



**SOUTHWESTERN**  
AN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# Academic Master Plan (AMP)

## Goals

2019-2020

### III. ACADEMIC MASTER PLAN 2019-20

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Identified in section III are the specific academic goals for Southwestern Oregon Community College with short and long term steps to achieving them. These goals seek to be concrete enough that we can tell when they are achieved. Senators, Office of Instruction, and staff will work together to look for opportunities and resources that will help implement and at times change the course of action as each goal becomes a reality.

**Goal One:** The College will expand and enrich liberal art programs, courses, and events in ways that nourish life-long learning, increase student success, sustain the college financially, and create a culture of excellence.

Faculty Senate will support this initiative by connecting information across departments to help staff, manage resources, and make sure we are fiscally able to achieve the goal. The Faculty Senate and administration will work together to develop committees and subcommittees to pursue this goal. We will need to assess the budget process (grants, fixed expenses, overhead costs, staffing needs) and the overall feasibility of each initiative and activity. All relevant data will be studied to determine the viability of every initiative.

#### **Short Term:**

- Discover the degrees, talent, and expertise of our current staff and determine what resources we already have for enrichment of the liberal arts.
- Create an Arts Council that would research which courses and programs are feasible and meet the needs of students and the community. This should include those in the community who can support and advise new initiatives.
- Write job descriptions for all faculty positions and hire people so as to increase the number of liberal arts courses that we can offer. For instance, we may be able to hire people who can teach both writing courses and media communications or theater.
- Discover how other colleges in similar settings have nourished the liberal arts.

#### **Long Term:**

- The restoration of the theater, foreign languages and broadcast journalism courses. Feasibility of restarting programs in these areas will be assessed along with acquiring articulations and following a Guided Pathway.
- The return of student publications
- Support of new initiatives in areas like dance, film, forensics, and music production.
- An increase in number and variety of ways students can engage with art.

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**Goal Two:** The College will enhance student success and strengthen the role faculty play by improving the instruction of traditional and nontraditional students.

Faculty senate will support this goal through its curriculum, faculty professional development and instructional technology committees. The intent of this effort is to bring educational opportunities that will promote intellectual growth for both faculty and students. Plans can include facilitating faculty peer mentoring, assessment and recognition of excellent teaching; andragogy seminars; grant writing opportunities; cross discipline assignments; support for new course creation; quality checks for 2+2 and online instruction; and team teaching opportunities.

Faculty senate will share initiatives with administration to assess budget needs and if necessary credit release.

### Short term:

- Plan throughout the year to incorporate andragogy sessions in faculty meetings (in-service, brown bags, general faculty, committee meetings, division meetings, department meetings). Topics might include team-teaching, grant writing, mentoring, cross discipline assignments.
- Encourage in-service presentations by faculty exploring the successes and pitfalls of different instructional innovations and projects.
- Continue in-service training for part-time faculty
- Revive the administrative review for 2+2 and part-time teachers. Faculty partnering with administration to help in evaluation
- Facilitate a formal structure to faculty peer-mentoring

### Long term:

- Task appropriate senate committees to assess the efficacy of the andragogy sessions offered throughout the year. The training that has the most benefit can be considered for senate committee adoption to further their use.
- Incentivize part-time faculty evaluations with pay increases. For example, prorate the first 3 years, then tie pay increases to every 3<sup>rd</sup> year positive evaluation.

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**Goal Three:** The College will nurture a community of scholars by supporting student and professor research and educational opportunities both locally and abroad.

Faculty senate will support efforts to plan and budget new research opportunities that connect students with their professors. Research shows that study abroad improves completion, retention, and transfer rates (studies by Georgia learning outcomes, California Community College, and University of Minnesota). Studies by Georgetown University show that study abroad improves language learning. Other studies by Georgetown and others show that study abroad fosters intercultural understanding, provides a global context and builds enlightened nationalism. Study abroad also increases employability and career skills. (five studies)\*. Instructional strategies will be assessed first in curriculum committee for their efficacy and budgetary concerns. Instructional council will then assess rigor and non-academic issues surrounding the project. Credit release and budget concerns will be shared with administration.

