Assessment Plan

Yuba Community College District

YC - Information Technology Program Recommendations

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Program Description: The IT Department teaches a wide breadth of technology courses spanning from using a specific computer application to computer hardware, networking, operating systems and Internet skills including web development. Currently there are only two full-time Information Technologies instructors. Both are located on the Marysville campus. Adjunct faculty once common in the IT Department, are now non-existent. The IT Department has shared access to three labs on the Marysville campus within the Business Division. Only two of the labs are currently used to teach IT. Equipment in all three labs is sub-standard and will need to be replaced as we move forward with newer versions of software that require consistently larger computing resources.
Earlier this decade, the IT Department experienced considerable and uncomfortable changes when it faced a rapid decline between fall 2002 and spring 2003 and regaining FTES to current levels took several years.
The program was able to survive the difficulties and is beginning to thrive. Current demands for program offerings are trumped by economic realities facing the college today. Put simply, there are more students interested in taking more classes than current faculty are allowed to teach.

Additionally, aligning the IT Department course offerings with the needs of the Computer Science Department would prove beneficial to strengthening both departments while eliminating confusion between ComSci and IT.
Information Sciences has recently replaced all of the aging switching equipment with new HP Procurve managed switches. This increases reliability of connectivity to the labs and proactively eliminates the concern presented by the outdated networking equipment that was replaced.
The 500 building has a home-run fiber cable that connects directly to the data center providing outstanding network connectivity.

Year of Review: 2011-2012

Type of Review: Annual Update

Executive Summary: The IT Department has courses that have been designed to change over time as technology changes, without having to create additional courses. This allows for more rapid change, giving the IT Department flexibility to keep up with industry.
The program currently offers both certificates and degrees in Information Technologies.
A need exists for extending the offerings pertaining to both IT Security and Ecommerce/Web Development. These are enormous growth areas in industry that are not currently being sufficiently addressed due to load restrictions generated by fiscal constraints.

Future Goals and Program Direction: The focus of the IT Department is balanced between the necessity to maintain a curriculum targeting technical certification guided by industry certification exams, courses that complement work in Computer Science for degree and transfer students and more general or basic skills courses important for survival in an ever more technological society.
Summary of goals:
Research and develope the following courses which would allow students seeking degrees in IS and IT to transfer to a four year degree program.

CINS 220 PCs and Peripherals	3 units
CINS 242 Information Systems Design	3 units

Add additional courses in security and begin offering the currently approved web development course again.
IT is currently working on a joint project with ComSci that will provide a common workspace on servers provided by Information Science for much of the work in both departments. This common work space will provide the platform for IT and ComSci classes to be taught independently as well as a platform for a joint web-enabled robotics project, student web space and student portfolios.

Recommendation: Collaboration both internally and externally with Computer Science and other departments

The IT Faculty needs to engage in more collaboration both internally and externally with Computer Science and other departments to further enrich the program and engage in cross-curricular development.
Perhaps most important, the IT Faculty needs to be able to expand the offerings and reintroduce adjunct faculty to the department. Recently, the numbers of faculty in the IT Department have dwindled from four FTE to only two.

Year(s) Requested: 2011-2012

Request Date: 02/09/2012

Recommendation Priority: 2. Medium Priority

Recommendation: Monitor industry and change as necessary

The IT Faculty will continue to monitor industry and change as necessary. The IT faculty must review current offerings and cull what is no longer applicable, replacing the courses with newer, up-to-date courses in Security and Ecommerce. Continued growth in the IT Department will depend in part on the ability to lift fiscal restrictions on existing offerings and to introduce additional IT Faculty in the future.

Year(s) Requested: 2011-2012
Request Date: 02/09/2012
Recommendation Priority: 2. Medium Priority

Plans of Action

Plan of Action	Budgetary Impact	Timeline/Responsible Party	Active
The equipment deployed is able to run the software currently utilized by the IT Department. This is the only strength with regard to the equipment as it is aging out of service and becoming more difficult to maintain. The technology utilized in the IT Department depends in part on equipment provided by students and external server space provided by Information Sciences. The server space that is provided helps relieve the burden for certain classes by offloading the processing from the desktop to the external server. While the desktop computers are lacking, Information Sciences is to be commended for the generosity and support extended to the IT Department in the form of server space and equipment donated for the student data center in room 503. **Type:** Equipment/Technology			Yes

Recommendation: Instructional Associate

Because of the recent elimination of the Business Division / IT Department Instructional Associate, the part of the burden of maintaining the labs is now to fall on the IT Faculty. The IT Faculty needs to document and align the processes and procedures for maintaining the three lab facilities with the processes and procedures utilized by the Information Science Department on campus.

Year(s) Requested: 2011-2012
Request Date: 02/09/2012
Recommendation Priority: 3. High Priority

Recommendation: Lab Replacement

The computers in the labs will need to be replaced on a rotating schedule. The burden of maintaining the lab computers will be transferred back to an Instructional Associate or to the Information Sciences department.

Year(s) Requested: 2011-2012
Request Date: 02/09/2012
Recommendation Priority: 3. High Priority

Recommendation: d. Facilities

All switching equipment needs to be lifted and mounted. Punch downs need to be installed and new wiring with new Panduit run down the wall to wiring blocks.
All furniture is in dire need of replacement. The tables were cut down to accommodate equipment over 20 years ago. Currently, monitors, keyboards and towers are all installed on the desktop leaving no room for anything other than a mouse. Students are unable to function properly as there is no room for even a small book or notes to be on the desktop.
The current wiring is hazardous and students hook themselves and their chairs on the wiring from the computers in the row behind them on a daily basis. Network cables are pulled apart and peripherals such as monitors and keyboards are continually snagged and pulled.
Because there is no room on the work surfaces and the table legs are poorly placed, students have to put personal items on the floor creating a constant tripping hazard.

Year(s) Requested: 2011-2012
Request Date: 02/09/2012
Recommendation Priority: 3. High Priority

Recommendation: Furniture

Replace all furniture with industry standard, ergonomically correct equipment. Hang and properly ground all networking equipment. Properly terminate all network cables. This needs to happen before someone gets injured in either an IT, Business or BCA course, all of which share these labs and would benefit by upgrading them.

Year(s) Requested: 2011-2012
Request Date: 02/09/2012
Recommendation Priority: 3. High Priority

Recommendation: Remove restrictions on current IT course

Remove restrictions on current IT course offerings and allow more sections to be taught.
Plan of Action to Implement Recommendation:
Hybrid IT courses to eliminate restrictions due to Distance Education caps.
Hire Adjunct faculty.
Suggested Timeline for Implementation:
Fall 2010

Year(s) Requested: 2011-2012
Request Date: 02/09/2012
Recommendation Priority: 2. Medium Priority

Recommendation: Increase Success and Retention in Information Technology Certification Program

Work with testing and assement office to detemine overall success on CompTIA and Microsoft Exams.
Evaluate Course Prerquisites and computer skills assessment exam

Year(s) Requested: 2011-2012
Request Date: 02/09/2012
Recommendation Priority: 3. High Priority