

**PORTERVILLE COLLEGE**  
**PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT: INSTRUCTIONAL DIVISIONS**

Name of Division: Social Science  
Contact Person: Andrew Messchaert, Chair

Submission Date: Fall 2009

*[Note: The information in this area will repeat on all pages.]*

**Porterville College Mission Statement:**

With students as our focus, Porterville College provides our local and diverse communities an excellent educational experience that fosters intellectual curiosity and growth, lifelong learning, and prepares our students for personal and academic success.

In support of our values and philosophy, Porterville College will:

1. Provide quality academic programs to all students who are capable of benefiting from community college instruction.
2. Provide comprehensive support services to help students achieve their personal, vocational and academic potential.
3. Prepare students for transfer and success at four-year institutions.
4. Provide courses and training to prepare students for employment or to enhance skills within their current careers.
5. Provide developmental education to students who need to enhance their knowledge and understanding of basic skills.
6. Recognize student achievement through awarding degrees, certificates, grants, and scholarships.

**Program Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Social Science Division is to prepare students to develop mental habits that promote critical thinking skills allowing them to better understand and succeed in an increasingly complex and dynamic world. A course offering within the division shall help prepare transfer students for academic success at four year institutions, help provide training for employment, or help enhance a student's professional development or intellectual life.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

The Social Science Division has been actively engaged in the process of creating and assessing SLOs at both the course and program levels.

Full-time faculty members reviewed and updated course outlines for courses within their areas of expertise. SLOs have been submitted for all of the courses presently offered in our division. Two courses that show as active but have not actually been offered as regular classes in some years are still being reviewed in within the division.

The Social Science Division has met on numerous occasions and held extensive discussions on developing the program level SLOs. These meetings were attended by the majority of the full-time faculty members and none of the adjunct faculty members. The focus of the meetings was on identifying realistic and measurable outcomes.

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Social Science Major -- Major SLOs are complete

**Student Learning Outcomes:  
Social Science Degree**

**Last Updated: March 30, 2009**

- 1. The graduate can identify and discuss primary discipline-specific topics using the appropriate language of the discipline.** Using the significant terminology and concepts of the relevant discipline, a graduating student should be able to identify and discuss fundamental discipline-related problems in at least one of the List-A and one of the List-B courses within the Social Science major.
- 2. The graduate can apply the research methods of the discipline to formulate a solution to a discipline-area problem.** A graduating student should be able to critically read and use books, articles, and conduct appropriate research as necessary to gather evidence for use in solving a discipline-related problem.
- 3. The graduate can perform meaningful self-evaluations of her or his work.** A graduating student should be able to assess the quality of her or his research and proposed solution to a discipline-related problem.
- 4. The graduate can effectively communicate conclusions (and supporting evidence) either orally or in writing.** A graduating student should be able to clearly communicate solutions to discipline-related problems and explain supporting evidence.
- 5. The graduate demonstrates an understanding of fundamental American institutions.** A graduating student should demonstrate a familiarity with constitutional questions and the development of American institutions.
- 6. The graduate can effectively collaborate with peers (colleagues) in addressing a discipline-related problem.** A graduating student should demonstrate the ability to work effectively with her or his peers.
- 7. The graduate demonstrates respect for the diverse ideas of others.** A graduating student should demonstrate appropriate respect for peers and their ideas.

**Student Learning Outcomes:  
Human Services Certificate**

**Last Updated: February 3, 2007**

- 1. Completion of transfer level coursework.**
- 2. Pass state certification examination for substance abuse counselor requirement.**

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**Analysis of Current Performance:**

In preparing this report it is worth noting where the division currently stands. The latest data indicates the following. During the 2008-2009 year, the division enrolled **7,233** students, in **184** sections, with a retention rate of **89.4%** and a success rate of **65.1%** across all of its courses and disciplines. In comparing how this relates to the historical trends, the total numbers of students served as well as the retention and success rates of those students have continued to grow.

The Social Science Division serves many students. The algorithm to measure productivity asks us to identify the number of FTES generated and divide that by the cost (salaries and expense budget). The Social Science Division consistently performs well above the campus average in productivity. In fact, it consistently ranks first or a close second in productivity. In sum, the division is inexpensive and yet very productive.

Classes within the Social Science Division are generally large. Almost all of the division's classes fulfill general education requirements. Furthermore, the faculty generally have been both willing and able to accept and manage large classes successfully.

The Social Science Division operates on a small supply budget of only \$1,200.00 per year. This budget is adequate to cover essential supplies, but it necessarily restricts possibilities that would enrich the educational experiences of the students.

The quality of instruction remains high. The Social Science faculty continue to provide excellent education to large numbers of students at Porterville College.

The demand from students for more sections of Social Science courses remains very strong.

**Program Strengths and Areas for Improvement:**

Social Science has strong classes and disciplines that provide much of the general education backbone of Porterville College's associate degree program. We offer a wide diversity of courses to serve student's major requirements and general education requirements.

We remain weak in Geography, having only one qualified adjunct faculty serving all our student's geography needs. Geography is a core requirement for Liberal Studies majors, and in this area we are under-serving our students.

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The Philosophy offerings could be expanded. There is a high demand for more sections of several of the courses including PHIL 112 and PHIL 107. PHIL 112: The Ethics of Living & Dying is listed as the recommended Humanities requirement for nursing majors. Additionally, PHIL 107: Introduction to Logic is one of the few courses that fulfill the CSU Critical Thinking requirement. However, at this time we have no qualified adjunct faculty to offer additional sections of either of these courses.

