

Maine Community College System
Five Year Program Review

College: Central Maine Community College
CIP: 24.0102

Program: Social Sciences
Credentials: Associate in Arts (AA) and Certificate

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Date: September 2024

Period of Review: AY 2018/2019-2022/2023

Program Overview:

1) Program description (from the most recent college catalog):

The Associate in Arts degree in Social Sciences is an interdisciplinary program that examines the study of human behavior in a broad spectrum of understandings, insights, and appreciations. The program combines approaches from psychology, sociology, natural science, cultural and organizational studies to provide a foundation for transfer to a four-year institution.

2) Program Learning Outcomes: all program learning outcomes are expected to be assessed within the five-year cycle. Please attach an Assessment Data and Reflection Template for each program learning outcome. Explain how the department used the assessment results to improve teaching, learning, and the curriculum.

List the program learning outcomes:	Method of assessment: list the courses and activities/assignments used to assess the learning outcomes
1. Understand, predict and effectively address the behavior of individuals and groups. 2. Apply Social Sciences concepts to real-world situations. 3. Develop strategies for communication effectiveness and demonstrate the strategies in oral and written contexts. 4. Understand how diverse cultural backgrounds impact workplace and communities. 5. Conduct applied research.	

3) Credentials Awarded within the IPEDS year, i.e. July 1-June 30:

Credentials Awarded					
Credential	AY1920	AY2021	AY2122	AY2223	AY2324
AA	--	--	2	8	4
Certificate	--	--	--	--	--

4) Program Graduates Employed:

Number of Completers with any Wage Data	n/a
% of Completers with any Wage Data	n/a

# of Completers with First Year Earnings	n/a
Median First Year Earnings	n/a

5) Partnerships, collaborations, associations and memberships

a) Advisory Meeting Dates and Attendance (past 3 years)

There has not been an advisory committee meeting scheduled for social sciences. There is a pending date scheduled for October 2024.

b) Program external accreditation, associations, and memberships (if applicable):

6) Other Indicators of student success, direct and/or indirect, which may include:

	AY1920	AY2021	AY2122	AY2223	AY2324
Licensure/certification pass rates (if applicable)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Program Advisory Committee Member Survey (on scale of 1-5 averaged):	--	--	--	--	--
Program Curriculum	--	--	--	--	--
Technical currency of the program	--	--	--	--	--
Preparation of program graduates for work in the field	--	--	--	--	--
Communication from program administration/faculty	--	--	--	--	--
Overall quality of the program	--	--	--	--	--
Other (please specify):	--	--	--	--	--

7) Student demographics:

Admissions					
	AY1920	AY2021	AY2122	AY2223	AY2324
Fall Applications	--	--	16	56	48
% chg in Fall Applicants from PY	--	--	--	2.5%	-14%
Enrolled (Yield)	--	--	9	20	16
% chg in Enrolled from PY	--	--	--	1.2%	-2%

Student Enrollment ¹					
	AY1920	AY2021	AY2122	AY2223	AY2324
Unduplicated Headcount Enrolled in Program	--	--	13	29	34
% chg in Headcount from PY	--	--	--	123%	17%
Enrolled Credit Hours	--	--	165	315	362
% chg in Credit hours from PY	--	--	--	91%	15%
FTE	--	--	11	21	24
% chg in FTE from PY	--	--	--	91%	14%

¹ = students within the program in the fall of the academic year

Student Success					
Cohort Year	AY1920	AY2021	AY2122	AY2223	AY2324
Cohort Enrollment	--	--	9	18	17

Retained to the next semester	--	--	100%	64%	53%
Retained to the next year	--	--	69%	62%	50%
100% of program time	--	--	22%	11%	
150% of program time					
200% of program time					
Transfer Rate (non-graduates) ²					
Transfer Rate (graduates)					
Enrolled in Another Program ²					
Graduated from Another Program ²					

². Determined at the maximum graduation point in this table, i.e. 200%

8) Strengths, challenges, and planned steps for continuous improvement: In your summary assessment you should reference sections of this review that informs the plan.

