

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 Services for Students with Disabilities Office (SSD) supports the participation of students with disabilities in educational activities consistent with the mission of the California Community Colleges, federal and state law, and LACCD policies. SSD instruction, services, and accommodations function to provide students with disabilities equal opportunities for successful completion of their educational goals. SSD promotes the maximum independence and integration of students.

Over the past decade, the demographics of our student population have changed significantly. There has been a tremendous rise in the number of students registered in the categories of Other Health Impaired (a catch-all category for people with disabilities that do not fall into the other more specific state-identified categories) and Psychological disabilities. This has had an impact on the special class sections that we are currently offering. The increase in our ability to test students for learning disabilities has also resulted in a significant rise in the number of students with learning disabilities we serve. That, combined with the increase of students with intellectual disabilities (Autism, Asperger's, Developmentally Delayed Learners) shaped the planning of our new offices, and the identified need for many more individual testing rooms than we had available in our former Campus Center location.

Currently, the SSD has a permanent staff of seven (an administrator, two Counselors, a Learning Disability Specialist, a Disability Specialist, a Special Services Assistant, and an Instructional Assistant for Assistive Technology), as well as an Adapted Physical Education instructor (the APE instructor is part of the Kinesiology department, and paid for with SSD funds).

Programs Offered by SSD

- Adapted Physical Education - set up to challenge students with disabilities by acquiring knowledge of health and physical fitness as it relates to their physical abilities.
- Alternate Media Production - provides students with alternative media that allow students with disabilities to access their class curriculum in alternative ways.
- Assistive Technology - provides assistance to students in identifying possible assistive technology aides that may be useful for students with disabilities, and training students how to use them.
- Counseling - designed to assist students in planning, selecting and achieving educational and career goals.
- High Tech Center - a state of the art computer lab with ten accessible computer stations each equipped with assistive technology software applications to benefit with disabilities.
- Learning Disability Program - offers students who are currently enrolled at the college the opportunity to take part in a psycho-educational evaluation to determine their cognitive ability as well as their areas of academic strength and weakness.
- Orientation - begins with an in-depth view of the disability-based accommodations available through the SSD office; specific orientations are provided based on a student's disability and applicable accommodations are explored.
- Personal Development/Counseling and Learning skills Courses
- Proctoring Program - providing the necessary testing accommodations to students with disabilities on behalf of LAVC faculty. Numerous testing rooms offer significantly enhanced proctoring capability and allow the SSD to proctor much more efficiently at less expense. Proctoring rooms are now equipped with video cameras which enhance our ability to monitor for academic integrity violations.
- Resource and Information Clearinghouse; - providing workshops, expertise and training to the campus at large.
- Specialized Tutoring in Math for students with learning disabilities. This is a pilot program paid for by Student Equity funds. As participants are seeing some success in their ability to pass Math courses, we hope to continue offering this service, funding permitting.

The SSD office is proud to serve the students with disabilities at Los Angeles Valley College with the partnership of various departments on campus. Some of these departments include but are not limited to EOPS, CalWORKS, TRIO, Athletics, Sheriff's Station, Student Health Center, General Counseling, Student Psychological Services, Academic Affairs, and the faculty as a whole.

Needs Analysis and Planning

Staffing:

- Hire a greater number of proctors to address the demand for an increased number of students requiring 1 to 1 proctoring.
- Hire an additional .5 Instructional Assistant - Assistive Technology to attend the growing student need for alternate format textbooks and instructional materials, as well as assistive technology support.

Academic Courses:

- Regularly offer Learning Skills 44 as a means of teaching our students how to better identify and make use of appropriate assistive technology. This will require reinstating this course from archive status.
- Revise the outline of Counseling 1 to develop a similar course specific to students with disabilities.
- Offer Learning Skills 185 for our students that would benefit from directed study in Learning Skills. This will require reinstating this course from archive status.

Facilities:

- Address issues with facility including insufficient insulation, inadequate lighting, greater sensitivity in room light sensors, and lack of adequate storage space.
- Acquire additional signage to direct students around the office suite; enhance SSD exterior signage with a Braille component and higher contrast.
- Address issues with safety and security including panic buttons and the ability to lock office doors from the inside of the office without having to open the door.
- Door sensors in the Adapted PE Center cause the doors to trigger randomly, sometimes catching students. The sensors should be repaired or replaced.
- The large metal gates leading from the walkway adjacent to Admin 1 into the pool complex are very heavy and likely exceed the ADA Accessibility Guidelines. These gates should be set to a complaint pressure rating, automated, or replaced.

Technology

- Replace staff Blade/ThinClient computers by cascading recently retired High Tech Center computers to all Blade computer stations.
- Acquire a Video Telephone to field calls directly from deaf students.

Student Equity Fund Requests

- We would like to continue offering specialized tutoring in Math as a service of the office. We hope our proposals for future funding of this project are granted.
- We plan to submit additional proposals to the Student Equity Committee for funding of two new projects:
 1. Assess an additional forty-five students per year for learning disabilities and alleviate the backlog of students waiting for this testing (currently experiencing a six-month delay before they clear the waiting list for LD assessment).
 2. Provide outreach to High School students with disabilities to inform them of the services and accommodations they may qualify for as students at LAVC, and guide them on how to register with the SSD office before or early in their first semester.

Participants

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

Response:

Validation & Feedback

Validation Comments for Program

Q:

Response:

RJB - Summary provides comprehensive, informative overview of how SSD Program serves students.

*Reviewed. KD

Student Services - I agree.

Comments for Review Committees

Q:

Response:

