

Speech Communication

Program Review Presentation

Cohort 2: 2022-2023



AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE

Speech Communication Department Profile

Our purpose and function are to provide transfer-level instruction in communication for students seeking certificates and degrees as well as personal growth and enrichment.

Our department places students first in providing an academically rich, inclusive environment that inspires critical thinking, learning and achievement, and responsible participation in the community.

We are committed to offering education and support for students to strengthen basic skills, earn associate degrees and certificates, transfer to other colleges and universities, and achieve a career as well as other academic and personal goals.

We are dedicated to using technology to help students to stay enrolled and engaged in our courses when they can not attend in person with our new flexible participation technology classroom.



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Historical Analysis

Program Strengths:

1. We have achieved a culture of innovation. Our evidence is that we have new innovative curriculum and use new technology in the classroom. Utilize innovative, high-quality instructional methods and technologies.
2. Engage students early and often.
3. Teach culturally relevant curriculum.
4. Our department places students first in providing an academically rich, inclusive environment that inspires critical thinking, learning and achievement, and responsible participation in the community.

Program Challenges:

1. We found that we are still experiencing equity gaps with our African-American student populations.
2. Some of our data is restrictive as we have changed our designator from SPEECH to COMM and it is difficult to see the changes in success rates on one page.
3. We are interested in looking at how the different modalities (fully online, partially online, synchronous zoom, on-ground) may impact our data beyond the pandemic.



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Objectives:

- 1) Support ARC's mission by promoting students' achievement of their career, academic, and personal goals, inspiring critical thinking, and responsible participation in the community.
- 2) Continue to offer a vital and applicable degree that provides and promotes oral communication as a viable and important study for students as they progress in their general education academic career.
- 3) Advocate for students to take Communication courses early in their college career as they benefit from learning critical thinking and presentation skills for their other college courses.
- 4) Continue to offer opportunities for students to use their voices in academics and in their community.
- 5) Continue to help our students understand empathy for individuals and communities who feel "othered".
- 6) Redouble our efforts in raising the success rates of our African American student population.
- 7) Use aggregated data as a springboard for additional offerings to other student sponsored programs from underserved, disproportionately impacted student populations, such as Puente, PRIDE, PRISE, and Umoja learning communities.
- 8) Close equity gaps for African American, Latin/a/x, Native American, and Filipino, LGBTQIA+, and Pacific Islander students in all of our courses.



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Strategic Enhancement

Our objectives are:

1. Increase collaboration between Los Rios COMM departments on curriculum development, teaching & learning practices, and class scheduling.
2. Increase culturally relevant assignments through all course offerings.
3. Increase collaboration and alignment of practices among all Communication faculty (including part-time).
4. Connection to student resources: HomeBase, UNITE center, and other relevant campus resources.
5. Increase use of Zero-cost textbooks.
6. Increase number and variety of class offerings to programs that represent DI student populations and learning communities.

We intend to:

1. Use department level/and cross-college meetings and other professional development opportunities to increase collaborative work.
2. Work with administration to increase class offerings.



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Planning Steps

Our department is dedicated to foster classrooms that are safe, inclusive, and equitable for all students. Some of the ways in which we plan to do are the following:

- Collaboration and connection to other COMM departments to discuss equity in offerings and modalities in an effort to help employees deepen their commitment to equity and inclusion.
- Promoting services and programs on campus: DSPS, WAC/RAD, Library, and UNITE Center will help create an inclusive and safe campus environment for all.
- Increasing Zero-cost textbooks will provide accessibility for all.
- Sharing our department's new developed OER Public Speaking Canvas shell to strengthen inclusive and culturally rich assignments will help challenge power, privilege, and oppression.
- Increase class offerings to programs that represent DI student populations and learning communities.
- Continue to strengthen our commitment to flexible participation courses.

