

Palomar College – Institutional Review and Planning Instructional Programs

Purpose of Institutional Review and Planning:

The institution assesses progress toward achieving stated goals and makes decisions regarding the improvement of institutional effectiveness in an on-going and systematic cycle of evaluation, integrated planning, resource allocation, implementation, and re-evaluation. Evaluation is based on analyses of both quantitative and qualitative data (ACCJC/WASC, Standard I, B.3.)

Discipline: Welding Technology

Instructional Discipline Reviewed

2007-08

1. 3-year trend of quantitative data

	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Definitions
Enrollment at Census	395	276	317	<i>Self Explanatory</i>
Census Enrollment Load %	96.34%	99.28%	100.32%	Enrollment at Census Divided By Sum of Caps (aka "Seats")
WSCH	1,484	1,058	1,078	Weekly Student Contact Hours
FTEs	49.48	35.25	35.95	One Full-Time Equivalent Student = 30 WSCH
Total FTEF	3.83	2.83	2.83	Total Full-Time Equivalent Faculty
WSCH/FTEF	387	373	381	WSCH Generated per Full-Time Equivalent Faculty Member
Full-time FTEF	1.00	1.00	1.00	FTEF from Contract Faculty
Hourly FTEF	2.39	1.83	1.50	FTEF from Hourly Faculty
Overload FTEF	0.44	-	0.33	FTEF from Contract Faculty Overload
Part-Time FTEF	2.83	1.83	1.83	Hourly FTEF + Overload FTEF
Part-Time FTEF %	73.91%	64.71%	64.71%	Percent of Total FTEF Taught By Part-Time Faculty
Retention Rate	93.25%	91.71%	96.22%	Non-W Grades (A,B,C,CR,D,F,FW,NC) Divided By A,B,C,CR,D,F,FW,NC,W Grades
Success Rate	74.21%	75.69%	80.00%	A,B,C,CR Grades Divided By A,B,C,CR,D,F,FW,NC,W Grades
Degrees Awarded	-	2	2	Total number of Degrees awarded for the Full Academic Year
Certificates Awarded:	14	10	14	Total number of Certificates awarded for the Full Academic Year
- Under 18 Units	12	7	12	Total number of Certificates awarded for the Full Academic Year
- 18 or More Units	2	3	2	Total number of Certificates awarded for the Full Academic Year

2. Reflect upon and analyze the above 3-year trend data. Briefly discuss overall observations and any areas of concern or noteworthy trends.

As enrollment seemed to decline, the success rate increased, the number of degrees awarded increased and number of certificates awarded increased or remained steady. I would attribute that to an increase in quality of instruction and improvements/additions of work stations per student in the laboratory. We increased the number of stations to provide a power unit per student eliminating wait time to practice welding. Sharing a machine causes frustration and impatience, which leads to dropping out. I would like to see an increase in the success rate and number of certificates and degrees awarded, however, many students enroll in welding to support another trade such as diesel or automotive and do not desire a degree in welding, or students receive enough training that leads to employment and drop out of the program before earning a certificate.

3. Reflecting on the 3-year trend data, describe/discuss discipline planning related to the following:

PLAN – 2007-08	Progress – 2008-09
<p>a. Curriculum, programs, certificates and degrees (consider changes due to CSU/UC transfer language updates, articulation, workforce and labor market projections, certificate or degree completions, etc.)</p>	<p>Programs and Curriculum: The Welding Department is considering a “trial run” based on an academy type of setting. Many students come to us seeking training that will lead to employment. They can’t wait two years, the normal length of time for an average AA Degree. With an academy in place, students would be able earn the Welding Degree in one semester and be able to apply for work in the welding field with valid certifications and certificates. With the promise to rebuild the infrastructure, manufacturing, transportation, and power industry, the demand for qualified welders will exceed our supply.</p>
<p>b. Class scheduling (consider enrollment trends, growth, course rotation, comprehensiveness, etc.)</p>	<p>The Welding Department opened enrollment numbers more than the statistics above indicate. We had no trouble filling classes and were forced to turn students away. We will possibly look at scheduling classes on Saturday and at a time, 3-6pm that was not usually a successful time for enrollment.</p>

