

Los Angeles Valley College

Transfer Alliance/Honors Program

Self-Review by:

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Executive Summary

Philosophy, Mission and History

The TAP/Honors Program is designed to help students successfully transfer. It supports academic rigor and high standards of excellence. It is designed to motivate and foster student success for our diverse student population.

Expansion of the Program

The program has grown from 9 courses to over 100 sections/semester, 9 TAP faculty to 85, 1 \$100.00 scholarship to 11 \$500.00 scholarships, and from 20 certificates of completion to 80/year.

Strengths of the Program

The Honors program is designed to encompass all areas of general education and accommodate a majority of students' intended transfer majors. A variety of courses are being taught at varied times to accommodate student's varied schedules. We get some financial support from our Foundation, ASU and the Academic Senate. Most of this is in the form of scholarships for our students. We have started collaborating with PUENTE and UBUNTU/UMOJA Programs in hopes that we can increase the number of under represented students.

Weaknesses of the Program

The TAP/Honors Program has no budget. It is difficult to find funding for the TAP/Transfer Luncheon, annual TAP faculty meeting, annual TAP advisory meeting, TAP flyers and signs, memberships to professional organizations, student worker support, transportation to off-campus TAP-related events and recruitment efforts. A TAP account has been set up through the Foundation as a possible source of funding. This concept is new to the program and has not been fully explored. The program has no facility, such as an "Honors lounge" for TAP students and faculty to overlap outside the classroom to foster a better sense of community and gain information about the program. According to our TAP student survey, almost half of our TAP students feel that the recruitment process needs improvement. This is difficult to do with no budget.

TAP/Honors Staff

Program Director - Professor Lynn Polasek, TAP Counselors- Dr. Michael Gold and Ms. Ann Gee and one Student Worker - Raul Singh

Accountability

The program is overseen by the Dean of Curriculum, Carole Yee. The annual TAP Advisory Committee guides the program. The annual TAP Faculty meeting invites input from TAP faculty to help guide the program. The TAP/Transfer Luncheon recognizes and honors our TAP transfer students and faculty.

Academic Standards

Admission, Retention, Completion

TAP students are required to have a minimum of 3.25 GPA and eligibility to English 101 and Math 125. We require a minimum of one year of participation, a minimum of 15 units and maintenance of 3.25 GPA or higher. Students become TAP certified by completing their individual educational program plan.

TAP Addenda

The TAP Addendum accompanies the course outline for all honors courses. It describes how the honors section is distinguished from the regular section.

Honors Contracts

Contracts are available in any UC transferable course with the consent of the instructor. It is a unique agreement of additional assignments between the instructor and student that would be honors worthy. Only 1-2 honors courses may be completed this way.

Course Offerings

We have over 100 honors sections that are offered at varied times in all majors.

Consultation and Review with Off-Campus Representatives

A UCLA Representative is a member of our TAP Advisory Committee (UCLA Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Relations / Senior Admissions Evaluator/Student Affairs Officer) We also attend annual UCLA conferences. We are active members of the HTCC: Honors Transfer Council of California

Service Outcome of the TAP Program

We strive for successful student participation, completion and transfer, greater depth, quality and breadth of the college's general education outcomes. Some scholarships are available through the program.

TAP Representation on Campus

Academic Senate -Michael Gold, Budget Committee-Lynn Polasek, Team Transfer-Lynn Polasek and Michael Gold, Student Services Committee-Michael Gold.

TAP Website

Our website serves as an up-to-date source of information for: TAP forms, newsletter, special announcements, minutes to our meetings as well as contact information.

Program Goals and Objectives

1. TAP needs a budget.
2. Increase the representation of under represented students on campus.
PUENTE and UMOBJA/UBUNTU have agreed to collaborate with TAP in an attempt to help TAP recruit more under represented students. We want to establish a link between on-campus events, student clubs etc. with TAP/Honors. We also hope to create a TAP/My Space account linked to the TAP website where students can connect with each other and learn about the program.
3. Improve TAP Faculty Participation and Understanding of the TAP Program.
Because we have a large number of adjunct teaching TAP classes the director plans to meet with each one of them for orientation. This will keep the lines of communication open and help maintain the integrity of the program. We want to strive for higher participation in annual TAP functions and create a greater sense of community.
4. Maintain a high rate of successful student transfers.
Because of the monetary cutbacks in the state the transferring universities are taking less students. This will impact our transfer rate most likely reducing it. We plan to do all we can to maintain a high rate of transfer despite hard times.