

Program Review at Porterville College

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:

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

Why does Porterville College require Program Review?

Program Review provides a vehicle that enables Porterville College to honor the commitments agreed to in our mission statement. Through Program Review we collaborate in looking closely at our own functioning and planning in order to ensure that students have remained our focus and that Porterville College continues to seek the most effective means to foster student learning and success.

Program Review is also one means through which we formalize the College's commitment to broad participation in planning. It enables those closest to programs and academic divisions to assess and analyze their effectiveness, and then, after study of all relevant external and internal conditions, propose innovative but realistic steps for moving into the future.

In addition, the Educational Master Plan and Accreditation both require Program Review. Recent revisions to the accreditation process, in fact, stipulate that colleges must coordinate their planning to document progress towards meeting goals and improving institutional effectiveness through a focus on learning outcomes assessment. Program Review is an expected—as well as an effective and timely means—to document that focus.

How often do programs at Porterville College complete a Program Review?

After its initial Spring 2006 Program Review, each College program or academic division will be required to update its Review every three years or whenever it seeks a staff position or an increase in budget. The updated Program Review will be the means through which a program documents its need for the position or budget increase.

Why link Program Review to the budget and planning processes?

Linking Program Review to the budget and planning processes positions the College to be proactive rather than reactive in meeting our goals and fulfilling our mission. In both good and bad budget years, the College has the responsibility to use its resources as effectively and wisely as possible. Without up-to-date assessment and planning by those closest to expenditures, the College cannot base its annual budget decisions on accurate data and innovative planning, nor can we be prepared to move forward with expenditures when unanticipated funds become available.

What assistance is available for completing the review?

Assessing and setting goals for a program or academic division should be the result of internal discussion, but the supervising administrator can provide assistance with the process. In addition, the Office of Research and Grants provides data that may be useful in completing program reviews on its website. For information on enrollment, demographics, and course retention, go to <http://www.portervillecollege.edu/research> and click on the link for 'Program Review'. With sufficient notice, the Office of Research and Grants can also provide additional information or help with interpretation of data.