4. Discuss/identify the resources necessary to successfully implement the planning described:

PLAN – 2007-08	Progress – 2008-09
a. Equipment/Technology – block grant funds, VTEA, other resources, etc.	The Welding Department is grateful for VATEA funds. Without that funding, the Welding Department would have very little success rate. As mentioned, we were able to purchase a unit for each student along with support equipment for the department and teaching students other skills in layout and fabrication that are strongly related to welding education.
b. Budget – budget development process, one-time funds, grants, etc.	The escalating price of steel and gas has caused the price of consumables and equipment to rise as well. The Welding Department lost all money for equipment when Palomar Decided to take equipment funds. We cannot maintain our valuable welding machines and support equipment without having that returned. Eventually, the equipment will breakdown along with the quality of education. STOP TAKING FUNDS WITHOUT WARNING.
c. Facilities – schedule maintenance needs, additional classrooms/labs due to growth, remodeling, etc.	The Welding Department cannot grow because there is no space allocated for growth. The Welding Department is already overcrowded, especially in the lecture room. In some cases students must stand or sit on the floor and are allowed 2 square feet or less per student. The remodel of the new IT building doesn't appear to offer welding any room for growth as well.
d. Faculty position(s) – faculty priority process and projected full-time needs for 1 – 3 years	The Welding Department will apply for an additional welding instructor when the hiring freeze has been lifted.
e. Staff position(s) – changes in instructional or support needs due to program growth, new technology, etc.	The Welding Department must move thousands of pounds of steel and consumables, and maintain over 70 welding machines and support equipment. The Welding Department is in need of a full-time qualified assistant that will be able to assist the instructor in instruction, and maintain the laboratory tools and equipment. Merely funding money to hire student helpers is not the answer.
f. Other	

5. Discuss one discipline goal linked to Palomar's Strategic Plan 2009 and how it will support the success of students.

Align scheduling, course and program offerings to meet the needs of students. We feel that students come to the welding program for training that will provide skills for immediate employment. We would like to accelerate the time needed for completion of the program with certifications and certificates by scheduling classes so that students can receive the training they desire in a reasonable time. This would increase success rate and number of certificates awarded.

6. Student Learning Outcome progress:

a. Describe a learning outcome at the course or program level and the assessment used to measure student learning of that outcome.

Students will follow a Welding Procedure Specification (WPS) to successfully setup and operate a piece of equipment in order to prepare, weld, and pass a welding certification per the desired welding code. The type of assessment used is visual and destructive testing per the desired code or standards.

b. Discuss a learning outcome that is observable yet difficult to measure.

Skills and knowledge are easily taught, and the level of success can be easily measured through testing. On the other hand, attitudes are more difficult to teach and difficult to measure the success of teaching and learning. Attitudes are important in an occupational or laboratory setting. Any person with poor attitudes is an undesirable working partner and presents a threat to personnel and equipment. The welding program has specific shop and safety rules that must be followed for the safety of personnel and equipment.

7. Describe a discipline accomplishment that you want to share with the college community.

Welding is a direct training of a skills and knowledge for employment. If students desire, they can enroll in the welding program and receive training that will provide immediate employment. The welding department has placed many students as welders in the community.

8. Are there other resources (including data) that you need to complete your discipline review and planning?

9. For programs with an external accreditation, indicate the date of the last accreditation visit and discuss recommendations and progress made on the recommendations.

10. Other comments, recommendations:

Please identify faculty and staff who participated in the development of the reviewer's planning:

Department Chair/Designee Discipline Review and Signature

Date

Division Dean Review and Signature

Date

* By no later than 2/14/08, forward a hard copy to Instructional Services for review by IPC.

* Also, by no later than 2/14/08, forward an electronic copy to Institutional Research and Planning.