Long Beach City College - Program Review

Program Review 2013-14 - Horticulture

PR 2A - Enrollment Data:
The number of students that enrolls in the Horticulture program has fluctuated significantly over the last years, but the numbers have trended upward over the last two semesters. Several factors have contributed to the increase in enrollment in the Horticulture Program including high unemployment rate, media emphasis on the Green technology, water conservation and sustainable living have all resulted in greater interest and enrollment in horticulture courses. Improving the scheduling by offering more courses in the evening has permitted many students the opportunity to take courses which traditionally have only been schedule during the morning hours.
• In 2010-11, 272 students were enrolled
• In 2011-12, 238 students were enrolled
• In 2012-13, 256 students were enrolled

PR 2B - Achievement Data:
The number of students that successfully completed the Horticulture program has fluctuated significantly but saw an increase of 7% in the last two year. It is the belief that some of the student population enrolling in the Horticulture classes are doing so because of the reduced number of sections available on campus. They may not be as dedicated as the full-time Horticulture students and either failing or dropping classes by the end of the semester. The typical Horticulture student does well because of the elective nature of the program and their grades tend to be leaning towards A-grades and B-grades. It appears that some students come into Horticulture with the idea that “it’s only plants, so how difficult can it be?” and not realizing the difficult nature of the courses which may lead to them not putting the required time to study which leads to not earning a low grade.

Course retention has fluctuated between 82% (2011-12) to 89% (2012-13). The same explanation for course success also pertains to student retention levels.

In 2010-11, 71% Average students success rate
• In 2011-12, 64% Average students success rate
• In 2012-13, 71% Average students success rate
• In 2010-11, 87% Average retention rate
• In 2011-12, 82% Average retention rate
• In 2012-13, 89% Average retention rate

PR 2C - HR (Staffing) Data:
The current staffing for the Horticulture program consists of one full-time faculty who teaches all of the classes in the spring and fall semester. There is also one Vocational Instruction Technician who assists in preparing the area for the labs of the classes being taught. The Vocational Instruction Technician is also responsible for maintaining the nursery and gardens throughout the year. The way things stand currently; there is no need for other full time faculty members. There is, however, a need for a part-time faculty which can aid in teaching other courses and expedite the time which students take to complete the program.

PR 3A - SLO - summary of collected program data:
The program outcomes were evaluated at the end of fall 2013. Based on the analysis of the collected data, the following conclusions were made.
• Need to continue sampling is to obtaining a better conclusion and compare results from every semester.
• Need to continue evaluation and collection of information from a larger number of students. Extend the period of evaluation for each student.

PR 3B - SLO - uses in program improvement :
Based on the analysis of the collected data from the program outcomes, continue evaluation and collection of information will continue to occur for every semester. All horticulture courses are being assessed by the faculty using rubrics and examinations and information is being placed in TracDat. At the end of each semester, the collected data is analyzed, compared and necessary changes follow. Changes to the SLO for the required courses (Hort 11A, 11B, 11C, 11D) were recommended and implemented.

PR 3C - SLO - action/ change based on results:
Changes to the SLO for the required courses (Hort 11A, 11B, 11C, 11D) were recommended and implemented. Based on the assessment results, pop quizzes as well as more study time will be scheduled throughout the year to encourage and improve students study habits. scheduled throughout the year to encourage and improve students study habits. Furthermore; it was determined that the following SLO were more appropriate for the required courses.
1. Recognize and identify selected ornamental trees by botanical and common name
2. Evaluate the growth patterns, hardiness level, form, and texture of trees for use in specific landscape
3. Evaluate and select appropriate trees to install under a variety of environmental, economic, and design constraints
PR 4A - Goals - development and change:
The potential for growth includes a myriad of new Horticulture courses by undergoing a thorough curriculum review with our advisory committee to streamline our course offerings and improve certificates and degrees completion rates.
As the interest in the environment and sustainability continue to grow, and as more and more mandated water conservation regulations, the Horticulture program is in a unique position to provide the necessary education to the community.
We would also like to improve our ability to track Horticulture alumni, both recent and of long standing. This would assist in course and program evaluations, vocational assessments, student job networking, and potential fund-raising.

PR 4B - Goals - results:
Student Success: Increase the number of students that graduate with their certificate or associate degree. Continue to data gathering and continue implementing changes to improve the success rate for the students.
Practical experience: implement an apprentice program that allows students to practice and gain work experience in a real and non-threatening environment. Students will be dealing with problems and finding solutions which may not encounter in the class room setting.
Future opportunities: A partnership with CSULB Japanese garden will provide the opportunity for students to obtain a higher degree in a new Garden Management program that is being developed.

PR 4C - Goals - future plans:
There is an opportunity for Hort program to build and grow. The old Child Development facility is an underused area and would make an ideal area for Horticulture to expand. The existing building could be retrofit to provide the necessary classrooms, office space, water-wise demonstration gardens, fenced area dedicated to landscape construction courses and outdoor classroom/amphitheater to provide space for lectures and college events.

PR 5 - Dept - how does it fit into big picture?:
The Horticultural program is designed to prepare both the continuing and newly enrolled horticulture students for a career in the green industry. The Horticulture program offers a valuable service to the community by providing training opportunities for returning horticulture students to upgrade their horticultural skills and knowledge with the most currently available information, making them more valuable to their employers in a competitive market place. For the new Horticulture students, the information, skills and training prepare them for entry level employment in the green industry. The skills and knowledge gained from the Horticulture Program prepare the student for work in landscape maintenance, nurseries, landscape design, landscape installation, pest control and landscape irrigation. Students have the option to transfer to Cal Poly Pomona and pursue a higher degree in the horticulture. The goals of the horticulture program align perfectly with the mission of the college in providing the community with academic excellence, and workforce development by delivering high quality educational programs to our diverse communities.

Projects/ Strategies and Resources Needed