed assessments fell short of the department's 70% threshold for students meeting the requirement, which would indicate that improvement actions need to be taken.

Outcomes Assessment: Results of Last Year's Assessments

POLS c101

POLS c102

PHIL c101

SOCI c101

HIST c104

HIST c131

HIST c131H

HIST c132

HIST c132H

ANTH c131

Target Met?

Yes

Outcomes Assessment: Missed Targets

Outcomes Assessment: Schedule of This Year's Assessments

ANTH c141

ECON c103

HIST c118

HIST c209

PSYC c241

Program Review

Last Year's Initiatives

Creation of a canvas based SLO assessment tool repository

This initiative was altered to reflect the actual process of assessing SLOs and to ensure that the academic freedom of adjunct instructors remains intact. Instead of creating a list of specific assessment questions/prompts for all instructors to use during assessments, discipline area experts are creating general assessment rubrics that are being stored in eLumen.

Reminder of Initiatives for the Current Year

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Course rearrangement to satisfy new Ethnic Studies CSU requirements

Plan Initiatives for Next Year

Initiatives for Next Academic Year

Course Rearrangement to satisfy new Ethnic Studies (Area F) requirements - continued

Is this part of a multiyear initiative?

Yes

Specific Action Steps to be Taken:

* Due to the failure of our first attempts at submitting ANTH 151 and SOCI 141 for Area F., as well as that attempt revealing that the state hastily imposed this requirement on Community Colleges without giving anyone (including reviewers) enough time to settle on any real consensus about what they want from these Area F courses, the department is still stuck on Phase One of this process and will be continuing to try and complete that first phase during this planning cycle. The department hopes to begin Phase Two before the end of this planning cycle, but that is not completely in our control.

Phase One:

a) Create new Ethnic Studies (ETHN) courses as analogs for ANTH 151 (Native Peoples) and SOCI 141 (Race and Ethnicity) so they can be cross-listed in order to provide students with at least two available options for the new required Area F Ethnic Studies requirement by Fall 2021

b) Revise HIST 131/131H and HIST 132/132H CoRs so that they can fulfill the Area C Humanities requirement or the Area D Social Science requirement depending on which is most useful for a given student.

Phase Two:

a) Begin a continuing dialogue within the Social Science department regarding our current and future elective offerings with the intention of arriving at consensus over which new courses should be created, which existing courses can and should be altered, and which existing courses may need to be eliminated, in order to offer a significant number of social science courses capable of fulfilling the new Area F requirement while also trying to limit the potential negative impact of this new requirement on Social Science electives and non ethnic studies student choices.

b) Create a new African American History course that meets the new Area F requirement while still satisfying expectations for an American History transfer course.

c) Revise other anthropology and sociology elective courses so that they can also satisfy the Area C Humanities requirement.

Phase Three:

a) Based on the departmental discussions and dialogue, create new courses and revise existing electives, as appropriate, to increase the college's ability to offer flexible options to students desiring to satisfy the new CSU Area F requirement.

b) Based on the departmental discussions and dialogue, eliminate any existing electives that are determined marginal due to a combination of enrollment history, lack of necessity for particular transfer degrees, and not being an option for Area F.

c) Revise long term schedule so that new courses are necessarily represented and spread out enough to allow students flexibility in the fulfillment of this new requirement

Early Observational Data, or "Lead" Measure(s):

Phase One - creation of new ETHN c151 and ETHN c141 CoRs with CiC approval, and revised HIST 131/131H and HIST 132/132H CoRs with CiC approval

Phase Two - Discussion Agenda Item "Course offerings, alterations, and creations" will appear on departmental meeting agendas for each Fall and Spring flex day department meeting during the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 cycles. The meeting minutes will reflect that these discussions are actually taking place and focus on achieving the departmental goals of offering students more options to satisfy Area F and also trying to evaluate our elective offerings more effectively.

Phase Three - Creation of at least one new Social Science elective CoR with CiC approval that meets Area F requirements. Also, revision of long term schedule to incorporate new courses while also incorporating the potentially increased demand for ANTH 151 and SOCI 141

Does the department request help developing these instruments?

No

Institutional Performance Data, or "Lag" Measure(s):

The number of students successfully satisfying the new Area F requirement. Increased or perhaps even stabilizing enrollment and success rates in social science elective courses

Person Responsible:

All Full-Time Faculty with original assignment in Social Science

Unit gap or institutional goals addressed:

Other. Explain below

It addresses a newly created legislative mandate for CSU transfer that requires students satisfy a new Area F Ethnic Studies requirement before they can be certified for transfer to a CSU

Evaluate Resource Needs

Facilities

None at this time

Information Technology

None at this time

Marketing

None at this time

Professional Development

None at this time

Other Needs

None at this time

Staffing Requests

1000 Category - Certificated Positions

2000 Category - Classified Staff