Assessment Plan

Yuba Community College District

YC - Foreign & Sign Language Program Recommendations

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Program Description: The Yuba College Foreign Language department offers an academic program that helps students achieve their educational and vocational goals. This program supports the mission of our college in furnishing students with a rigorous comprehensive foreign language curriculum.

The foreign languages offered are Spanish, Punjabi, and Sign Language.

Spanish

The Yuba College Spanish Department provides a full complement of classes. The department offers three kinds of classes:
1) classes designed to enable non-native speakers develop the language skills to achieve proficiency in Spanish: Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10;
2) classes designed for native speakers or students of Spanish who speak the language fluently: Spanish 20A and 20B;
3) literature courses designed for students who are majoring in Spanish or related humanities majors.

Punjabi

One section of Punjabi 1 and 2 have been offered in an alternating fashion since last Program Review, usually Punjabi 1 in the fall and Punjabi 2 in the spring. To boost enrollment in Punjabi 2, that course has not been offered for the past several semesters (with Punjabi 1 replacing it) to allow a pool of potential students to form before the more advanced course is offered.

Sign Language

A sequence of Sign Language courses (Sign 1, 2, and 3) are offered to teach non-verbal communication. In past years, one section of Sign 1 has been taught each semester, with Sign 2 offered only in the spring. Sign 3 has not been offered recently.

Year of Review: 2011-2012

Type of Review: Annual Update

Executive Summary: The Foreign Language Department currently offers courses in Spanish, Punjabi, and Sign Language. Although the department would like to expand its offerings to include other langauges such as Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin, and Russian, budgetary contraints have limited the variety and number of language courses that faculty can teach. Sign Language 3 has also not been offered on this campus although one section of Sign 1 is offered every semester, and Sign 2 is offered only in the spring.

SLOs have been developed for nearly all classes in the Foreign Language Department, and SLOs were assessed most recently (2011-2012) in Spanish 1, 2, 20A, and 20B. Curriculum recommendations based on assessment results still need to be entered for these courses.

Future directions of the department include expanding offerings of existing language classes by designing online or hybrid courses. Pujabi 1 was offered as an online class in fall 2011 and will be offered as an ITV/online course, along with Punjabi 2, for fall 2012 and spring 2013, respectively. The department would also like to explore the creation of an AA degree in Spanish as well as adding courses in Spanish Cinema and Conversational Spanish, which have experienced great success at other community colleges accross the region.

Major program recommendations include 1) increasing the number of sections of existing courses to eliminate the long wait lists for course enrollment, 2) adding other foreign languages to the curriculum, and 3) establishing a study abroad program to enhance student learning of foreign languages and cultures.

Future Goals and Program Direction: We must expand our Foreign Language program course offerings. The globalization phenomenon and the active role that the United States is now playing in world affairs make it desirable and necessary for a greater number of Americans to have knowledge of foreign languages and cultures. Teaching courses such as French, German, Russian, Japanese, Arabic, and Mandarin would be a real asset to the college and the community.

We realize that we can't offer all the languages mentioned above, but providing other alternatives in addition to Spanish, Punjabi, and Sign Language would certainly add prestige to the college and would benefit the student body.

Another consideration to improve the Foreign Language program would be to expand course offerings in the existing languages by designing online or hybrid classes. Expanding the Spanish curriculum and establishing an Associate of Arts degree in Spanish would encourage students to progress beyond the elementary levels, which would also generate higher enrollment in the upper levels. Since higher enrollment represents additional FTES, the college would benefit tremendously. We will be working on a plan to implement these ideas by the next program review in 2015. We have already researched some possibilities for the Spanish Department; for example, Spanish Cinema and Spanish Conversation courses have experienced great success at Butte College and Solano College. Both of these institutions offer AA degrees in Spanish.

The opening of the Sutter Center in fall 2012 provides an opportunity for offering new courses and increasing the number of sections of existing courses, which would be of great benefit to students in communities such as Live Oak, Gridley, and Colusa, as well as students in Yuba City.

Recommendation: Increase sections for existing courses

Expand the number of sections of Spanish I, 10, and 20A.

Year(s) Requested: 2010-2011
Request Date: 02/04/2011
Recommendation Priority: 3. High Priority
Supporting Evidence: Many sections of Spanish 1, Spanish 10, and Spanish 20A regularly experience wait lists due to the limited number of sections offered.

Plans of Action

Plan of Action	Budgetary Impact	Timeline/Responsible Party	Active
Communicate needs to Division Dean and begin establishing a pull of possible adjunct instructors. **Type:** Staffing - Faculty			Yes

Recommendation: Addition of another Foreign Language

We must make the effort to offer another Foreign Language besides Spanish, Punjabi, and Sign language.

Year(s) Requested: 2010-2011
Request Date: 11/16/2009
Recommendation Priority: 3. High Priority
Supporting Evidence: The Foreign Language Faculty made this resquest to Kevin Dobbs (Division Dean at that time), and it was also listed as a recommendation in the 2009 Annual Program Review Update and again in the 2011 Four Year Program Review.

Recommendation: Support for a Study Abroad Program from the Administration and the Board of Trustees

A Study Abroad Program would be real asset to the Foreign Language Department and to other disciplines such as Art, Photography, English Literature, and Political Sciences.

Request Date: 09/16/2009
Recommendation Priority: 2. Medium Priority
Supporting Evidence: A Project Group, chaired by Rick Murai, was formed to request the implementation of a Study Abroad Program. The group met with current and former administration members at the college and district level to express the need for such program. Meetings were held with the following administrators: Paul Mendoza (former President of Yuba College), Dr. Kay Adkins (current President) and Dr. Nicki Harrington (former Chancellor). Study Abroad proposals were presented to the Board of Trustees.