

STANDARD I

INSTITUTIONAL MISSION AND EFFECTIVENESS

Los Angeles Southwest College has a mission statement by which its faculty, staff, and administration work together toward the goals of identifying and effectively serving its constituent community and students. The college demonstrates a strong commitment to its mission that emphasizes achievement of student learning. Based upon the results of a recent survey, 62 percent of faculty and staff respondents indicated their belief that campus meetings work toward the overall mission of educating students. The mission is communicated throughout the campus. The college uses quantitative and qualitative data and analysis in an ongoing and systematic cycle of evaluation, integrated planning, and implementation to verify and improve the effectiveness by which the mission is accomplished. The College meets this standard; however, the college has outlined five planning agenda items to further enhance this standard.

I.A. Mission

The institution has a statement of mission that defines the institution's broad educational purposes, its intended student population, and its commitment to achieving student learning

I.A.1 The institution established student learning programs and services aligned with its purpose, its character, and its student population.

DESCRIPTION

The Los Angeles Southwest College (LASC) mission statement is the following:

“Los Angeles Southwest College is committed to providing an environment for quality learning to enrich the lives of our diverse population.”

The LASC mission statement incorporates the definition of the college's broad educational purpose as enriching lives and providing an environment for quality learning. The college offers classes and programs that range from remedial courses

that prepare students for collegiate study, to courses that lead to an occupational certificate or degree, to programs and courses that are transferrable to a four-year college or university, and to personal enrichment classes. The students come primarily from the local community and are adult high school graduates and drop-outs, English language learners, individuals desiring courses for personal growth, transfer, workforce education, job certification, and continuing education. A majority of students in the college service area require remedial coursework as determined by assessment testing.

EVALUATION

The college developed its mission statement with the current and future student populations in mind. The college had an external environment scan prepared to assess the potential students the college can serve. The Enrollment Management Team uses trend analysis data in its decisions regarding course offerings to ensure that the classes are available to meet the needs of the community. The college is now placing an additional emphasis on addressing the needs

of its student population. Use of baseline data elements and measures of changes will help the college better understand the needs of the student population and how well the college is accomplishing its mission. The college fully meets the standard.

PLANNING AGENDA

- None

I.A.2 The mission statement is approved by the governing board and published (give examples where and how it is published and how often it is published).

DESCRIPTION

The LASC mission statement was approved by the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees on November 2, 2005. The mission statement is published in the LASC college catalog, which is prepared annually; it is also published on the LASC website, which is regularly updated; and it is published in the schedule of classes, which is printed each semester. In addition, the mission statement is posted around the campus in areas with high student, staff, and faculty traffic, such as Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, Business Office, Assessment Center, Counseling Center, Bookstore, administrative offices, staff and faculty meeting areas, and the Associated Student Organization office.

EVALUATION

The college mission statement is effectively provided to the community and the college through the major college publications and at strategic campus locations. The college could include its mission statement on all its printed materials. The college fully meets the standard.

PLANNING AGENDA

- None

I.A.3 Using the institution's governance and decision-making processes, the institution reviews its mission statement on a regular basis and revises it as necessary.

DESCRIPTION

The college mission statement is reviewed on a three year cycle. This an inclusive process utilizing broad-based participation as prescribed in the *Planning Handbook* via the Mission Review Committee. This committee represents staff, administration, students, faculty, and community members.

EVALUATION

The review of the mission statement was a comprehensive and inclusive approach in developing and revising the mission statement. The Dean of Institutional Planning and Research facilitated a brainstorming session with the constituents, distributed a sample of other community college mission statements, and outlined some best practices from the literature for writing an effective mission statement. The college fully meets the standard.

PLANNING AGENDA

- None

I.A.4 The institution's mission is central to institutional planning and decision-making.

DESCRIPTION

Planning processes and documents outline that the institution's mission is the foundation of college planning. As part of all planning activities, the mission statement is referenced to ensure that college decisions follow the college mission. The college planning documents incorporate the mission statement as the basis of all planning goals.

EVALUATION

The LASC mission statement is central to and is integrated into all college planning. The mission itself underlies the college strategic plan, which, in turn, underlies unit and division planning. All plans focus on the college mission statement. The college fully meets the standard.

PLANNING AGENDA

- None