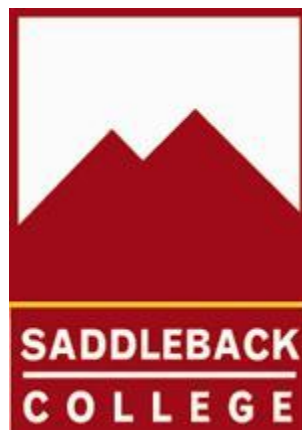


**Saddleback College
Annual Update for Environmental
Studies**



Submitted on May 17, 2010

A. Statement of Current Situation

The Environmental Studies department currently offers an AA degree, a certificate in Ecological Restoration, and an occupational skills award in Sustainability Studies, which is new Fall 2009. Enrollments are up 11% over last year and the number of degrees/certificates earned have also increased.

B. Human Resource Needs

The Department has a lone classified support staff member. This 20 hour per week laboratory technician slot is inadequate if we want the Department to grow. This person is shared with the Aquarium and Aquaculture Science program which receives 10 hours of the 20 hours allotted. Ideally, the Department would like to hire an additional 20 hour per week laboratory technician to oversee the Outdoor Classroom. This is absolutely critical since there is only one student helper and volunteers who are maintaining the Outdoor Classroom currently.

As the program grows, the Department would like to add a second full-time faculty member. However, it is known that this will not probably happen for sometime.

C. Instructional Needs

The Environmental Studies department needs a larger OSH budget since it is limited in how many classes that can be offered in a given year. It is next to impossible to meet the growing interest in the field with the current OSH budget.

The Environmental Studies department has been very fortunate with obtaining instructional equipment, however, the Department could still use more to help continue to make the environmental studies lab state of the art. It is important that the needs continue to be met and all equipment remain working properly and is kept current. Also, as the field of environmental studies becomes more technologically advanced, the Department will want to invest in technology, such as GIS and other relative software.

Other needs occur in the Outdoor Classroom. In order to use it as a hands-on, interactive learning environment, more money will be needed to enhance the environments including plants, signs, lighting, irrigation, etc.

D. Research Needs

Even after this program review, the Department will continue to research its institutional effectiveness and identify needed improvements or areas of concerns. In addition, the Department will continue to maintain and further develop Student Learning Outcomes and use this information to help with future program reviews.

More research will also need to be done in order for the programs and classes to remain current. As environmental issues continue to evolve and new issues emerge, it will be important that the Department incorporates those changes into

the curriculum. It is also essential to continue to research the needs of businesses and the community in general. Finally, continual research is necessary to help with the recruitment process of associate faculty and students.

E. Technical, Equipment and Other Resource Needs

In order to modernize the environmental studies lab, updated equipment and technology will be essential and this will take money which currently is in limited supply. Furthermore, maintaining a proper running lab safely will require additional funds as supplies, equipment, and technology needs to be added or replaced.

F. Facilities Needs

The biggest need is a large lecture room. Large lecture rooms are in high demand and limited quantity at Saddleback College, and unfortunately, the large lecture classroom (TAS 226) that the Environmental Studies department used to teach classes in was converted into a computer lab. When that occurred, it left TAS with no large lecture classrooms, so now large lecture classes have to be taught in other buildings, where they are competing with other large lecture classes offered at Saddleback College. It is strongly recommended, if possible, that an area within TAS be converted into a large lecture classroom.

Although it would be nice to redesign the environmental studies lab and supply room, it is highly unlikely that it would occur. Therefore, improvements need to be made to make it more functional. For example, we need to have more storage for supplies and equipment, primarily microscopes. Also, the environmental studies supply room was not designed to support a desk which is need for the laboratory technician.

G. Marketing and Outreach Needs

More money and time is needed to market the Environmental Studies program. It would be fantastic to improve the website and make a promotional DVD.