Fall Update

Sep-Nov 2011

Audits and Accreditation and Legislation... Oh my!

By Kimberlee Messina

Welcome back everyone. This academic year brings new and returning students, renewed friendships, as well as a swirl of changes at the state level that impact our curriculum, audit requests which seem to bring more changes, and of course the long anticipated accreditation site visit. Wow! The Office of Instruction is a resource for you if you have any questions or if you need some assistance in navigating any of these changes. This newsletter provides some important information, but please feel welcome to come by our offices, invite us to your department or division meetings, or to give us a call. You are all doing great work everyday to support student learning, and we are here to support you. And as Dorothy would have surely said, there's no place like Foothill. Welcome back!■

Foothill Learning Outcomes Update

by Carolyn Holcroft and Gillian Schultz

Welcome back from your SLO co-coordinators! Here's a very brief update about Student Learning Outcomes for the fall quarter:

TracDat is here! Of course this is not news, as everyone had to go to the obligatory training on Opening Day. However, the heavy traffic on the site that day caused the system to run much more slowly than is usual. Please don't despair! Since then, many faculty have attended the TracDat trainings and/or played around with the system on their own, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Faculty and staff have been describing it as "straightforward" and "intuitive." The days of using C3MS for SLOs ended as the last few instructors entered their Spring '11 data in C3MS, but as you move forward with your course-level assessments and reflections for the '11-'12 academic year you'll enter everything into TracDat

(please note C3MS will still be used for Course Outlines of Record- CORs). If you'd like more help with the system but weren't able to make it to any of the workshops in the first couple of weeks, stay tuned for more workshops coming up in November and December or make an appointment with Carolyn (holcroftcarolyn@fhda.edu or Gillian (schultzgillian@fhda.edu).

It's time to start implementing those Program-Level SLOs. Recall that last year, faculty collaborated to write their PL-SLOs and draft a plan to begin assessing them. This Fall quarter it's important to pull those plans out from the bottom of that monstrous pile of papers on your desk and begin putting them into action. First, though, we're asking you to enter your assessment plan into TracDat no later than December 2 at 5 p.m.

Visit the Instruction Office website for more information on all of the articles mentioned in this newsletter!

Program-Level SLOs

1. Log in and select your program from the "Selected Unit" pull down bar.

2. In the first row of tabs, select, "Program Assessment Plan." The two PL-SLOs you turned in last year should appear in the window. Review them, and make any necessary changes using the "Edit" option on the right.

3. Select, "Means of Assessment" from the third row of tabs.

4. The next page will show your PL-SLO again, and at the bottom click the yellow button, "Add New Assessment Method."

5. Select the Assessment Method Type from the pull down bar, and describe the Assessment Method in the text box (you can even copy and paste from the document you turned in last year.) Don't forget to decide on a Target you'd like to shoot for – i.e. do you want 80% of students to master this SLO? 85%? etc… Save your changes!

6. Hit, "Return."

7. If you'd like to add additional Assessment Methods, go for it! Otherwise select your second PL-SLO using the "PL-SLO Name" pull-down bar. Then, repeat steps d-f.

Make a note on your calendar to remind yourself of any assessments to do this quarter. Otherwise, that's IT! This year, we'll be reviewing the process we use to assess and reflect on our Institution-Level SLOs (a.k.a. the Four Cs). Look for more info to come later this quarter.

Last but not least, please remember that your SLOs need to be on your course syllabus, and every course must have a minimum of two SLOs assessed each year. You're welcome to do it more frequently, of course! If you're assessing during the Fall quarter, your assessment results and reflections will be due no later than the end of the third week of the Winter '12 quarter, January 27, 2012.

If you need help with SLOs, please email Gillian (schultzgillian@foothill.edu) or Carolyn (holcroftcarolyn@foothill.edu). Darya Gillani is our resident expert for all things TracDat, and you can reach her at gilanidarya@foothill.edu. ■

Honors Updates

by Bernie Day

Honors Symposium

The Bay Area Community College Honors Symposium will be held at UC Berkeley on Saturday, April 28. The deadline for students to submit proposal abstracts will be in early February. Please encourage students completing outstanding original research in your courses this fall to submit a proposal. For the past several years, Foothill students have consistently out-performed other colleges in the number and quality of proposals submitted. The Honors Institute will offer workshops in January to assist students in writing their abstracts.

Honors Connection

Honors students recently formed a new organization. Dubbed the "Honors Connection", this student group is open to all interested/motivated Foothill students. The group meets for weekly study sessions, attends local lectures and cultural events, and supports each other with academic issues. Please encourage your students to join. Information is available at the Honors Institute, Room 1961.