Program Strengths:

- The program was started in the Fall of 2021 and has seen growing interest.
- The interdisciplinary curriculum and elective options in the social sciences program allow flexibility for students to take a variety of coursework options, providing opportunities for self-directed study to prepare for multiple career fields in social services. This flexibility also allows students to use some previous coursework as electives when they transfer into the SSC program.
- The social sciences program is housed within the Public Service and Social Sciences department so students can take courses and interact with faculty across the department's disciplines. This allows students to tailor their learning experiences to multiple industries where a Social Science degree would be beneficial, including crisis work, social work, behavioral health care, public policy, criminal justice, etc.
- The Public Service and Social Sciences Department offers a rich pool of instructors spanning many different industries, including the criminal justice system, social work, behavioral health care, and other social services. Students have opportunities to learn from and network with these professionals and explore a variety of career fields.
- The program has strong articulation agreements with the B.A. in Psychology program at the University of Maine at Farmington, the BSW (Bachelor of Social Work) program at St. Joseph's College, and other agreements in development.
- The Public Service Simulation Center provides sufficient infrastructure for the future growth of hands-on learning modules.
- The program can be completed 100% on-campus, 100% online or hybrid.
- The Public Service Advisory Board consists of law enforcement officials, a Maine's Department of Health and Human Services representative, and a director with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to guide all programs in the department.
- A Public Service career fair is held each April to expose students to a wide range of local and state agencies they can consider for internships and future employment.

Challenges:

- Due to the nature and wide array of social service and behavioral health occupations, each student has unique career counseling and well-planned course selection. A lot of time is needed to advise each student to ensure correct choices are being made.
- The College has explored the potential to help build a CTE program with area schools who may be interested. We continue to look to identify a site in our service area interested in working with us on this opportunity for students to get a jump start on college classes.

Planned steps for continuous improvement:

- There are opportunities to expand community partnerships with local and state agencies to provide sites for internships and field trips.
- The faculty plans to incorporate more hands-on modules for the social sciences program, including de-escalation tactics, interviewing techniques, home visits, community engagement, etc.
- The faculty plans to host events geared towards community engagement to build culture and a sense of cohort throughout the student body.
- The faculty is in the planning stages for a proposed advanced certificate that would build upon the Psychology and Social Sciences degrees. This certificate would incorporate skills-based content and combine coursework in social work, crisis services, criminal justice, etc.
- Continuing the development of articulation agreements with other four-year institutions.
- The department will continue to work with CMCC's Lisa Gorman Center to Support English Language Learners in their program as they find some student have a language barrier.

Five-year Assessment Plan for Student Learning Outcomes

Social Sciences

September 2024

Name of Program or General Education Domain

Date

Learning goal:

Student learning outcomes:	Academic year during which assessment will occur	Source(s) and type of assessment artifact(s) that will be collected (e.g.: embedded questioning, capstone assignments, standardized testing, performance observation, portfolio reviews, etc.)	Method(s) to be used for assessing artifact(s)	Assessment Goal (targets/criteria) for direct measure	Assessment Outcome (<i>Number of Students Achieving an "acceptable" or better</i>)	Assessment Goal was:		
						Met	Not Met	Pending Review
Understand, predict, and effectively address the behavior of individuals and groups	1	Case studies, assignments, etc.	Instructor and student evaluation	75% of students will earn a C or higher in the core program courses.	100% of students earned a C or better in the identified courses.	X		
Apply social sciences concepts to real-world situations	2	Written research papers	Instructor and peer review	75% of students will earn a C or higher in the core program courses.	100% of students earned a C or better in the identified courses.	X		
Develop strategies for communicating effectively and demonstrate the strategies in oral and written contexts	2	Discussion Boards and Presentations	Standardized rubrics	75% of students will earn a C or higher in the core program courses.	100% of students earned a C or better in the identified courses.	X		

Understand how diverse cultural backgrounds impact workplaces and communities	1	Literature reviews	Review of synthesis	75% of students will earn a C or higher in the core program courses.	100% of students earned a C or better in the identified courses.	X		
Conduct applied research	2	Cumulative Course Project	Instructor and peer review	75% of students will earn a C or higher in the core program courses.	100% of students earned a C or better in the identified courses.	X		

Most significant assessment findings? (Pedagogical, instructional, curricular changes). Please report on actions taken and on ongoing assessment plans.