

Executive Summary

Q:
A brief recap or highlights of the entire program review document. (500 words or less)

- Highlight major strengths and weakness.
- Highlight areas for improvement over the next 3-6 years.

Response:

The Earth Science Department is a multi- disciplinary department focusing mainly on general education courses in the natural sciences, but also offers transfer degrees in Geography (AA) and Geology (AS). The Earth Science Department consists of the following disciplines: Astronomy, Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Geography, Geology, Meteorology, and Oceanography.

Department Strengths

Enrollments for the Earth Science Department remain above the campus average, with notable numbers in Astronomy and Environmental Science. The success and retention rates for most disciplines are within or above the campus average.

The Earth Science Department will continue to grow and attract students with the additional faculty member to be hired for fall 2016 in Geography/GIS and the updating of planetarium equipment to run the Sci-Dome equipment used in the classroom and for public planetarium shows. The department currently offers a Geography transfer degree and is awaiting approval from the state for the Geology transfer degree.

Department Weaknesses

The classes in our disciplines are dependent on technology and the administration has been very supportive of faculty needs for equipment. The department would continue to grow and attract high enrollments with the addition of a technical/laboratory assistant, full or part-time, to aid in maintenance of our computers, telescopes, and laboratory needs.

Areas of Improvement

Disciplines in the department will continue to refine SLO's to improve student success and learning.

Faculty members will explore funding alternatives to maintain equipment and technology programs within the department.

Disciplines within Earth Science will consider offering classes to attract general education non-science majors to take classes.

Participants

Q: Please indicate the individuals that participated in the completion of this program review.

Response:

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Validation Comments for Program

Q:

Response:

*Module not completed. KD

Reminded Department Chair to complete. -MJ

Comments for Review Committees

Q:

Response:

Reminded Department Chair to complete. -MJ