Program: VETERANS FIRST PROGRAM

Division: STUDENT SERVICES

Date: NOVEMBER 1, 2024

Writer(s): Evelyn Andrews

SLO/SAO Point-Person:

Audience: Deans, Vice Presidents of Student Services and Academic Services, All Planning and Allocation Committees. This document will be available to the public.

Uses: This Program Review will inform the audience about your program. It is also used in creating division summaries, determining college planning priorities, and determining the allocation of resources. The final use is to document the fulfillment of accreditation requirements.

Please note: Program Review is NOT a vehicle for making requests. All requests should be made through appropriate processes (e.g., Instructional Equipment Request Process) or directed to your dean or supervisor.

Time Frame: This Program Review should reflect your program status during the 23-24 academic year. It should describe plans starting now and continuing through 2024-25.

Helpful Links:

- ★ Tools for Writers - with contacts for help with specific sections.
- ★ Program Review Glossary - defines key terms you can review when writing.
- ★ Fall 2023 Program Reviews
- ★ Program Review FAQs

For help with your program review, please contact Karin Spirn at kspirn@laspositascollege.edu

Sections

There are four sections to the document:

1. Review your program, including curriculum updates, accomplishments, challenges, and planning.
2. Data Analysis
3. SLO/SAO Review
4. Feedback on the PR template and process

Instructions

1. Please answer each question with enough detail to present your information, but it doesn't have to be long.
2. If the requested information does not apply to your program, write "Not Applicable."
3. Optional/suggested: Communicate with your dean while completing this document.
4. Send an electronic copy of this form to Program Review chair, Karin Spirn, and your Dean by Monday, Nov. 4, 2024

5. Even if you don't have much to report, we want to hear from you, so your voice is part of the college planning process.

Equity is a guiding principle. Here is the LPC definition:

Las Positas College will achieve equity by changing the impacts of structural racism, ableism, homophobia, and systematic poverty on student success and access to higher education, achieved through continuous evaluation and improvement of all services. We believe in a high-quality education focused on learning and an inclusive, culturally relevant environment that meets the diverse needs of all our students.

 LPC Equity Definition: Equity is parity in student educational outcomes. It places student success and belonging for students of color and disproportionately impacted students at the center of focus.

Please place an X next to N/A where relevant

A. Accomplishments: Identify your main accomplishments from the 23-24 academic year.

Some areas you *may* want to note in your explanation are:

- Did your accomplishments support your program's plans identified in recent PRs?
- Did they relate to guided pathways?
- Were they in support of the colleges equity definition?
- Did they connect to any of the college planning priorities?
- Did you receive any positive/negative feedback from students?
- Are there any innovations or new processes you'd like to integrate?
- Has your program changed in response to the SCFF model of college funding? (completions, increasing enrollment, offering certificates, degrees, etc.)?

N/A_____

College Planning Priority "Student Success & Completion"
Veterans First Program Accomplishments Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Mission Ready Learning Community Fall 2023
The Veterans First Program completed our second year of the Mission Ready Veterans Learning Community during Fall 2023.   Mission Ready Learning Community brought together a group of student veterans to create a more cohesive and interactive learning environment where we strive to provide student veterans with a veteran friendly space to learn and meet their academic goals. Mission Ready students participated in English 1A (course code 22776, instructed by Professor Jim Ott, and Communications 1 (course code 23461), with Professor Dobson.

Operation Gateway Summer 2023:
Operation Gateway #15 - New Student Veterans Orientation was huge success! Over two days – July 27 and 28, 2023, over 31 new student veterans and military affiliated students participated in Operation Gateway.
Of the 31 students enrolled, they were enrolled in 107 unique courses with a 78% pass or success rate for Fall 2023.

Operation Gateway: Summer 2023 Participants
Fall 2023 Course Success Rates

	Success		Non-success		Withdrawal		Total	
	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
All Enrollments	83	78%	19	18%	5	5%	107	100%

Overview of Operation Gateway included the first day covering campus resources where students visited with the Library, Computer Center, Tutorial/Reading and Writing Lab, Disability Student Program and Services, Career Center, and Financial Aid. Day Two focused on resources specifically for veterans. Students received a

checklist of requirements to ensure compliance with utilizing their VA Education Benefits, met with a Veterans Counselor and Certifying Official. Students also networked with professionals in industry and community veterans service organizations during the Friday Resource Fair.

