

Overview

Administration of Justice, Child Development and Education and Paralegal Studies comprise three career/technical programs in Social Sciences and Humanities. Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, Humanities, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology constitute nine departments of the division, which focus on transfer education. The California History Center is primarily ancillary to the History department, but additionally supports Geography and Intercultural Studies in the IIS division, among the center's many functions.

In career/technical programs or transfer disciplines, over half our departments and programs identify basic skills as an area that is "considerably addressed." Though our faculty are aware of the areas of the college that are formally designated basic skills areas, they recognize and address the educational needs of developmental learners in their classes to the extent possible. Therefore, in their reviews they have chosen to identify "basic skills" as an area that receives significant attention in their programs and departments. For example, the Administration of Justice program review states that though AJ is not equipped to do remediation in basic English skills, faculty are aware of the need because it is a very important requirement for the field.

Our student populations in the division continue to burgeon with fall 2008 at a WSCH (Weekly Student Contact Hours) total of 60,506, up from 53,688 in fall 2007; a WSCH total of 52,991 in winter 2009, up from 47,010 in winter 2008; and as of the March 25th Office of Institutional Research report, an estimated spring 2009 WSCH of 44,824 compared to 40,449 for spring 2008.

Productivity (efficiency ratio) in Social Sciences and Humanities has risen as well during the same periods. Productivity for fall 2008 was at 724, up from 646 in fall 2007; productivity for winter 2009 at 668, up from 608 in winter 2008; and as of the OIR March 25th report, an estimated spring 2009 productivity of 645, compared to 569 for spring 2008. We expect the estimated spring 2009 productivity of 645 to adjust upward.

Increased class enrollments with significantly high levels of WSCH and productivity drive the demand to meet student needs for individualized attention to student retention, success and equity; and because of the diversity of our student population, cultural competency.

As hallmarks of the Social Sciences and Humanities division, student retention, success and equity are taken very seriously. Divisional projects such as C.A.R (Conversation-Application-Reflection), Early Alert for Large Classes and the Social Sciences and Humanities Support Tutorial have been designed and implemented with retention, success and equity at their core. Our program reviews reflect our successes, failures and myriad challenges. Since we are a proactive division consistently trying to solve issues that impede student achievement, this attitude is uniquely represented in each of our reviews.

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