

Program Viability Mini-Review

While talking to statewide deans regarding program viability, what works, lessons learned and thing to consider it was suggested that one of the appropriate times to determine program viability would be when a faculty member retires or moves to a different position. This review would be a quick pre-step determining if a program should go into a program viability process or if direct hiring of a new faculty member should commence.

The following four areas would be evaluated.

1. ***Student Attendance Patterns*** – Patterns of course taking would be reviewed within the program area to determine if there was student progression in completion of degrees and/or certificates or if the program consisted of popular project shops.
2. ***Need for the Program*** – The following question would be asked: If I put the program back though the Chancellor’s Office using the standards for a new program would it be approved? This would include the following factors:
 - Other community colleges in the area currently offering the program;
 - Other programs closely related to the proposed program offered by the college;
 - Relation of the proposed program to job market analysis, where applicable; and
 - Enrollment projection for the proposed program.
3. ***Curriculum is Current*** – When was the last time the curriculum was updated for the program?
4. ***Resources*** – Adequate resources are needed to determine if a program will be a success. The following resources should be reviewed:
 - Library and media center resources;
 - Facilities and equipment required to initiate and sustain the program;
 - Availability of adequate or proposed financial support; and
 - Availability of faculty.

This mini-review will then give you enough information to determine if you should go directly into hiring for the program or if you continue to the program viability process.