Welcome New Honors Instructors

The Honors Institute welcomes the following new honors instructors:
Jordan Hayes, English
Erin Kew, Biology
Tai Wong, Business

Faculty interested in developing a new honors course or enhancing an existing course to create an honors version are welcome to contact Bernie Day (daybernie@foothill.edu). ■

Enter your Program Level SLOs into TracDat by December 2, 2011!!!

High Priority Curriculum Topics for 2011-2012
by Carolyn Holcroft

For more information on these topics, please speak to your curriculum representative, or visit: http://foothill.edu/staff/irs/Curriculum/index.php

Prerequisites/Content Review Process

In March 2011 the BOG approved changes to Title 5 that remove the requirement for statistical evaluation of prereqs and allowing faculty to implement prereqs solely on the basis of rigorous and regular content review. Accordingly, the ASCCC is revising its paper describing best practices in establishing prerequisites, which can be found at http://www.asccc.org/papers/implementing-content-review-communication-and-computation-prerequisites

Process for Developing and Revising Interdisciplinary Courses

At Foothill, individual course development and approval takes place at the division level. Consequently, there is no easy system for interdisciplinary faculty to remain apprised of, and collaborate on, new courses being developed by faculty in another division. This has historically created difficulty when a course is developed that might be cross-listed or that could significantly affect enrollment in another division. First discussion occurred in CCC on May 31, 2011.

C-ID (Course Identification Numbering System)

This goal of this project is to assign a specific number to courses that commonly transfer between CCCs, UCs and CSUs (similar to the now-retired CAN system) in an effort to facilitate transfer. Participation requires bilateral agreements (i.e. colleges agree to accept each others' C-ID numbered courses). Intersegmental faculty are currently collaborating to develop course descriptors that will determine the standards by which individual courses may be assigned that C-ID number. FH has already submitted 30+ courses for review and faculty are strongly encouraged to participate in the development of descriptors for courses in their disciplines.

General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs)

At the end of the 2010 Spring quarter, the FH CCC discussed the development of GELOs and subsequently adopted the four ILOs to function also as GELOs, with the stipulation that we would revisit this decision in 2010-2011. In addition, with transfer degree implementation, differences in GE patterns may become significant and warrant careful discussion. Topic not addressed in 10-11 due to time constraints. Priority for 11-12, with emphasis on review of GELOs and development of assessment plan.

Course Repetition

In July '11, the Board of Governors adopted new title 5 regulations limiting the number of times a student can repeat and withdraw from the same credit course (to alleviate substandard grade - D, F, W or NP) with a district able to claim apportionment. Regulations expected to take effect on October 12, 2011 with districts required to implement the new regs by summer '12. From the effective date, ALL repeats/withdrawals in a student's enrollment record are counted towards the new limit. ■

Articulation Updates
by Bernie Day

New UC Transferable Courses
During October, the University of California Office of the President approved the following Foothill courses for transfer credit:

GID 76	ALAP 66
HORT 60E	ALAP 66X
PSYC 7/SOC 7	ALAP 67
ALAP 52	ALAP 67X
ALAP 52X	ALAP 68
ALAP 52Y	ALAP 70
ALAP 60	ALAP 70X
ALAP 62	ALAP 71
ALAP 62X	ALAP 71X
ALAP 63X	ALAP 80
ALAP 64	ALAP 80X
ALAP 64X	

The next deadline to submit new or revised courses for UC transfer credit is June 1, 2012. All courses must be formally approved through Foothill curriculum processes by May 18, 2012 in order to be submitted for review. Please contact Bernie Day at daybernie@foothill.edu with any questions.

CSU GE and IGETC Course Approval
The deadline to submit new or revised courses for approval on the CSU GE and/or IGETC certification lists for the 2012-2013 academic is Dec. 1 2011. All courses must be formally approval through Foothill curriculum processes no later than November 18 in order to be submitted for this review cycle.

C-ID: California's New Common Course Identification System
The C-ID Project has approved 248 common course descriptors; moreover there are 79 draft descriptors awaiting faculty feedback and final approval. Courses receiving a C-ID designation may have streamlined articulation approval with universities. Students taking C-ID approved courses will be granted credit at CSUs and CCCs offering similar C-ID approved courses. Discipline faculty are encouraged to review the descriptors at http://www.c-id.net/ . Please contact Bernie Day (daybernie@foothill.edu) if your department offers courses comparable to the C-ID descriptors or if you have questions regarding C-ID.

We've Moved!
After many nomadic years spent moving around the Foothill campus, our office has landed in a new location: rooms 1960-1961 (Admin). Please stop by and see us.

Congratulations
Congratulations to Program Assistant Teresa De La Cruz, who recently completed her B.A. at SFSU. She's already back at SFSU working towards her M.A. in Creative Writing (Poetry).