2026-27 Comprehensive Program Review

Program: Environmental Science

Division: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Writers: Chris Dudzik

SLO/SAO Point-Person: Chris Dudzik

Email your completed form to Karin Spirn and your dean by November 2, 2026.

Helpful Links:

- ★ Tools for Writers - with contacts and info for help with specific sections.
- ★ Program Review Glossary - defines key terms you can review when writing.
- ★ Discipline Data Packets – institutional research about disciplines and student services
- ★ Course Success Rates Dashboard – allows you to research your program's success rates

Detailed information and instructions appear at the end of this form. For help, please contact Karin Spirn at kspirn@laspositascollege.edu.

Section 1: Program Reflection and Planning

These questions appear on all Program Reviews including comprehensive and updates.

1. Please describe your program's most important **achievements** in year 25-26.

- Developed, got funding to buy the equipment for, and the FTEF to offer a laboratory class to pair with EVST 5, EVST5L

2. Please describe your most important **challenges** in year 25-26

- There is no faculty release time to work this degree program, including on equity initiatives (e.g. student focus groups and surveys and persistence projects), or on reworking the curriculum to look at department wide policies on topics such as culturally relevant content and grading policies.
- Lack of coordination between faculty in this multidisciplinary program that crosses divisions. For example, it is difficult to look at disaggregated SLO data. This is partially because the program only has one class. As more departments enter SLO data then we may be able to work together to look at disaggregated PSLO data for the Environmental Science and Environmental Studies majors.

3. What are your upcoming **plans**? Please note any ways that these support student achievement and equity.

- Include lab tech support for all the new labs that have been developed. This will be accomplished by adding to the load for chemistry and biology lab techs as those departments see fit.

Section 2: SLOs/SAOs

This section is completed every three years as part of the Comprehensive Program Review, with brief annual check-ins on the Program Review Updates. The following resources will be useful when completing this section:

- Three-Year Assessment Template
- Aggregated and Disaggregated Data from the following sources:
  - ELumen (if saved--no longer available online)
  - CurrIQunet
  - Student Success Dashboard

1. During the 2023-2026 three-year assessment cycle that just concluded, what did your program set out to learn through your PSLO/CSLO/SAO assessments?

- This is an interdisciplinary major. There is only one environmental studies class offered at LPC (EVST 5), so this is the course in which we will evaluate the CSLOs and use them to reflect upon the needs of the program.
  Unfortunately, no SLOs were assessed last year, but we are in the process of developing a 3-year plan, and for this coming year (2026 – 2029) we plan to assess the following CSLO for EVST 5: "Upon completion of EVST 5, student should be able to evaluate energy efficiency in residential spaces and develop a plan to reduce energy use and cost."

2. Based on your analysis of your PSLO/CSLO/SAO assessment data, what conclusions did you draw about student outcomes and equity in your program?

- We wish it were possible to disaggregate CSLO data.

3. Explain potential plans to improve student outcomes and close equity gaps.

N/A

4. Describe any obstacles that you encountered in your assessment process and any supports that would be helpful.

- *N/A*

Section 3: Data Discussion

This section is completed every three years as part of the Comprehensive Program Review. Workshops and office hours will be offered in Fall 2026 to support Program Review writers.

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

*(**Note**: Not all Programs have RPIE 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 RPIE team.)*

Data may come from:

- RPIE Data Packets
- Transfer data
- Succes Rates Dashboard (scroll down on page)
- Requested data from the Office of Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness (RPIE)
- SLO/SAO data
- Data from program-created surveys or investigations
- Any other relevant source of quantitative or qualitative data

- *N/A*

2. Equity: Did your data reveal any patterns of inequity? If so, please explain those patterns and any actions that should be taken at the program or college level.

- *N/A*

3. Course Modality (Instructional Programs Only): In reviewing your program's data packet and Succes Rates Dashboard, are there differences in success rates by modality (i.e. face-to-face, asynchronous, synchronous, hybrid, or hyflex)? If so, reflect on what might account for differences and any actions that should be taken. (Non-instructional programs may also choose to reflect on online vs. in-person services if applicable).

- *N/A*

4. Program-Set Standard (Instructional Programs Only): The program-set standard is a baseline that alerts programs if their student success rates have dipped suddenly below 95% of the rolling 5-year average. There is no punishment for not meeting the standard, and many valid reasons this may occur. 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

5a. Did your program meet its program-set standard for successful course completion in AY25-26?

Yes__X__ No____

5b. If your program did not meet your program-set standard, discuss possible reasons and how this may affect program planning or resource requests. Success rates for individual courses can be found on the Success Rates Dashboard.

