Executive Summary

Mission College has established a comprehensive and thoughtful set of institution-set standards for use in evaluating the College’s success in accomplishing its mission of student learning. To establish effective and measurable standards, the Institutional Effectiveness Committee (IEC) studied the U.S. Department of Education regulations and guidelines, ACCJC’s instructions to evaluation team members, and conducted research on best practices in institution-set standards for community Colleges.

Using the standards already identified by the College as a foundation, the IEC identified ten metrics that best demonstrate the College’s effectiveness at fostering student learning and success, with the additional benefit that the data are reliable and readily available. The IEC referred again to best practices to choose an appropriate methodology for setting the standards. To control for fluctuations over time and for anomalies, the IEC determined that five-year means and their standard deviation would be solid foundations from which to establish the standards. For each metric, the five-year average and the standard deviation were calculated, and the institution-set standard was set at the mean minus 1 standard deviation. In addition to the standards, which establish the minimum acceptable level for the metric, the IEC also established aspirational goals in keeping with the culture of Mission College, which encourages continuous improvement. These aspirational goals for each metric were set at the five-year mean plus two standard deviations.

Analysis

Analysis of the College’s Transfer to 4-year Institutions metric showed a rate that was lower than the standard that the College had identified. Further analysis revealed two factors: first, statewide transfers were also down significantly from 2011-12 to 2012-13, when the economy was in deep recession, and second, that Mission’s transfer count rebounded in 2013-14 to 388 transfers, above the institution-set standard of 313. This datapoint will be included in the 2015 Institution-set Standards. The College is actively taking steps to improve transfer, with a key initiative focused on completion of student assessment, orientation, and education plans for all students.

The IEC is working on expanding the institution-set standards to include job placement rates. Like the vast majority of California Community Colleges, Mission College has found it challenging to access job placement data for its alumni. All areas of the College are involved in efforts to meet these standards, and discussions have begun in different academic divisions as to how to respond effectively.

To view the Mission College Institution-Set Standards please visit the Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness website: http://missioncollege.edu/research/planning_inst_effectiveness.html