



ACCREDITATION EVIDENCE

Title: Program Review Executive Summaries

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PII: No

Redacted: No



Art Program Review Executive Summary

Program Purpose and Market Demand:

- The aim of the art program at Western is to arm students with foundational skills requisite for a career in visual art. These skills give students a platform from which they can pursue a myriad of professional and educational opportunities; such as Animator and Special Effects artists, Architect, Museum Workers, Art Director, Art Educator, Art Therapist, Artist, Graphic Designer, and Photographer. Market demand for these specialties is predicted to grow between 3% and 37% depending on the specialty and area. No local demand statistics were provided.

Curriculum and Faculty:

- Degree Requirements: The art program has recently made changes to degree requirements to reduce total credits required to 60, and to align its general education requirements with the Interstate Passport program. Full degree program can be seen in the college catalog.
- List of Faculty Teaching in the Program as of Spring 2022:

Faculty Name	Degree/experience	Rank	Classification
Beachler, Jennifer	MFA, 0-5 years	Instructor	Adjunct
Fetz, Bart	MFA, 15-20 years	Instructor	Full-time
Ketelsen, Hank	MFA, 5-10 years	Instructor	Adjunct
Muldowney, Jacob	MFA, 5-10 years	Assistant Professor	Full-time
Wardell, Stephen	BFA, 0-5 years	Instructor	Adjunct

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Program Data 2017/18 to 2021/2022:

- **Enrollment**
 - Attached
- **Graduation**
 - Attached
- **Fill Rate**
 - Attached

Program Strengths:

- Highly qualified and dedicated faculty
- Curriculum designed to offer flexibility for students to pursue their art interests while meeting foundational requirements.

- High levels of funding and physical/material resources. (Andy Warhol collection, Art gallery, specialized classrooms and equipment, and exhibitions).
- Internships and work study opportunities

Program limitations/Weaknesses:

- Facilities concerns: Wood Kiln delay, isolated/scattered classrooms, storage.
- For design and photography, a MAC lab is needed but has not been supplied after requests.
- Some classrooms are of insufficient size to conduct classes without severe reduction in class numbers.
- Faculty recruitment is challenging as most classes should be taught face to face and there are limited options in the community.
- Number of full-time faculty make expansion or diversification near impossible (see program opportunities).

Program Opportunities:

- Casper is able to offer much more robust art opportunities. The school has a successful graphic design degree and is able to provide a well-defined set of job opportunities to students as a result. Western has the capability to offer this degree with minimal financial hardship.
- There are opportunities to solicit financial resources from our service area that can provide better equipment and other resources.

Program Recommendations:

- The addition of a Graphic Design program at Western. This would require an additional full-time faculty and a MAC lab and is needed to create well defined transfer and/or job opportunities for students and create a more consistent stream of students to Western.
- Re-evaluate physical resources and space to provide greater storage and allow courses (like sculpture and printmaking to have caps over 13 students.
- Completion of a wood kiln is needed and possible. This process has taken 3 years which is much too long.

Automotive Program Review Executive Summary

Program Purpose and Market Demand:

- The purpose the program is to prepare students to enter the workforce with time management skills, the ability to properly identify parts and their purposes, and problem-solving strategies involving listening and collecting accurate information to determine next steps. Approximately 756,600 automotive service technicians and mechanic jobs were held in 2019 and there is an expected growth of 69,000 technician openings per year (US Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Curriculum and Faculty:

- The Associate of Applied Science in Automotive Technology consists of 71 credits, to be taken over four semesters.
- Faculty:
 - Steven Jackson, Instructor of Automotive

Program Enrollment and Graduation Rate:

- Enrollment Chart – Attached
- Graduation Chart – Attached
- Fill Rate Chart – Attached

Program Strengths:

- The program holds regular advisory council meetings to identify areas of improvement and provide students with skills that industry leaders, shop managers, and employers are wanting to see in the people they hire. The program works to ensure that current methods and up-to-date technology are implemented into the curriculum so students have the skills required by local industry.