Our Human Services offerings are over-full and that certificate program could easily be developed as a major. There is much potential for growth in that area, but with only one full-time faculty member coordinating the whole program and relying heavily on adjunct faculty the program is severely handicapped. Social Science has consistently requested an additional full-time faculty member in this area without success. This is a serious need for growth and improvement.

In the past six years we have offered only American government within our political science discipline. All University of California Political Science departments require at least two courses in Political science for a transfer student to be admitted as a political science major. We need to expand our offerings in that discipline and that will require either relieving our present instructor's load in Economics, or hiring another person who is available in the daytime to teach political science.

Anthropology is an exceptionally strong program at Porterville College. We consistently have more than ten full sections per semester. With the potential of adding forensic anthropology classes, this program could grow further but would need more staffing.

All of our disciplines are active and productive with the present staffing. None of the disciplines could continue to serve our students needs if a current faculty member were to retire, or to leave the college and not be replaced. Several of our faculty are or will be eligible for retirement in the coming years. Our division and our campus MUST plan for replacements of any of our faculty should they leave our campus.

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**Goals** (This section is for you to report on progress on previously established goals and listing of new goals. If your program is addressing more than 2 goals, please duplicate this page)

Goal(s)	Timetable for Completion	Needed resources	Obstacles to completion (if any)
1. Offer additional sections and courses to meet student needs. Course offerings should be expanded in multiple areas including geography, philosophy, and political science.	1 year	Additional staffing is required. See the page titled "STAFFING REQUEST" for detailed information.	1. The budget must allow for hiring additional instructors. 2. Locating qualified and available instructors.

Which of numbered items under the Mission Statement (see page 1 of this document) will be furthered if this goal is completed? (select all that apply)

Item 1  Item 2  Item 3  Item 4  Item 5  Item 6

Progress on Goal:

Completed (Date        )  
 Revised (Date        )

Comments: This is a newly stated goal.

Goal(s)	Timetable for Completion	Needed resources	Obstacles to completion (if any)
2.			

Which of numbered items under the Mission Statement (see page 1 of this document) will be furthered if this goal is completed? (select all that apply)

Item 1  Item 2  Item 3  Item 4  Item 5  Item 6

Progress on Goal:

Completed (Date        )  
 Revised (Date        )

Comments:

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**STAFFING REQUEST**

<b>Staff Resources:</b>				
<b><u>Current Staffing Levels</u></b>				
<b><u>Full-time Staff (FTE)</u></b>		<b><u>Part-time Staff (FTE)</u></b>		
Faculty	8	Faculty	10 (reported ???)	
Temporary	0	Temporary	0	
Classified	0	Classified	0	
Management	0	Management	0	
<p><b><u>Request for New/Replacement Staff</u></b> Use one line for each position requested. Justify each position in the space below.</p>				
	Title of Position	Classification (Faculty, Classified, or Management)	Full or Part Time	New or Replacement
Position 1	Human Services	Faculty	Full time	New
Position 2	Geography	Faculty	Part time	New
Position 3	Philosophy	Faculty	Part time	New
Position 4	Economics	Faculty	Part time	New
Position 5	Anthropology	Faculty	Full time	Replacement
<p><b>Justification:</b> (Address each position requested)</p> <p>Position 1: We have a strong Human Services program with very high enrollment numbers and a tremendous potential to expand.</p> <p>Position 2: Geography is a core requirement for the Liberal Studies major, there is only one qualified adjunct instructor, and we are unable to serve student needs with the current staffing.</p> <p>Position 3: There are no qualified adjunct instructors in philosophy, there is a high demand for more courses, and we are unable to serve student needs with the current staffing.</p> <p>Position 4: By relieving our present Political Science/Economics instructor's load in economics, more essential sections of political science may be offered. We are currently unable to serve student needs with the current staffing.</p> <p>Position 5: Should our full-time anthropology instructor retire without being replaced, we would be unable to serve student needs in that area.</p>				

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**BUDGET REQUEST**

	Current Budget	Amount of Increase	Revised Total
2000 (Student)			
4000	\$1,200.00	1. \$3,000.00 2. \$400.00 3. \$500.00 4. \$500.00	\$5600
5000		5. \$500.00	\$500
Other			

**Justification:**

(Include justification for each amount of increase requested.)

1. The Social Science faculty are committed to assigning writing assignments. To help educate students about how to correctly cite source materials and to help reduce instances of plagiarism, we would like to continue to subscribe to Turnitin. With the widespread availability of information on the Internet, our confidence level in assigning papers without a means to help reduce plagiarism is low.
2. Several of our disciplines make use of films and currently we have no budget to purchase new ones. The cost of just four films goes beyond our entire existing budget.
3. We would like to be able to purchase technology that would enhance the learning experience for students in our classes. For example, we would like to be able to purchase a classroom response system.
4. In the past we had a budget to be able to pay for a speaker to come to campus and give a presentation for our students. We like to be able to do that again.
5. We would like to be able to compensate faculty members for the many hours they donate without pay for the preparation of campus events (e.g. CHAP events). According to our contract, faculty members are eligible for compensation but there is no existing budget to pay them from.