Comments from participants – What was most impactful about Operation Gateway?

"The whole two days was great learned so much about resources available to us as students."
(Jovan P. – US Army Veteran)

"The most impactful experience for me was learning about the different programs. I can reach out to pay for my education and my family's. I was particularly interested in the CalVet Fee Waiver, as my son would be eligible to use it under Plan B." (Jarad W. – US Army Veteran)

"The constant message of asking for help was the most impactful from hearing it from different people. When a lot of veterans are independent, the openness of using your resources may persuade them to ask for help earlier rather than later." (Vivian C. – US Army Veteran)

"As a veteran student who had already achieved an associate's degree at another community college where there was no real support for veterans The LPC veterans first program is completely 180 degrees from any support that I would have received before I am so grateful that I found this program and I look for now to going back to college and getting more experience as to where before I didn't want to go back to college I struggled it was very hard I was left on my own to figure everything out." (Noah K. – US Army Veteran)

"Chapter Benefits explained. emphasis on services are here for the Veteran, services go away if not used. There is no reason to feel guilty to use so many available resources." (Richard A. – USMC Veteran)

College Planning Priority "Student Success & Completion" (continued)

- UC Berkeley Campus Tour: The Veterans First Program held a UC Berkeley Veterans Transfer Tour on October 13, 2023 where our Veterans Counselor coordinated a prospective student transfer tour of the UC Berkeley campus. The campus tour gave veteran students a chance to explore the campus and get a firsthand view of the college and programs offered. Our host, Luis Hernandez (Program Director / Academic Achievement Counselor) provided a tour of UC Berkeley classrooms, favorite campus hangouts, and notable campus landmarks. Most importantly, he answered our questions about the transfer process, academic programs available and the process of assimilating to a large campus. Being able to tour a prospective campus and understand the culture and community really helps students as they are making their decisions to transfer.

- SJSU Transfer Tour: The spring semester also enabled the Veterans First Program to offer students the opportunity to visit and tour San Jose State University's campus on March 8th, 2024. The group of students were greeted upon arriving at San Jose State's campus by their very own Veterans Resource Center's staff at SJSU, followed by a tour of the campus and visit with staff at the SJSU Veteran Center.
- Veterans First Program Open House: In January and May, 2024, we held a Veterans First Program Open House. Each session, over forty new student veterans attended the session. At Open House,

each student received a personal orientation from each staff member. They met with the Veterans Counselor Assistant on how to login with their student ID when they visit the Veterans Resource Center, reps from the Student Veterans Organization leaders on how to get involved, the Veterans Specialist on how to use VA education benefits, the Veterans Counselor on the advantages of having a comprehensive education plan. They also met with a representative from the Financial Aid Office and the Disability Student Program and Resources office. Students all received a $100 credit from the LPC Bookstore.

- Spring 2024 - Career Search Series: City of Livermore, Livermore Police Dept, TESLA, Homeland Secruity, LLNL. For the spring semester, the Veterans First Program hosted a variety of potential employers. The city of Livermore, Tesla, Homeland Security, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories. All came by to inform the student veterans of potential employment opportunities as well as feedback on resumes and interview questions that the student veterans would potentially face.This resulted in great networking between the college and the community. We are looking forward to hosting them again.

College Planning Priority "Health and Wellness"

During the Fall 2023 Semester, we offered the following programs which focused on Health and Wellness:

- Our annual 2.2 for 22 Challenge for Veterans was held on October 21, 2023. The primary goal of the 2.2 for 22 event is to raise awareness about the distressing fact that 22 veterans succumb to suicide each day. While the event initially focused on engaging the Las Positas College community and the local area, it became evident last year that the message resonated well beyond these boundaries. Over 100 people participated in activities that challenged their minds and bodies including 22 unique challenge stations. Young and old had fun doing activities for 22 seconds or 2 minutes. Challenges included a 22 second Dance Off, Hula Hoop Challenge, Chess Challenge, Hammer Swing Challenge and Dummy Drag Challenge to name a few. Funds raised went toward scholarships and programs to promote mental health and life/college balance.