Program Weaknesses:

- Due to several factors, including covid, new faculty, and previously untracked documentation, reporting of assessment findings has not occurred.

Program Opportunities:

- The program has the opportunity to continue working with industry and manufacturing to become a leading program in advances in new automotive technology, such as a Hybrid/Electrical vehicle course. There is room for the program to grow and place more students into high paying job from an assortment of industry employers.

Program Limitations:

- The economy is a limitation for this field, and the field has seen a downturn in work for mechanics. Time is also a constraint as two years of training is quite a short time span in which

to cover a field that is continuously evolving. The program has also been somewhat limited by the constraints on physical space and the impact that covid had on spacing out students.

Program Recommendations:

- The automotive program should begin collecting assessment data and use it to implement curriculum changes (if needed).
- The automotive program should continue to cultivate their strong relationship with local industry.
- Student recruitment into the program should be a priority.

Program Review Executive Summary

Community Relations

Program Purpose and Market Demand:

- The Community Relations Office connects donors and alumni to Western Wyoming Community College and focuses on awarding scholarships to qualifying students who demonstrate financial need. These objectives are accomplished through the support of the Western Wyoming College Foundation and its board of directors, as well as through the Community Relations Office.

Program Strengths:

- The Community Relations Office works closely with the Western Wyoming College Foundation. The relationship between the two entities is strong and both consistently look for opportunities to support and strengthen the other.
- The Foundation is financially strong, and the board of directors puts much thought and deliberation into making data-informed decisions on how to best support the College and its students. Much of the information and data used by the board in decision making is produced by the Community Relations Office.

Program Weaknesses:

- The Community Relations Office has a 1.5 FTE staff. Compared to the other like departments at the community colleges across Wyoming, Western has the smallest staff who support the foundation, donor and alumni efforts of the institution.
- Western was without a Community Relations office for many years which has caused many early graduates who are alumni of the institution to not be contacted for many years, if at all. This has caused a gap in the alumni support and connection with the institution.
- Alumni giving each year is quite inconsistent and difficult to predict when budgeting for donor amounts.

Program Opportunities:

- The use of the donor software The Raiser's Edge NXT has been an improvement to the Community Relations Office to track and report donations to the college and the foundation. The additional use of technology to streamline the marketing of donor campaigns through social media and other technological media outlets is an opportunity to reach alumni and other potential donors.
- Regular events and celebrations that bring alumni to the campus would also increase ongoing connections and pride with the institution and perhaps increase the desire of our alumni to donate and support the college moving forward.

Program Limitations:

- The Western Wyoming College Foundation's assets are at the mercy of the financial market. It is difficult to predict the growth and/or loss each year due to the fluctuations in the market. Many student scholarships come from the foundation and if the market is down, this can directly impact the number of students who receive scholarships and other aid from the foundation.

- The small size of the staff in the Community Relations Office limits the abilities of what can be done with community connections, alumni relationship building, and donor campaigns.

Program Recommendations:

- It is recommended that the Community Relations Office produce a 5-year strategic plan that articulates the current state of affairs of the foundation, alumni connections, current and potential donors, and other areas/initiatives of the department.
- This plan would need to support the institutional strategic plan and align with any objectives and key performance indicators identified that are needed to move the institution forward.
- If identified as a need, this strategic plan could be the method by which additional monies are requested to enhance the staff and operational budget of the office to move the initiatives forward.

Computer Science Program Review Executive Summary

E.Fry 6.30.22

Program Purpose and Market Demand:

Western's Computer Science program prepares completers for transfer or entry level positions in business/industry. Nationally, there is strong and growing demand for graduates with a background in computer sciences, information technology, software development, web development and cyber security. Western service area advisory councils have indicated a large and growing demand for technology graduates.

