

West Los Angeles College
Self Study for 2006 Reaffirmation of Accreditation
<http://www.wlac.edu/accreditation/main.html>

**Report to the Educational Programs and Student Success
Committee of the Board of Trustees**
Chair: Sylvia Scott-Hayes

Introduction

This self study has provided our college with a rich opportunity for intensive cross-institutional dialogue regarding our commitment to providing real learning opportunities for our students—the heart of our college’s Mission Statement. Each step in this open and transparent process made us consider how the work we do helps prepare students for “life after West.”

In answering this question, we realized that student learning outcomes inform all that we do. The accreditation theme of evaluation and planning that leads to improvement is realized in our annual planning and budget cycle, program review and unit planning. The primary focus of these efforts is student success.

Our finished self study focuses continuing self-reflective dialogue across the campus, furthering our adoption of higher standards of instruction and support for students, all of which speaks to the integrity and effectiveness of our college.

Achievements

- West has a complete Integrated Master Plan, consisting of an Educational Master Plan, a Facilities Plan and an Information Technology Plan, which guides West’s fulfillment of its mission through broad-based planning informed by evidence-based program review and unit planning.
- Faculty have developed SLOs at the course and institution levels and are working with our vice presidents to integrate them at the program level, incorporating evaluation, planning and improvement, along with dialogue and integrity.

- College-wide committees have fine-tuned the college's participatory governance process for more efficiency, inclusiveness and transparency.

Responses to the 2000 Visiting Team's Overarching Recommendations

- ✓ West has completed the master planning process. We have an Integrated Master Plan and a fully developed program review and unit planning processes in use across the institution.
- ✓ The college has a functioning and improving participatory governance process.

Other Recommendations

- ✓ Both program review and unit planning rely on research data. Measurable SLOs have been incorporated into these key processes.
- ✓ New sources of data include a marketing research study conducted September 2005 addressing issues in the area served by West. The District's student survey results confirm high student satisfaction with instruction, services and facilities, including the library.
- ✓ Both the revamped participatory governance process and this self study process with its emphasis on self-reflective dialogue have contributed to a heightened collegiality in many committees, encouraging more participation. New AFT Contract language now links faculty evaluations to participation.
- ✓ Computer-assisted instruction supplements basic skills offerings in English and math. Expanded tutoring and linking basic skills classes with a personal development class effectively integrate and coordinate basic skills offerings.

Student Learning Outcomes

Critical Thinking

Communication

Aesthetics

Quantitative Reasoning

Self Awareness/Interpersonal Skills

Civic Responsibility

Technical Competence

- ✓ Appropriate additional space for students, located close to the ASO, is now open to encourage students to mingle, visit and study together.
- ✓ Our district-leading matriculation process contributes to coordination of counseling services. The number of student educational plans has increased ten-fold. SARS software allows students to schedule their own appointments for assessment and counseling.
- ✓ Plant Facilities' program reviews and unit plans address the maintenance of the college through evaluations of service provided and plans vis-à-vis the goals of the Integrated Master Plan. This has led to numerous improvements, including four smart classrooms and eleven computer labs.
- ✓ To address gaps in the book collection of the library, a strategy of prioritizing and rotating funds among a list of needy disciplines, using supplementary state grants and sales of used books helps satisfy the immediate needs of the college curriculum.
- ✓ The Governing Board of the District conducted an ACCJC self study in 2000 and now evaluates itself at annual retreats.

Next Steps

West's self study, a self-reflective evaluation mechanism, has yielded specific planning agendas that guide and strengthen West's efforts to improve our support for our students' learning and success. Among these:

- Interdisciplinary faculty dialogue now taking place among disciplines help faculty evaluate the success of SLOs across the curriculum.
- Aligning the annual planning and budget cycle is improving these key processes.
- The college vision and mission statements are now printed in the Schedule of Classes.

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<i>Self Awareness/Interpersonal Skills</i>	<i>Civic Responsibility</i>		<i>Technical Competence</i>

- A recent think tank brown bag lunch discussion led to a noticeably cleaner, well-maintained campus.
- The Academic Senate now has a Program Viability Process to present to the college President.
- The Academic Senate and the Technology Committee will develop a plan to use the intranet, website and groupware to improve campus communication.

This self study captures West's energetic, collegial and best efforts to help students achieve success individually. As an educational community, we seek an even higher level of effectiveness and excellence in all we do for our students.



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