- Community Engagement – Our office hosted Veterans Affairs Commission for Alameda County – September 18, 2023. This Town Hall meeting brought the community to Las Positas College. In this meeting the board and community discussed various ways to further support veterans in the community. In addition to discussing resources and assistance for veterans, we also discussed community and college events that were coming up.

- Student Veterans Organization held its annual Fall 2023 – SVO Trunk or Treat
Involving veterans' families created a fun, healthy safe environment where students were able to bring their children to campus. The campus and Livermore community were dressed in their scariest and silliest costumes to participate in the fun. Student Veterans Organization members decorated their car trunks with Halloween decorations and lots of candy. Each member was dressed in costume to promote the holiday.

- Our Program hosts monthly visits from the Palo Alto VA Heath Mobile Outreach Unit and CAL VET. The veterans first program continues to strengthen its relationship with the VA. The Palo Alto's mobile VA unit came to campus once a month to support the veterans first program and they did so by

providing P.A.C.T Act Screenings, checkups, Overall VA healthcare information and signing up new student veterans for health benefits with the VA. The VA Palo Alto mobile team has a significant amount of knowledge about the VA health system and they do a great job at passing down that information to the student veterans.

College Planning Priority "Equity"

- Veterans Day Events:
  The Veterans First Program partnered with various community groups to recognize and celebrate the service of our veterans. Our final event of the month was a presentation focusing on "Honoring Our Heroes." This event was held in the Mertes Gallery on campus and featured military photography from Vietnam Veteran/Photographer Steven Burchik. During the celebration we recognized three essay contest winners who wrote about their military journey "A Hero's Journey." Congratulations to essay winners Siera Johnson, US Navy Veteran; Aurelio Antonio Sandoval, US Army Veteran; and Jarad Westfall, US Army Veteran. Essay awards were sponsored by the American Legion Post 246 and Blue Star Moms. We appreciate their continued support of veterans!

  We also presented five "Quilts of Valor" to veterans. "Quilts of Valor " is a handmade quilt presented by the Amador Valley Quilters to a service member or veteran who has been touched by war. The recipients are either students, alumni or staff of the Las Positas College Veterans First Program. All combat veteran, and proud of your service to our country. Handmade quilts were presented to Gisella Agurcia – USMC Veteran, Edgar Reyes-USMC Veteran, Jovan Pierre-US Army Veteran, Trevor Penero – US Army Veteran, and Richard Arredondo – USMC Veteran.

- Remembering 9/11 Event: Author and historian, special guest speaker Dr. Harold Strunk, an Army/Navy veteran, shared an abundance of knowledge, experience, and personal account of events leading up to the September 11 attach on America. Veterans, community members, and students enrolled in History and Political Science courses attended his presentation. He spoke from the heart, was riveting and engaging! He challenged the audience to look into the events that surrounded that historical and heart wrenching event with more detail. Dr. Strunk joined us for lunch and was happy to answer any questions the community had. The goal for this event was to remind the community that freedom comes with sacrifice, and that we must honor those who pay the ultimate price for it. Special thanks to VFW 7265 for the presentation of colors and Ms. Anastasia Pono for singing the national anthem.

- Honoring Women Veterans (Spring 2024): March is federally recognized as Women's History Month. During this month, Las Positas College's Veterans First Program proudly holds an event that acknowledges and honors the hard work and sacrifices of women veterans recognizing and celebrating their contributions to our community and nation as a whole. The twelfth annual "Honoring Women Veterans" event was held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 28th, in room 2401 of building 2400. Keynote speakers, including Lt. Col. Marisol Chalas, the first Latina National Guard Blackhawk helicopter pilot, and Virginia Wimmer, the Deputy Secretary of Women Veterans Affairs at the California Department of Veterans Affairs, attended the event and delivered motivational and powerful speeches to the audience. Scholarships were also given out during the event and were given by organizations such as the Valley Veterans Foundation (VVF), Blue Star Moms (BDSM), Josefa Higuera

Livermore Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Organizations such as the Valley Veterans Foundation (VVF), Blue Star Moms (BSM), the Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) awarded scholarships to women veterans during the event. Some of the recipients included Lilia Venegas, a current student here at Las Positas College and a U.S. Army Veteran, Siera Johnson, also a current student and a U.S. Navy Veteran, and Adriana Santos, who is an alumnus for Las Positas College and a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. To top things off, the event included a Quilts of Valor presentation, honoring women that have served in the military.

