Assessment Report

Yuba Community College District

YC - Psychiatric Technician Program Recommendations

Year of Review: 2013-2014

Type of Review: Self-Study (4-year review)

Executive Summary (Include a list of team members): Executive Summary (insert executive summary in this field)

The Psychiatric Technician Program is a certificate program that has had continuous accreditation from the California State Board of Vocational Nurse and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT) since 1981. The current accreditation was issued May 2013 and will expire May 2017. Currently the vocational training program requires 22 months to complete with a total of 648 lecture hours (36 units) and 954 clinical hours (17units). In addition, the student is required to take Nutrition 3units in order to graduate from the program. Upon graduation the students is eligible to apply for the BVNP licensure examination. The following clinical affiliations are currently utilized and approved by the Yuba College District, and the BVNPT:

The Fountains, Yuba City
Butte Vista School, Yuba City
Rideout Hospital, Marysville
Willow Glen Care Center, Yuba City
River Valley High School, Yuba City
Community Resource Services, Marysville
Virginia School, Wheatland
Harmony Health Family Resource Center, Linda
Sutter Yuba Mental Health Services, Yuba City

The program currently accepts 15 applicants with 3 alternates for each incoming class, which starts every 18 months. The program currently does not have any pre-requisites and involves only the following criteria:

• Applicant must be 18 years or older prior to program admission.
• Applicants must be a high school graduate or equivalent prior to application.
• Applicant must have a relatively clear criminal background check as determined by the program required criminal records search.
• Applicant must demonstrate a “clear” drug urine screen prior to entering clinical sites

The program received a WIA grant which provided funding of a second instructor which allowed the acceptance of a additional full class of 15 students annually for two years which expired May 2011. The program is a highly impacted program with the highest job placement rate of all allied health field programs. Yuba College has one of the highest licensure testing pass rates of all the programs within California. Our applicants are not only local but as far away as Vacaville, Crescent City and Sutter Creek. The accreditation of the program has never been on probation or had any problems with the state board.

Program Description : A1. Do students have access to curriculum-specific and/or program-specific support services? If so, describe this service(s). If not, explain why.

The students have scheduled hours in the Nursing Lab. The lab hours helps the student learn/review required nursing skills and critical thinking specific to the semester.

A2. If services are available, how do they demonstrate an increase in student success?

This would be based upon the attrition rate by semester as well as the student course evaluation.

B3. How is current and previous program review data used to refine and improve program or department practices?
The graduating class is asked for ideas/suggestion for increased student learning or satisfaction. Their ideas/suggestion is then taken into consideration for program improvement. The BVNPT sends out quarterly NCLEX pass rate statistics and deficits, if any, by content subject. These can be used to refine subject matter.

Industry Trends and Program Data Analysis :

C4. How do program or department goals align with the education, diversity, demographic, and workforce needs of local communities?
The Psychiatric Technician Program does not mirror the college demographic/diversity, but is unique to itself in that the majority of the students are >25 years old, entering college for the first time, with this being their first career opportunity. The Psychiatric Technician students are being recruited for work prior to graduation. All of the graduating PT students from the 2013 graduating class were employed prior to taking the licensure board. The BVNPT estimates a deficit of 480 licensed PT in California at this time. Yuba College is the most Northern college with the other closest college in Napa with only 14 colleges in California offering this allied health professional program. The Yuba College program currently has a wait list of 77 students. This represents a minimum of four years to clear this waitlist of students.

C5. How is your program or department direction driven by empirical data?
For years that data has shown a need to expand this program at Yuba College, but due to the current rubric for hiring additional instructors, the college does not support this program expansion. Most students, entering this program, are on state assistance, but can earn more than $50,000 starting wage after 22 months of instruction.
When looking at the retention rate report by class, the 1st semester classes which include PSYCT 50-55 have lower percentages compared to the remaining classes. These classes are open to the general population of the college and not just the students interested in a Psychiatric Technician Career. Many of the "general population students" drop from these classes quickly with results in relative lower retention rate numbers.