Curriculum and Faculty:

Currently, 64 earned credits are required for Computer Science AS degree requirements. This requirement will revert to 60 credits in the upcoming review period. Students in select non-Computer Science programs may earn a Computer Science Endorsement via a 15-credit pathway. A 15-credit Web Development Certificate is also available.

Core Computer Science faculty include:

- Dr. Tammy Robertson Full Time
- Dr. Benjamin Parez Part Time
- Jennifer Allen MS Full Time

Program Enrollment and Graduation Rate:

Graduation Chart

- Fill Rate: Attached
- Enrollment: Attached
- Graduation: Attached

Program Strengths:

- Faculty combine to provide over four decades of teaching and industry experience
- Program has developed strong partnerships with both K-12 and industry stakeholders
- Program is preparing students for a high demand career and for positions throughout Western's service area

Program Weaknesses:

- Limited number of faculty and human resources to engage in long-term program development
- With primary faculty being remote, there are limited chances for serendipitous student/faculty encounters
- Lower enrollments require limited class options

Program Opportunities:

- Industry advisory councils are requesting more employees with Cybersecurity backgrounds. Western has the opportunity to offer an AS in Cybersecurity

Program Limitations:

- <100 Words

Program Recommendations:

- <100 Words

Diesel Program Review Executive Summary

Program Purpose and Market Demand:

- The Diesel program has listed three purposes which include teaching a lifelong trade that is useful both personally and professionally, preparing students for employment, and advancing knowledge of diesel and heavy equipment mechanics. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job market for diesel engine specialists is expected to increase by 8% between 2020 and 2030.

Curriculum and Faculty:

- Degree Requirements
- List of Faculty Teaching in the Program

Program Enrollment and Graduation Rate:

- Enrollment: Attached
- Graduation: Attached
- Fill Rate: Attached

Program Strengths:

- This program has an extremely strong advisory council. This connection allows the program to stay relevant and ensure its graduates can obtain employment easily. Additionally, this program is well integrated into its school and works well with other departments, and relies on them to provide its students with a well-rounded experience.

Program Weaknesses:

- It is difficult for the diesel program to keep up with changing diesel technology. Replacing their equipment is expensive. Additionally, program growth is constrained by the lab size, and their outside reviewer questions whether the provided professional development funds are enough to keep faculty current in their field.

Program Opportunities:

- This program could work to expand its advisory council to include individuals and companies outside of Sweetwater County. This would provide its students with increased access to employment opportunities. Additionally, this program appears to have room within the current class size constraints to increase enrollments. Stronger partnerships with service area high schools could help increase enrollment of traditional-aged students. The program could also

explore putting classroom content online and offering evening labs to help post-traditional students have access to the program without leaving their current employment situations.

Program Limitations:

- This program is primarily funded by Perkins dollars. If the Perkins grant amount was to change or disappear it would be nearly impossible for this program to continue to remain current in its industry. Additionally, budget reductions over the past few years have forced the program to rely more on material conservation than it has in the past.

Program Recommendations:

- This program begins working with the Dean of Enrollment Management to develop a targeted recruiting plan.
- This program begins thinking about its connection to the General Education program differently.
- This program begins thinking outside of the box on how to develop a concurrent/dual enroll program.

Program Review Executive Summary

Program Purpose and Market Demand:

- Students in the Exercise Science Associate's program will demonstrate a strong foundation in physiological science which will enable them to transfer to other institutions of higher learning for study and research in related fields. The Exercise Science Activity and Wellness Courses will serve the wellness needs of students, staff and the community.

Curriculum and Faculty:

- Degree Requirements
- List of Faculty Teaching in the Program

Program Data 2017/18 to 2021/2022:

- **Enrollment**
 - 290.5 FTE 2498 headcount (yearly average 58 FTE, 499 headcount)
- **Graduation**
 - 19 credentials awarded (16 AS Science, 3 Fitness Leadership Certificate)
- **Fill Rate**
 - 56.5% (2498/4414)

Program Strengths:

- The biggest strength of the program is the ability for the students to apply what they are learning in many hands-on opportunities beginning in the first semester of the program.
- Students have the opportunity to work with many professionals in the community of their choosing as well as the opportunity to work with various populations and community groups.
- With the completion of the new building, the program benefits from having a modern facility with up to date equipment.