B. Challenges, Pain Points, and Needs

What significant or ongoing challenges or obstacles did your Program face during the 23-24 academic year, especially related to accomplishing program goals/plans? Consider funding, staffing, materials, facilities, outside requirements such as legislative mandates, working on equity gaps, etc. Highlight/identify any challenges mentioned in previous reviews.

N/A_____

Significant Challenges:
Facilities – as we continue to serve student veterans, we have outgrown our space. To augment the need for more space, we had reserved classrooms in the Tutorial Center, Library, and 1000 building for dedicated "study space" for veterans.

C. Planning: What are your program's most important plans, either new or continuing?

N/A_____

Veterans First Program will continue with fundraising for scholarships and emergency relief funds. We plan on forging ahead in delivering timely services to ensure students receive their VA education benefits, as well as programming to support the caring campus initiatives.

D. Identify any college, district, or legislative barriers to your program's equity work. What suggestions do you have for minimizing or eliminating these barriers?

Barriers:

Suggestions:

N/A___XX_____

E. Curriculum Updates

Reasons for updating include that it is required every two (CTE) or five (non-CTE) years, there is a program or college need, starting a new program, or new legislation.

1. Are you planning to update any curriculum in 24-25?
   Yes____   No____

2. Comments (Optional):

3. Please review your program maps. Do you need to make any modifications?
   Yes____   No____

4. If yes, compare each Program Map to your current course offerings and sequencing. Pay close attention to prerequisite information, and classes offered only during certain semesters.
   a) If your map requires a **non-curricular change** (i.e., course sequencing), consult your **Pathway counseling faculty liaison** to initiate changes.
   b) **If your map requires a curricular change** (Program modifications) - these are initiated through the Curriculum Committee.
   Any questions? Contact the Curriculum Chair or the Curriculum and SLO Specialist.

Section 2: Data Analysis – Quantitative and Qualitative

IR Data Review: Discuss any significant trends in the data provided by the Office of Institutional Research and Planning (or any other data you use for decision-making and planning).

Veterans First Program: No Data Packet Available.
Will work on this for the next Program Review.

(**Note**: *Not all Programs have IR data available; if your program does not have a data packet or dashboard data, you may note that in the response box and reach out to the IR team.*)

Here are a few samples of data to review and reference if that's helpful.

- IR Data packets are available here (Posted Fall 24)
- Academic & Career Pathway Specific data (Posted Fall 24)
- Your program's survey data

- [Transfer data](#)
- Course Set Standard Overview & Success Rates Dashboard are in the middle of [this page](#)

B. Program-Set Standard (Instructional Programs Only):

The program-set standard is a baseline that alerts programs if their student success rates have dipped suddenly. 95% of the rolling 5-year average. There are valid reasons a program does not meet the Program Set Standard; when a program does not meet this standard, they are asked to examine possible reasons and note any actions that should be taken, if appropriate. | [Program-set standard data can be found on this page.](#)

1. Did your program meet its program-set standard for successful course completion?

   Yes____   No____

2. If your program did not meet your program-set standard, discuss possible reasons and how this may affect program planning or resource requests.

Section 3: SLOs/SAOs: Assessment of Student Learning and Support

Program Review is the college's major data source on student learning and support and is, therefore, regularly reviewed. *Each year, programs must discuss their PSLOs, CSLOs, or Service Area Outcomes (SAOs.) This helps us to see how our students are progressing in their learning.* For assistance with these questions and instructions on running reports using eLumen, [click here.](#)

Please complete at least one of the following three sections based on what is appropriate for your program. Check at least one below:
- ☐ C1: Instructional Programs with PSLOs (disaggregated PSLOs)
- ☐ C2: Instructional Programs with CSLOs *(Departments without degrees, non-major courses, and/or other courses up for assessment)*
- ☐ C3: Non-Instructional Programs (SAOs)

C1: Instructional Programs with PSLOs (disaggregated PSLOs)

To assess PSLOs within eLumen, CSLOs must be correctly mapped to only one PSLO, and every mapped CSLO must have assessment data. Please review the items below and proceed accordingly.
- If the CSLOs are mapped correctly and there is data for each CSLO, then continue to question 2.
- If the CSLOs have assessment data and the mapping needs to be completed, then complete the mapping within eLumen [(See SLO Handbook, p. 7)](#) and continue to question 2.
- If not all mapped CSLOs have assessment data, then you cannot assess the PSLO. In this case, continue to section C2.

