

Accreditation News

The Accreditation Steering Committee has been formed and is discussing the preparation needed for the Accreditation of Sierra College in Fall 2007. The steering committee is chaired by Brian Haley, Michelle Kalina, and Laurie Thiers and consists of the theme subgroup chairs/co-chairs.

The accreditation process has been revised since the last time Sierra was accredited and now focuses on six themes and how they relate to each of the accreditation standards. The committee has formed a subgroup for each of the themes. They are as follows:

Accreditation Theme	Chair/Co-chairs
Dialogue .....	Diane McKnight, Michelle DeVol, Sue Michaels
Student Learning Outcomes .....	Julie Bruno
Institutional Commitments .....	Darlene Jackson, Kim Reina
Evaluation, Planning and Improvement .....	Craig Kelly, Melissa Prinzing
Organization .....	Annette Nylander, Sandra Scott
Institutional Integrity .....	John Volek Barbara Vinyard



The Accreditation Steering Committee is looking for people to help with the accreditation process by participating on one of the theme subgroups. Individuals are needed from all areas of the campus, students, faculty, classified staff and management. If you would like to participate, please contact Becky Poland at x2605.

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*Research & Resource Development*

**Accreditation Steering Committee**

Committee Co-Chairs	Phone
Michelle Kalina - Faculty Representative	789-2822 or x 2822
Brian Haley - Management Representative	789-2900 or x 2900
Laurie Thiers - Classified Staff Representative	789-2654 or x 2654
also assigned:	
Melissa Prinzing - Faculty Representative	789-2785 or x 2785

**Important Dates**

Friday, March 18, 2005 Student Learning Outcome Workshop - hosted by the Research and Planning Group, details to follow.

**Information Links:**  
[Accreditation Timeline](#)  
[Theme Chairs and Subgroups](#)  
[Midterm Accreditation Report](#)  
[General Information and Themes](#)  
[Accreditation Reference Handbook](#)  
[Distance Learning Manual](#)

Just Curious?

Check out the Accreditation website at:  
<http://www.sierracollege.edu/about/research/accreditation.htm>

[research@sierracollege.edu](mailto:research@sierracollege.edu)

what's in the warehouse?

The Research Student Data Warehouse that is..

Sierra College: Profile of Student Performance In Physics

Physics 4A students who are **concurrently enrolled** in the problem solving section (4X) outperform students who are enrolled in Physics 4A only. Success rates from spring and fall terms (2000-2004) show that concurrently enrolled students succeed at a rate of **68%** in Physics 4A while their counterparts succeed at a rate of **58%**. The difference holds for both spring and fall terms though especially for fall terms, where the success rate for concurrently enrolled students is **70%** compared with **52%** for those in Physics 4A only.

Performance in Physics 4A					
Year	Term	Measures	Total	Enrolled in Physics 4A Only	Enrolled in Both Physics 4A and X
All Year	All Term	Headcount	435	264	187
		Success	62%	58%	68%
		Phys 4A Grade Avg	2.43	2.33	2.58
	Spring	Headcount	242	161	84
		Success	64%	63%	66%
		Phys 4A Grade Avg	2.51	2.43	2.66
Fall	Headcount	231	123	109	
	Success	60%	52%	70%	
	Phys 4A Grade Avg	2.36	2.18	2.53	

**Sierra College: Performance in Physics 4A for Students Enrolled in Physics 4A Only vs. Physics 4A and 4X**



VTEA Funding

Approximately 7,000 VTEA forms were sent to faculty for students to complete at the beginning of the spring semester. The Perkins Vocational Tech Ed program provides funds for government subsidized programs in the Career & Tech Ed Center, helping to develop methods for assisting low-income students to obtain jobs in high-tech areas.



Thanks to all faculty who administered the survey and to students willing to participate in the survey.

What's in this edition...

- ◆ Physics Enrollment
- ◆ VTEA Funding
- ◆ Grants
- ◆ Research Need?
- ◆ PAR Reporting
- ◆ Faces of the Future
- ◆ Online Web Surveys
- ◆ Accreditation News

[research@sierracollege.edu](mailto:research@sierracollege.edu)

Grants



i n v e n t

The Physics department has just submitted a grant to HP for a Wireless system and 20 HP Tablets to enhance their Physics X Problem Solving Program. The grant Request for Proposal (RFP) had three goals:

- Transform teaching and learning through technology
- Increase underrepresented students in high-tech careers
- Enhance student success in math, science & engineering

The purpose of the grant was to support innovative and effective uses of technology in the classroom.



