

## Program Reviews

### Why We Conduct Program Reviews?

The primary goal of Academic Program Reviews is to evaluate the quality of the college's educational programs and to continue to improve the programs by answering the following questions:

- What are we trying to do?
- How well are we doing it?
- What is our (realistic) vision of a truly outstanding program?
- What do we need to do to achieve that vision?

The process of program review is one of the most important institutional mechanisms for assessment. This is a faculty-driven process with administrative support from the divisional academic offices, the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Institutional Research. Program Review is a reflective practice. Its purpose is to assist faculty and staff in providing high demand, quality academic programs, departments, and services that remain responsive to the needs and interests of students, the workplace, and relevant baccalaureate programs (for the purpose of transfer opportunities for our students) in our region.

Program Reviews are intended to be helpful and supportive in: (a) recognizing strengths and achievements; (b) promoting goal setting and planning; and (c) identifying areas in need of attention. The Reviews should primarily seek perspectives useful to the departments whose programs are under review. They also give senior administrators an informed overview of the strengths, issues, challenges, and needs of the academic departments that must support these program disciplines.

Academic Program Reviews enable faculty and administrators to conduct program self-studies in a consistent and systematic manner. The gathering of information in an analytical manner provides the catalyst for recommendations to sustain program quality and to continue program development. Resource allocation and budgetary considerations are paramount in the review process. Program review recommendations may include: additional equipment for labs and classrooms, faculty and coordinator positions, curricular modifications, and work-based learning experiences. Sustaining quality programs and services through continuous assessment is the key to helping us meet our mission as a comprehensive community college.