



## Theatre 2014 - 2015

### Year Five Focus Area: PROGRAM SELF EVALUATION and SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>

Program review should model a miniature accreditation self-evaluation process within a designated area of the campus. In essence, it provides a model and practice that generates and analyzes evidence about specific programs. Eventually this work should guide the larger work of the accreditation self-evaluation as well as guiding planning and budgeting decisions. The review should be a candid self-evaluation supported by evidence, including both qualitative and quantitative data. It should honestly document the positive aspects of the program and establish a process to review and improve the less effective aspects of a program.

#### Program Review: Setting A Standard – The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges

##### I. Program Description

The discipline of theatre arts includes theoretical and practical courses in all aspects of theatre, providing preparation in acting, directing, and technical theatre through productions. Students take courses to prepare for transfer and/or for professional training. Performance and technical theatre opportunities are available to both majors and non-majors. Courses satisfy general education requirements for the associate degree in Theatre Arts, Theatre Arts with an Acting emphasis, and the Theatre Arts AD-T degree for Transfer. An associate degree in liberal arts with an emphasis in arts and humanities is also available.

Students may earn a certificate of achievement in Emerging Theatre Technologies, a one-year program that offers both a broad survey of recent advances in multiple areas of technical theatre specialty as well as in-depth, hands-on training in the use of up-to-date digital lighting and sound control equipment.

Laboratory and lecture courses are offered in the day and evening with late-start scheduling and to-be-announced scheduling on weekends. To accommodate the abundance of production needs.

The advisory committee for technical theatre meets annually and is comprised of 7 industry professionals including representatives from the Disney Corporation, Paramount Studios, Knott's Berry Farm, PRG, DPS, CT, and Royal Caribbean.

##### II. Discuss progress toward objectives identified in the Educational and Facilities Master Plan 2011 - 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> Reference to Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Standards:

Standard IIA.2 (b) The institution relies on faculty expertise and the assistance of advisory committees when appropriate to identify competency levels and measurable student learning outcomes for courses, certificates, programs including general and vocational education, and degrees. The institution regularly assesses student progress towards achieving these outcomes.

Collaboration with nearby universities is on-going and continuous. A review of similar curriculum between Citrus College's theatre arts courses and those at neighboring universities is constant. Courses from the Theatre Arts curriculum transfer as core courses or electives.

Over the past year, all courses have been reviewed due to the changes in repeatability and the restrictions imposed by the family structure and limitations imposed by the cap on experiences. With these changes – the need to review, expand and create courses in order to keep our training strong for student success is crucial.

A class designed to focus on the business of acting is being discussed and researched. This would be a core course for Performance in Theatre Arts.

The Emerging Theatre Technologies (ETT) program is constantly researching, updating and reviewing technology to keep our students as current as possible.

**III. Are there obstacles or barriers that restrict the rate of student completions or are delaying timely completion?**

The loss of repeatability, the family structure and the limitation of experiences as well as these rule changes being retroactive to somewhere in the 1980's is draconian, causes roadblocks to student success and creates unnecessary challenges for both student and staff to keep the program strong and viable.

Also – the minimum enrollment rule has hindered the completion rate of students working through the ETT program. Examples – this past summer 2014, THEA 160 – Vectorworks – was cancelled due to low enrollment thus delaying certificate completion, and this Fall 2014, THEA 245 – Stage Management – was cancelled due to low enrollment. This means that 8 students will not be able to complete their certificate for another year. And if enrollment is low again – they will have to wait yet another year.

With Fine and Performing Arts having an overall enrollment rate of 104% in Fall of 2014 - eliminating THEA 245 seems unfair and not constructive towards student completion.

**IV. Identify three to five measurable self-improvement objectives to improve student retention and completion during the next five years.**

Re-instate Repeatability...Disband the family structure...eliminate the experience cap...allow students to get the training in a timely fashion and transfer out...knowing they can compete in the academic world or in the professional world with confidence.

However, within this current structure the following should be addressed:

1. Have a close relationship with Counseling. Theatre Arts met with the Counseling staff in September 2014 to discuss the program. Cherie Brown handed out several different pieces of material to help educate the Counseling staff on the various courses and opportunities available.
2. Continue to train and gain knowledge in order to give our students the most current methods possible in both technical theatre as well as performance.
3. Continue to develop new and different performance, technical and design opportunities.
4. Continue to develop curriculum that is current and innovative.

**V. Discuss opportunities for change that may exist within the next five year.**

It seems like our already low budgets are being cut more and more. FPA must rely on ticket sales from their ASO accounts to hire, rent or purchase designers, crew, supplies, equipment, etc. for production needs. District funds run out very fast. The Little Theatre has an average capacity of around 130 seats – with a maximum of 5 performances per production. It is almost impossible to recoup funds spent with such a small house. There is no opportunity for financial growth as the Little Theatre does not have the same seating opportunities as the Haugh Performing Arts Center. And this academic year the department is doing a production every month to try to off -set production expenses. The mission for the department is to give students as many diverse performance opportunities as possible to prepare them for the real world...it is what we are supposed to be doing...and it becomes increasingly more difficult.

Consequently, an increase in district revenue is crucial to maintaining the college's mission for student success.