The grant proposal includes the following project:

In a wireless environment, and using HP Tablets provided by the grant, Physics students working individually or in groups will solve problems using the tablets. Student work will be monitored by the instructor and interesting approaches to the solution will be projected to the entire class. Faculty and students will benefit from being able to see the various ways that problems can be approached and will not have to watch for someone to put something on the board or make a copy for distribution to all students. Discussion can occur almost simultaneously with students working on the problems.

The grant proposal opens the door to collaborative work with our feeder high schools to share the insights gained from this project with high school Physics teachers to enhance students' readiness for college level physics classes.

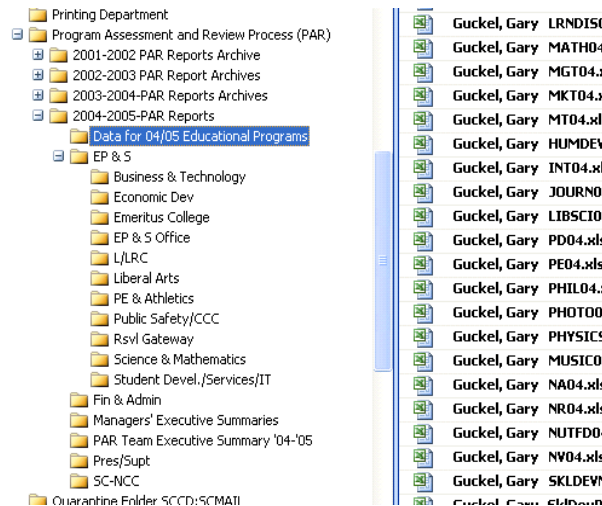
It is an exciting project and everyone involved hopes it is funded. Stay tuned. HP will let the college / physics faculty know some time after May 1.

Research Need ?

If there is a project you'd like us to research just submit a Request for Data / Information to Michelle Kalina and we would be happy to work with you!



REMINDER: If you are creating a PAR report, data is located in Public Folders.



Faces of the Future

The ACT Faces of the Future Survey was administered for the third year in Fall 2004. A random sample of 370 day and evening students at the Rocklin, NCC, Tahoe/Truckee, and Roseville Gateway campuses was surveyed. The comprehensive survey provides an accurate profile of our students including their educational background and experience, employment experience and expectations, and current college experience and satisfaction. The data can be used in grant applications and other documents such as our Accreditation Self-Study Report. Sierra College's outstanding reputation in the community is reflected in the survey results which closely match those of last year.



The largest percentage of our students hears about us from family members or friends (35%) or high school teachers and counselors (22%). A somewhat smaller percentage learned about Sierra College from our catalog, brochures and fliers (17%). These percentages are essentially unchanged when compared with last year.

The top ranked problems associated with taking classes continue to be the cost of textbooks and materials, personal financial problems and transportation issues which include cost of parking, access to public transportation, etc.

Just over 80% of our students report coming to us with a high school diploma. This value was up from 77% reported in Fall 2003. The national norm is 72%. Just over 73% of the students responding said they intend to transfer to a 4-year college, compared with 65% last fall. The national norm is 45%.

The four most significant reasons for taking courses are identical to last year's results. These are to develop my mind and intellectual abilities, to meet requirements for my chosen occupation, to study new and different subjects, and to increase my earning power.

Students remain very positive about the college in its many aspects including respect from faculty and staff for diversity of backgrounds and viewpoints, challenging course work, faculty and staff interactions with students, ease of registration and a sense of general safety and security while on campus and attending classes. They would also recommend Sierra to friends and relatives.



The survey confirms some of our beliefs about our students and it certainly affirms many positive aspects of attending Sierra College. If you would like to see the entire report, come by the Research and Resource Development office in LRC 436 and we will share it with you.

Online Web Surveys

Web Survey Capabilities!

Sierra College now has the ability to conduct web surveys, a step that will make surveying easier, more efficient, and able to reach a broader target group. Immediate projects include course evaluations for Online students and electronic polling for the ASSC election in April. We wish to thank our IIT department for its support, especially David Raney, who provided the technical expertise to install the system.