1. [Please review your 3-year plan](#) and verify that all courses will be assessed by June 2026. (between Fall 2023 – Spring 2026)

   Will at least one SLO be assessed in each course by June 2026?

Yes____   No____

If not, please update your 3-year plan to include any courses you missed. If you plan to revise your 3-year plan, then send your updated plan to the Curriculum and SLO Specialist and the SLO Chair.

2. Based on your 3-year plan, list the PSLO(s) for the academic year 2023-2024 that your program selected to review and explain why these were chosen.

3. What percentage of faculty completed the planned CSLO assessments? (In eLumen, run a Faculty Participation report for 23-24).
   * _____%

4. Analysis of PSLO(s): What conclusions can be drawn about student learning and equity in your program based on eLumen and/or other data? You may want to consider disaggregated data. When using eLumen See the Guide for instructions on how to disaggregate PSLO data.

5. Based on discussions with others in your program, explain potential changes designed to improve student learning and close any equity gaps identified through the analysis of PSLO data. Please also note if you decide to update any CSLOs or PSLOs based on this analysis (If updating, then you may do this through eLumen, see the SLO Handbook if you need instructions on how to do this).

6. If you experienced any challenges in completing your PSLO assessment process, please list those below along with any items that would help you improve this process in the future.

C2: Instructional Programs with only CSLOs - Departments without degrees, non-major courses, and/or other courses up for assessment

1. Please review your 3-year plan and verify that all courses will be assessed by June 2026. (between Fall 2023 – Spring 2026)

   Will all courses be assessed by June 2026?
   Yes____   No____

   If not, please update your 3-year plan to include any courses you missed or if you plan to revise your 3-year plan, then send your updated plan to the Curriculum and SLO Specialist, and the SLO Chair.

2. Based on your 3-year plan, list the CSLO(s) for the academic year 2023-2024 that your program selected to review.

3. What percentage of faculty completed the planned assessments for the selected CSLO? (In eLumen, run a Faculty Participation report for 23-24).

4. What conclusions can you draw from the CSLO data and reflections in eLumen. If you used any additional evidence or methods to answer this question, please explain.

5. Explain potential program changes designed to improve student learning. Please also note if you have decided to update any CSLOs or PSLOs based on analysis (If updating, then you may do this through eLumen, see the [SLO Handbook](#) if you need instructions on how to do this).

6. If you experienced any challenges in completing your CSLO assessment process, please list those in the box below, along with any items that would help you improve this process in the future.

C3: Non-Instructional Programs (SAOs)

1. [Please review your 3-year plan](#) and verify that all courses will be assessed by June 2026. (between Fall 2023 – Spring 2026)
   Will all courses be assessed by June 2026?

   N/A   Yes____   No____

   If not, please update your 3-year plan to include any courses you missed or if you plan to revise your 3-year plan, then send your updated plan to the [Curriculum and SLO Specialist, and the SLO Chair.](#)

2. Based on your [3-year plan](#), list the SAO(s) for the academic year 2023-2024 that your program selected to review.

   Veterans First Program SAO(s):
   A. Student veterans receive a comprehensive Educational Plan (Ed Plan).
   B. Student veterans and military connected families understand their college education benefits offered through the Department of VA.
   C. Student veteran and military connected families receive support and connection through programming.

3. <u>Based on discussion with others in your area,</u> what conclusions can be drawn from the SAO data and reflection questions from eLumen or other sources of data?

   N/A

4. Explain any planned changes to improve outcomes in your service area. Please note if you have decided to update any SAOs based on this analysis.

   As mentioned above, a barrier that we have is the need for more space. We have outgrown our space.

5. If you experienced any challenges in completing your SAO assessment process, please list those below, along with any items that would help you improve this process in the future.

Section 4: Suggestions for the Program Review Committee (optional)

What questions or suggestions about this year's Program Review forms or process do you have?