

Academic Unit Plan for Geology / Oceanography

Division: Science/Family & Consumer Studies

Academic Year: 2010-2011

Division Chair: Joyce Parker

Executive Summary

Despite being a pair of non-major, elective course offerings, Geology and Oceanography Classes have been steadily growing in student enrolment over the past 10 years. Student Learning Outcomes have been partially established and are in the processes of being synchronized with SLOs of other pathways that are categorized with Geology/Oceanography in the Earth Sciences and Physical Sciences. The classroom (SCI 210) used for these courses needs audio video improvements. We are eagerly awaiting the completion of the new Science Building Complex which would add a much needed classroom technology items to the current classroom. Additionally this classroom lacks a proper cooling system making it very uncomfortable during warm days. Although original plans included connection of this building to the college coolant system, but apparently there are no plans for upgrading anything in the current building. As housing/storing of many currently owned geological equipment and rock samples in the New Science Complex is an issue. We are awaiting a storage solution. The two courses are intimately related to students attending numerous field classes, funding for transportation, and support material is a necessity.

With the affiliation of Build LACCD, and Sustainable Works (A non-profit organization) we are launching an ongoing workshop series to educate the college community about environmentally friendly sustainability practices.

Activities Description Narrative: please describe suggested activities, including grant proposals to be written, new course or program initiatives, or program viability studies in priority order.

1. Establish and streamline SLOs for the two courses.
2. Initiate regular assessment of the SLOs for the two courses.
3. Discard outdated equipment, organize and clean the storage area and rocks samples.
3. Purchase mineral and rock samples essential for the current labs.
4. Write a grant proposal to install and maintain a seismometer in the new Science Complex
5. Write grant proposals seeking funding to subsidize student fees to major field classes.
6. Install temporary cooling units
7. Establish a new 1-unit short-term course in Field Geology

SLO Assessment Results Narrative: please describe assessment activities that support proposed unit initiatives.

Preliminary assessment tools for Oceanography 1 is in place, but is awaiting the evaluation of their consistency with SLOs of other physical sciences courses.

Staffing Implications: if any request will require additional classified support or training, please describe its extent.

Weekly support from a student worker is essential to upkeep the classroom and the storage area.

Technology Implications: if any request involves technology, please describe its impact on the network, licensing, repair, training and support.

Current classroom instructions' audio/video component depends on a cart-mounted LCD projector, a broken laptop, a VCR, and DVD player. There are no plans to continue with the proposed ceiling mounted system.