Curriculum & SLO Assessment Summary :

D6. What has your program or department done to improve completion of degrees, certificates, or transfers? What are your future plans?
The Psychiatric Technician program is a certificate program only, with the occasional students completing their AS degree. Due to the student admission process being based upon a waitlist with first-come-first-served, the attrition rate within the first semester is high as many students are not prepared for the dedication/studying that this program requires. Most students who continue on after the 1st semester are successful and complete the program.
Future Plans: I would like to change the admission process to a point based system, with points given for completion of other college courses/degrees, and basic math/English testing. Currently there are 6 students on the waitlist with either a BS or MS degree wanting to become a Psychiatric Technician.

D7. Do you have any courses, certificates, or degrees that should be in-activated or expanded? If yes, please identify and justify your

recommendations with data.
As discussed previously, the program has a large waitlist of 77 students and could be expanded easily with one more instructor. The state board dictates a 15:1 ratio within the clinical setting.
Due to the demand for licensed Psychiatric Technicians, I would like to change the curriculum which would allow the students to graduate the program in 2 semesters and one summer but this would require an additional instructor in the clinical setting.

D8. Do all of your courses have current CORs? If not, what steps are you taking to ensure compliance? All courses are current but will be reviewed/updated based upon recommendation from the state board.

D9. If applicable, how are teaching methodologies in your program or department assessed? Based upon the review of the quarterly NCLEX/PN® pass rate statistics, curriculum or content can be changed. Due to the near 100% pass rate for the Yuba College students on the state board licensure exam, teaching content has not changed.

D10. If applicable, how are the results of the assessment used to support, improve, and/or expand your current teaching methodologies? As mentioned above, after reviewing the quarterly state licensure statistics, the results support excellent understanding by the students with appropriate curriculum content.

D11. If your program or department uses a DE modality to support instruction, how are you evaluating the effectiveness of that instruction?

NA

D12. If your department offers DE courses, what support services does it provide for DE students? What can be done to improve support services for these students?

NA

D13. How is your program or department applying sound principles of learning and teaching theory to its curriculum? As the only instructor teaching the entire Psychiatric Technician program with consists of 14 lectures and 6 clinical classes, it is imperative that I keep current with all of the subjects and the content taught within each. I attend conferences, take on-line courses, and consult with other institutions in order to do this.

D14. Which CSLOs (course student learning outcomes) and PLOs (Program learning outcomes) were assessed within the last year?
I am behind in updating current SLO's and will make this a priority to get done before Fall 2014.
All 14 of the lecture classes, PSYCT 51, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63 included testing styles that were not in

correlation with the NCLEX style testing that the graduate would encounter during the computerized licensure testing.
The 6 clinical classes PSYCT 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75 assignments did not allow for patient diversity in all the projects.

D15. For each of the above, how did the assessment data influence program, department and/or course improvement?
All lecture testing has now been changed to mimic the licensure examination style.
The clinical assignments not allow for patient diversity, even with 2 patients with exact same diagnosis. There is no longer only one correct answer. Allowing the student to explain their assessment based upon their individual client, allows for re-life assessment and evaluation which will be imperative after graduation. Allowing the student to learn critical thinking skills in a safe environment while a student, will keep them safe after graduation working within a prison or mental health facility.

Future Goals and Program Direction: See Report

Course Content and Statistical Analysis: NA

Are you ready to submit your final program review?: Yes

Goal	Recommendations	Plan of Action & Budgetary Impact / Tasks	Status	Feedback & Follow-Up
YC Goal 8 - E16. How do program or department goals align with stated Yuba College goals? Most of the students within this program have not attended college before. This allied health program allows them to complete this program within 22 month. Our partnership with the California State Board approved clinical sites, allow for excellent and diverse educational experiences.				

Goal	Recommendations	Plan of Action & Budgetary Impact / Tasks	Status	Feedback & Follow-Up
YCCD VS 2 - E17. How does the program support the YCCD District				

Goal	Recommendations	Plan of Action & Budgetary Impact / Tasks	Status	Feedback & Follow-Up
Vision Statement? Specifically, how does the program meets the needs of our students and communities? Five of the May 2012 graduates of the Psychiatric Technician program were offered jobs prior to licensure from one of the clinical sites that we use. The mental health community knows the excellent educational base that the Yuba College students are given and they seek to employee them. As finances are tight in the mental health programs in our community, we seek to “give back” to the facilities that offer us our students learning opportunities by volunteering to help them when needed. We have helped with Harmony Health Spring Health Fair, Butte Vista School Autism Fair, Yuba-Sutter Mental Health Great Performances and Christmas Party.				