- **Short term:** Survey general faculty for ideas that foster scholars through research and educational opportunities both locally and abroad.
- Identify the resources necessary
- Form a pilot grant writing committee to assess grants available and to provide guidance for those wishing to pursue grants.
- Work with the work-experience coordinator to set up local opportunities

### **Long term:**

- Set up faculty liaisons with study abroad programs
- Offer at least two study abroad programs per year through different disciplines
- Host other study abroad students here at SOCC
- Write grants to get AmeriCorps volunteers here to help with service learning projects
- Advertise SOCC's yearly study abroad programs.
- Track and assess the benefits and success of students who study abroad

\*[https://www.nafsa.org/Policy\\_and\\_Advocacy/Policy\\_Resources/Policy\\_Trends\\_and\\_Data/Independent\\_Research\\_Measuring\\_the\\_Impact\\_of\\_Study\\_Abroad/](https://www.nafsa.org/Policy_and_Advocacy/Policy_Resources/Policy_Trends_and_Data/Independent_Research_Measuring_the_Impact_of_Study_Abroad/)

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**Goal 4:** The College will expand and support Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, courses and non-credit workforce training.

CTE faculty, senate and the VPI will work together to achieve this goal. Committees such as curriculum, faculty professional development and instructional technology are sources of support. Effort will be made to have career and technical education faculty up to date with current industry standards. Evidence based trainings will be provided both within and outside the institution. Industry partners will be consulted. Tracking systems that provide feedback on retention and success rates will be developed.

### **Short Term:**

- Develop a ten-year CTE program development plan that coincides with both the facilities master plan and the academic master plan.
- Seek adequate funding for CTE faculty professional, from first year experience to providing time and support for faculty to stay current in their industry.
- Facilitate cross-department cooperation about best practices in accreditation, program review, and outcomes assessment.

### **Long Term:**

- Seek grants as a part of a strategic grant procurement system and other funding to support CTE programs.
- Develop interagency agreements with industry partners by facilitating robust advisory committees and supporting needs of community partners.
- Develop a system to track graduates and to engage with CTE alumni for the purposes of improving programs and providing students with a network across industries.
- Develop an Applied Baccalaureate degree in two CTE areas within the next five years.

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**Goal 5:** The College will support and encourage the growth of STEAM (Science, Technology Engineering Art and Mathematics) education.

The college will encourage professional development among faculty that incorporates research topics in their respective fields. Interdisciplinary connectivity within credit courses and community outreach efforts will be made to support innovation in instruction. Collaboration between Southwestern and outside institutions (colleges, universities, research, and community organizations) will be encouraged to provide faculty and students with opportunities in STEAM projects.

### **Short-Term Goals:**

- Develop a 10-year science and engineering program development plan that coincides with both the facilities master plan and the academic master plan.
- Seek grant and other funding to equip the lab space in the Umpqua Health Science and Technology Building with upgraded lab equipment and instrumentation.
- Foster academic and industrial partnerships between the college and community partners (educational outreach, internships, etc.)
- Continue to serve as a community research for science education through guest lecture series and other supported STEAM programs
- Foster collaborations between schools both locally and outside of Oregon to facilitate student and faculty research opportunities
- Encourage interdisciplinary collaborations to strengthen communications and interaction between disciplines.

### **Long-Term Goals:**

- Seek grants as part of a strategic grant procurement system and other funding to support STEAM programs, research, and community outreach opportunities
- Develop a system to track graduates and to engage with STEAM program alumni for the purposes of improving programs and giving current students a network of contacts to aid with transfer and preparation for upper division research.
- Develop an Applied Baccalaureate degree in two STEAM areas within the next five years.