

Social Science Department

AUP for Academic Year 2024-2025

October 2023

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, History, Political Science, Sociology, 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

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 as adjunct faculty go through the evaluation process.

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 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.

After reviewing the subject level gap report data helpfully generated by Institutional Research, the different disciplines within the department seem to have a rather eclectic mix of highs and lows across categories. Although different disciplines have gaps, when compared to the college as a whole, among traditional students, white, students, and the "Not Economically Disadvantaged", the only somewhat consistent gap concerning a category of student it is currently fashionable to care about, and that was noticeable in the department's last AUP as well, was among female students. Four out of seven disciplines report a significant gap in either completion or success rates (or both) compared to the college as a whole. The department will continue to discuss and monitor this gap.

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

ANTH c161 Native Peoples of North America

Target Met?

Yes

HIST c218 California History

Target Met?

Yes

HIST c209 History of Mexico

Target Met?

Yes

Outcomes Assessment: Missed Targets

Outcomes Assessment: Schedule of This Year's Assessments

ANTH c111

ANTH c121

ANTH c121H

ANTH c131

ANTH c141

ECON c101

ECON c102

ECON c103

POLS c101

POLS c101H

PSYC c101

PSYC c151

SOCI c101

SOCI c210

Program Review

Last Year's Initiatives

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

ANTH c151 has been successfully approved and currently in the catalogue as cross listed with Ethnic Studies and meeting Area F requirements. SOCI c210 is also now on the schedule cross listed with Ethnic Studies and meeting Area F requirements. SOCI c151 is being resubmitted this spring.

HIST c131 and c132 have been approved to fulfill both Area C and Area D requirements.

Phase One is pretty much complete.

A new African American History CoR is currently being written to be submitted to CiC before the end of the semester. Once this class enters the catalogue, three of the department's disciplines will have Ethnic Studies options. The department is dialoguing over what would best fit as a fourth option, preferably one that can be cross listed with psychology.

The department plans on beginning the process this spring of getting three Anthropology courses approved for Area C, Humanities.

Significant and substantial revisions are currently being made to the social science Long Term Schedule, and to its schedule of offerings in general, to accommodate both the new Ethnic Studies requirement, as well as to better reflect post pandemic enrolments and newly created AA-T degree pathways.

Reminder of Initiatives for the Current Year

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

Plan Initiatives for Next Year

Initiatives for Next Academic Year

Course Rearrangement to satisfy new Ethnic Studies (Area F) requirements, and streamline on ground course offerings - continued

Is this part of a multiyear initiative?

Yes

Specific Action Steps to be Taken:

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 c210 CoRs with CiC approval, and revised HIST 131/131H and HIST 132/132H CoRs with CiC approval - COMPLETED

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 2024/2025 cycle. 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. - IN PROCESS

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 141 and SOCI 210. Long term schedule revision should also reflect more judicious elective course offerings that try to maximize enrollment in on-ground sections while also remaining consistently offered and available on a regular cycle to honor new degree pathways- IN PROCESS

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. Finally, a more streamlined Long-Term Schedule that can more

effectively maintain on ground course offerings that will sufficiently enroll and satisfy new degree pathways.

Person Responsible:

All Full-Time Faculty with original assignment in Social Science

Unit gap or institutional goals addressed:

It addresses a Guided Pathways practice, It addresses a Strategic Plan goal or objective, It addresses a Student Equity and Achievement Plan goal

Evaluate Resource Needs

Facilities

\$350 for examination booklets - The department is requesting \$350 to purchase Blue Book Examination booklets (estimated at \$29.00 per pack of 50) to help facilitate written, in-person, exams for in-person classes, and to help push back against the use of AI. 500 booklets should be sufficient for an initial estimate. Future requests will depend on usage rates.

\$4524 for Thermal Cycler - The department is supporting the Science Department's request for a PCR machine. Anthropology can also make use of this machine for Honors classes, and may also be able to incorporate it for Biological Anthropology lessons.

Information Technology

No specific requests at this time.

Marketing

Nothing at this time.

Professional Development

\$3000 to attend academic and professional conferences - The department is requesting \$3000 as a fund to encourage and facilitate at least some of its faculty attending their discipline's annual conference. Maintaining fluency in the current trends and paradigms, and fads and fashions, in an academic discipline is useful for providing higher quality academic instruction.

Other Needs

Nothing at this time

Staffing Requests

1000 Category - Certificated Positions

2000 Category - Classified Staff