Program Weaknesses:

- One of the biggest limitations of the program is lack of active recruitment to the program of students who have a strong desire to complete the program.
- Currently the program is staffed with only one full time faculty. This limits the exposure of the students to different perspectives, teaching styles and general exposure to different experiences that come from different instructors.

- The program has undergone multiple changes in the past five years. These changes have made it difficult to really be able to evaluate and determine how each new change has impacted the program.

Program Opportunities:

- The addition of an Outdoor Program faculty will reduce the number of PEAC courses that are overseen by the Exercise Science faculty member. Hopefully this will free up time to recruit students particularly students outside of the programs current recruiting pools.
- The new general education passport also provides an opportunity to increase the number of students who enroll in PEAC classes from outside the Exercise Program. These students can serve as potential candidates for recruitment into the program, they also provide FTE's to financially strengthen it.

Program Limitations:

- Single faculty programs have limitations (as noted above) but this situation is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future. Exercise Science is a small program, the fill rates for many core courses are below 60% and adding a second faculty member is not forthcoming.
- Many of the PEAC courses within the program are one credit and taught by adjunct faculty this will necessitate additional work by the single faculty member to maintain faculty credentials while balancing faculty schedules and student demand.

Program Recommendations:

- Articulate the market demand in the recruiting process, what specifically can graduates do and how much can they earn.
- Exercise Science needs to develop a consistent recruiting pipeline of students. Particularly students that are prepared for the rigorous science and math requirements within the program and are capable of persisting to graduation. Without a regular infusion of new students, the long-term efficacy of the program is challenging.
- The program should also identify a core set of PEAC courses that fit within the general education sequence and are in high-demand by students. These courses can serve to increase the programs fill rates and FTE numbers while providing revenue to support the program as a whole.

Program Review Executive Summary: Business Information Systems Academic Program Review

Program Purpose and Market Demand:

The Business Information Systems program provides students with a strong foundation in cross-functional business processes and the application of information systems to support them in the workplace. Graduates are able to enter the workforce with an AAS rather than transfer to a 4-year institution. The BAS is now an option for western Graduates. The Bureau of Labor Statistics website lists a wage range from \$41,950 to \$80,000. Jobs in the field requiring a bachelor's level degree fall in the wage category over \$80,000. Positions with a specialized certificate or an associate level degree in the Information Systems field have an annual average expected salary of \$41,950. Overall, employment in computer related positions has grown 20% in the last 10 years.

Western BIS program has many opportunities for students including an AAS, certificates, and micro-credentialing. A pilot program was implemented to offer certification for students in Microsoft Word and Excel in the fall of 2021. Twenty-seven program paths and certificates at Western utilize BIS courses.

Curriculum and Faculty:

- Degree Requirements: AAS 64 credits, does not participate in interstate passport
- Three full-time faculty, two part-time faculty, two retired faculty (last 5 years).

Program Enrollment and Graduation Rate:

- Enrollment Chart
- Graduation Chart
- Fill Rate Chart

Program Strengths:

- Courses support twenty-four other programs (AAS, AS, AA, and certificates) at Western.
- Faculty is responsive to industry needs.
- The BIS lab is available to all students on campus.

Program Weaknesses:

- Difficulty interfacing with Apple computers.
- Learning new skills while teaching old.
- Summer/Off contract time only time available for professional development without compensation.

Program Opportunities:

- Developing courses for industry needs (help desk certificate, health information management, medical coding).

Program Limitations:

- Space constrictions.
- Number of faculty.
- Rely on Perkins funding for equipment, training, and software purchases.

Program Recommendations:

- Adapt to industry needs by creating certificates dial in on the needed skills to get student to work.