- *Write responses here*
- *Add or remove bullets as needed*

Section 4: Special Topics

These questions have been chosen for this year's Comprehensive Program Review to meet reporting mandates (for accreditation, Ed. Code, or other sources).

1. Mission: Describe 1-3 examples of how your program's work has aligned with the college's mission, vision, values, and/or educational master plan over the past three years. (Possibilities might include new initiatives, resource allocation/use, program improvements, or other activities). • Mission, Vision, and Values • Educational Master Plan

1. Curriculum Development and Expanding Educational Opportunities

The development of Energy and Sustainability (EVST 5) and its new laboratory component, Energy and Sustainability Lab (EVST 5L), reflects our commitment to providing relevant, interdisciplinary educational opportunities. These courses examine how humans harness energy resources to perform work and evaluate the environmental, economic, and societal consequences of energy production and consumption.

2. Supporting Student Success Through Experiential Learning.
Our instructional approach emphasizes hands-on laboratory experiences, quantitative reasoning, problem-solving, and the practical application of scientific concepts. Chemistry and environmental science coursework provides students with opportunities to develop analytical and technical skills that are essential for success in STEM disciplines and transfer to four-year institutions. These efforts align with the college's educational priorities of supporting student achievement, strengthening transfer preparation, and providing meaningful learning experiences that serve students with diverse educational and career goals.

3. Promoting Scientific Literacy and Community Engagement

Our program contributes to the broader educational mission of Las Positas College by encouraging students to evaluate important societal challenges using scientific evidence. Topics such as fossil fuel consumption, renewable energy, climate change, and the relationship between energy use and human development provide opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and informed discussion. Educational outreach and presentations on energy use and its benefits and consequences further support scientific literacy and connect academic learning to issues of local and global importance. These activities reflect the college's commitment to lifelong learning, critical inquiry, and preparing students to participate thoughtfully in an increasingly complex and technologically advanced society.By connecting classroom instruction to real-world applications, including energy production, environmental chemistry, and sustainability, we help students understand the relevance of scientific knowledge beyond the classroom.

2. Regular Substantive Interaction (Instructional Programs Only)

To meet our college, ACCJC, state, and federal standards, **all online instructors** must demonstrate "**regular and substantive interaction**" (RSI) with students. That is, we must be clearly providing instruction and interacting with our online students, just like we would in an on-campus class. The following reflection questions allow us to capture how RSI is occurring in our classes.

The following documents explain requirements and best practices for RSI:

- ACCJC Quality Continuum Rubric for Distance Education
- Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) requirements

2a. If your program offers DE courses, how are Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI) requirements met in your area? Examples appear on the DE addendums of your Course Outlines of Record. Place an X next to each method used in your courses.	
	Course materials make clear to students how often and when the instructor will interact with students (e.g. syllabus/home page lists email/office hours/other ways to communicate and typical response times)

	Provides direct instruction over Zoom (e.g. regularly scheduled live online class sessions in synchronous/hybrid/hyflex courses)
	Provides direct instruction through instructor-created videos (e.g. lecture videos created using Studio in asynchronous courses)
	Provides additional information from various sources/mediums to engage students with course content (e.g. instructor-curated content in Canvas pages that help deepen students understanding of course content)
	Facilitates discussions (e.g. through Canvas discussion boards, Pronto, Studio, or Hypothesis)
	Provides feedback on students' coursework (e.g. through detailed rubrics and/or assignment comments in Speedgrader; note: a grade alone does not quality as RSI, nor does auto-graded feedback students may get through completing publisher content)
	Responds to students' questions (e.g. through timely responses to student messages in Canvas Inbox, discussion boards, social annotation assignments)
	Facilitates student success through ongoing outreach (e.g. posts announcements; uses "Message Students Who" to encourage struggling students to attend office hours or access free tutoring)
	Other [explain]:

2b. What challenges if any have you faced in implementing RSI? What additional training or resources might instructors in your program need to increase the quality of RSI in online courses?

- *Write responses here*
- *Add or remove bullets as needed*

Section 5: Program Review Feedback

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

- *Write responses here*
- *Add or remove bullets as needed*

Detailed Instructions

Instructions

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

Sections: There are five sections to the document:

1. Program Reflection and Planning
2. SLO/SAO Review
3. Data analysis
4. Special topics
5. Feedback on the PR template and process

Time Frame: This Program Review should reflect your program status during the 25-26 academic year. It should describe plans starting now and continuing through 2026-27. It is fine to discuss topics beyond these time frames, but please specify the time frame in your responses.

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.

Equity: Here is the LPC definition of equity, which is a guiding principle in reviewing programs: "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 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.

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