

Assessment, Improvement, Measurement (AIM): 09/20/2013

Plan Year: 2012-2013

Unit: Environmental Technology

Coordinator(s): Jean Watts, Karman Wheeler

Reviewer: Tammy Liles

Program Health Review: Use the Annual Program Health Review to evaluate student achievement and, if warranted based upon analysis of the results, make program changes to improve student achievement. Identify expected student learning outcomes, assess the extent to which these outcomes are achieved, and provide evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results.

Measure Text: PROGRAM HEALTH REVIEW - LEVEL 1 1. Program Health Review - Refer to the attached Annual Program Summary for longitudinal information related to enrollment, graduates, employment, employer and alumni satisfaction, and licensure pass rates. 2. Student Learning outcomes Three student learning outcomes – Plan an assessment for each outcome identified, and assess the extent to which these outcomes are achieved, and provide evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results.

Achievement Target: Program Health Review Target - Maintain a level 1 assessment with comments from program coordinator, assistant dean, dean and vice president according to attached time schedule. Student Learning Outcome Target - Student learning outcomes are identified, assessed on level of achievement, and evidence of improvement are provided based on analysis of the results according to the attached time schedule.

Results: Program Coordinator: 1. Strengths of the Program -

a) As KCTCS has stated, environmental technician is a high demand, high wage profession.

b) Students get to participate in the collection and analysis of data that is used to address local problems. Recent involvement includes:

- A karst dye trace study to look for sources of conductivity causing water quality violations on the UK campus, data also used by the KY Geological Survey.

- Pre-construction water quality sampling to gather data for a stream restoration project in Southland Park.

- Planting of native species in the riparian zone of Wolf Run

- Stream conductivity survey, data used by LFUCG as part of their Federal EPA grant concerning the Wolf Run watershed.

c) Faculty have professional experience in the type of work for which the EST Program trains.

d) Faculty and staff have complimentary areas of expertise which enhances the scope of the EST Program.

e) Curriculum includes the knowledge and skills specifically needed for consulting field and lab technicians.

2. Items Requiring Continued Attention –

a) Many students listed as EST majors have changed their mind and are pursuing other majors. Many students taking EST courses are not listed as EST majors. This leads to somewhat misleading statistics concerning the program. With assigned advising, I am slowly being able to get the correct major listed for students.

b) Many faculty, staff and students don't understand the environmental & engineering consulting job field for which the EST Program trains its students.

c) College recruiters and faculty advisors need to be reminded about program offerings to increase student referrals.

d) The EST Program still shares a lab with the Dental Lab Program which limits storage space for equipment and time slots for offering classes.

AD Comments: Student enrollment is declining, but students graduating seem to be finding employment locally. There seems to be confusion as to how to best get the students listed as EST majors for advising purposes. Jean, Tracy and Rae have been attending the freshman orientations trying to recruit new students to the program. Although small in number, the students and faculty are doing some amazing work and being recognized at the county and state level for water quality data collected. We are in talks to advertise the program through Opportunity College for Fall 2013 implementation.

Dean Comments: Valuable "niche" program providing quality training in a growing field. Please continue efforts to increase enrollment and awareness among in-coming students. The program is well respected in the community.

VP Comments: Environmental Technology is a high-demand high-wage program with dedicated faculty and leadership. Although the ratio of full-time equivalent students to full-time equivalent faculty is down (14.7) from the previous year's 19.9, the program remains strong.

Target Results:

Findings:
