Comprehensive Program Review Report (Narrative)
College of the Sequoias
Program Review - Geology

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What are the strengths of your area?: The department trades largely in rigorous general education science courses. Average student success rates in geology classes are higher than those of the science division and college in general (see 'Graph 1 Student Success Rates' under Documents). Field trip courses offer students experiential learning opportunities to explore the classic geology of California and the geological underpinnings of its population.

What improvements are needed?: Better communication to students of the career opportunities that are available in the Earth Sciences might turn-up more geology majors. In particular, an effort is being made to inform (through faculty participation in the SETA and SURGE programs) COS science majors in other fields (i.e., biology, chemistry, physics and engineering) of interdisciplinary opportunities in Earth Science fields such as paleontology, geochemistry, geophysics and geotechnical engineering. Providing access to earth science courses at the Tulare and Hanford campuses, will require additional staff or reduced offerings at the main campus.

Overall Outcome Achievement: The Program is scheduled for assessment during the 2014/15 academic year.

Outcome achievement rates range from 81% to 28% (see 'Graph 2 Student Achievement Rates under Documents), and the average achievement rate for the program is 57% (i.e., 57% of students scored satisfactorily on the particular student learning outcome). Significant variation in achievement occurs for different SLOs within individual courses, suggesting that all courses (in which multiple SLOs were assessed) contain objectives that are more and less well mastered by the students.

Changes based on outcome: Teaching strategies to address each assessed SLO on which students achievement rates were less than 70% have been suggested and implemented; the success of these strategies will be evaluated upon the next assessment cycle for each course.

Outcome cycle evaluation: With the exception of GEOL 104L which was not offered due to low student enrollment, the Geology Program is on track to complete the three-year assessment cycle as described in the 'SLO Assessment Cycle' file under Documents.

No Actions were returned for this Unit based upon the selected parameters.