**Sinclair Community College - Continuous Improvement Annual Update 2010-11**

**Program:** Emergency Medical Services

**Section I: Trend Data**

1. **Program Trend Data**

* See appendices

1. **Interpretation and Analysis of Trend Data** *Suggestions of questions that might be addressed in this section: What trends do you see in the above data? Are there internal or external factors that account for these trends? What are the implications for the program or department? What actions have the department taken that have influenced these trends? What strategies will the department implement as a result of this data?*

* See Appendices

**Section II: Progress Since the Most Recent Review**

1. What was the fiscal year of the most recent Program Review for this program?

* 2008-2009

1. Briefly summarize the goals that were listed in Section IV part E of the most recent Program Review Self-Study (this section of the Self-Study asks “What are the department’s/program’s goals and rationale for expanding and improving student learning, including new courses, programs, delivery formats and locations”)?

* Implement the new national / state curriculum
* Become nationally accredited

1. Have these goals changed since your last Program Review Self-Study?  If so, please describe the changes.

* No

1. What progress has been made toward meeting any of the goals listed above in the past year?

* National curriculum – At the EMT-Basic level, the newest version of the national curriculum has been essentially implemented effective Winter 2011. This required significant work. A new text, new powerpoints, assignments, realignment of laboratory skills, and creation of new evaluation tools has been done. Full implementation will begin with the execution of semesters. Assessment of the impact of this implementation is included within the trends data. At the paramedic level, this will require major curricular renovation and the process of updating curriculum was incorporated into the semester conversion. Minor changes have been made to ensure the curriculum is up-to-date related to cardiovascular care and pediatric care.
* National Accreditation – The department was instructed to halt all efforts related to national accreditation in early 2010. A review of the appropriateness of the EMS department becoming nationally accredited was conducted. The department has been given permission to actively pursue this accreditation. Effective January 1, 2013, any paramedic program in the country that wishes its student to become nationally certified must become nationally accredited. Failure of the department to meet this requirement would jeopardize graduates’ abilities to gain employment in other states. It would also make it impractical to educate any current or potential employees of WPAFB – This entity requires national certification to function on base. Plans are to make application by the deadline date.

1. What Recommendations for Action were made by the review team to the most recent Program Review? What progress has been made towards meeting these recommendations in the past year?

* Continue to collect and analyze attrition/retention data to determine the effect of the mandatory attendance policy for paramedic students. If data supports, consider instituting the policy for EMT Basic students.
  + The EMT-Basic program requires students to miss no more than 3 class/laboratory sessions. This policy has been in place for several years.
  + Analysis suggests that approximately 15% of all students who attrite, do so due to attendance issues.
  + Areas to explore are changing the screening of students into the EMT-Basic program. A lower attrition rate could be achieved with more stringent screening criteria. However, tightening the screening will likely decrease enrollment and would run counter to the culture of open access.
* Continue to investigate the potential benefits and problems that might be associated with on-line/hybrid course delivery of 200 level EMS courses.
  + Enrollment within the EMS 200 level courses is insufficient to obtain support for creation of the online delivery method.
  + Conversely, an online delivery method could increase enrollment.
* As the new associate’s degree program is implemented, monitor the demand and completion rates to determine the long term viability of the program.
  + The trend data shows demand for the degrees. As an example of increased use of the degree within the workforce, Clearcreek Township Fire Department is hiring lieutenants – all applicants must be associate degree prepared or better.
* Because most of the employment opportunity for graduates of this program is with regional fire departments, the department should ensure it continues to maintain a close and effective working relationship with the leadership of area fire departments.
  + Representation on the EMS advisory committee and employee surveys are the ways that the department works to maintain connection with our employer base.
* Institutional or Resource Barriers to the Department’s Ability to accomplish its Goals, if any: Realignment of academic divisions resulted in the Emergency Medical Services Department moving to the Business and Public Services Division. Although the department chair and faculty have been made to feel welcome in the new division, they express experiencing a loss of collaboration and sharing of ideas and resources with the departments in the Life and Health Sciences Division.
  + To current date, no detailed analysis has been sought regarding the outcome / effectiveness of realigning the EMS department into the BPS Division.

**Section III: Assessment of Outcomes**

The Program Outcomes for this program are listed below. **At least one-third of your program outcomes must be assessed as part of this Annual Update, and across the next three years all of these program outcomes must be assessed at least once**.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Emergency Medical Services** Program Outcomes | In which courses are these program outcomes addressed? | Which of these program outcomes were assessed during the last fiscal year? | Assessment Methods  Used |
| **1)**. Demonstrate entry-level competency in the cognitive domain of EMT education (EMT Basic short term cert) | EMS 117/ EMS 118 |  | * Pass rates for national certification exam |
| **2)**. Demonstrate entry-level competency in the cognitive domain of paramedic education (Paramedic one year cert). | EMS 139 |  | * Pass rates for national certification exam |
| **3)** Demonstrate personal behaviors and attitudes consistent with and appropriate to the delivery of prehospital emergency medical care. | EMS 139 |  | * EMS Department Graduate and Employer Surveys |
| **4)** Demonstrate the ability to comprehend, apply, and evaluate information relevant to the job description of the entry level EMT-paramedic | EMS 139 |  | * EMS Department Graduate and Employer Surveys |
| 5) Discuss how EMS management and critical care medicine knowledge can be used to motivate and change behaviors of EMS providers and EMS institutions. Include quality improvement, legal perspectives, funding streams, critical thinking skills, and direct patient care applications. | Completion of EMS degrees. EMSVS.AAS and EMSFO.AAS |  | * EMS Department Degree Graduate Surveys |

a) For the assessment methods listed in the table above, what were the results? What changes are planned as a result of the data? How will you determine whether those changes had an impact?

See Trends data

b) What other changes have been made in past years as a result of assessment of program outcomes? What evidence is there that these changes have had an impact?

* No other major changes have been made to the program as a result of program assessment.

c) Describe general education changes/improvements in your program/department during this past academic year (09-10).

* No major changes have been made in the area of general education within the past year. Critical thinking continues to be a constant goal of the department as students are educated to apply / evaluate / and modify care delivered to patients to ensure each patient received appropriate, safe, and tailored care. Major changes are scheduled for the implementation of semesters with cultural diversity being a major thrust.

**Section IV: Improvement Efforts for the Fiscal Year**

1. **FY 09-10:** What other improvement efforts did the department make in FY 09-10?  How successful were these efforts?  What further efforts need to be made? If your department didn’t make improvement efforts during the fiscal year, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the department over the last year and how the department plans to address them in the coming year.

* The department underwent a reaccreditation process culminating in the reaccreditation of the department for 5 years. This 5 year cycle is new within Ohio for EMS educational agencies and Sinclair is the first institution to be awarded such a cycle. The length is reserved for programs with strong evidence of continuous quality improvement and a track record of success.

1. **FY 10-11:** What improvement efforts does the department have planned for FY 10-11? How will you know whether you have been successful?

* Two major improvements will be undertaken regarding the EMS department within the 2010-11 year
  + American Heart Association: The department will implement the newest guidelines from the American Heart Association. These guidelines which are updated every 5 years, have a profound impact on lecture material, laboratory teaching and testing. Our national testing agency will begin to use these criteria for testing effective Fall 2011. The paramedic program is cohort based so implementation of these new guidelines was essential in early 2011 so students would learn the material the “new way”.
  + State Reaccreditation: The department was successfully reaccredited. Our task for 2010-2011 is to implement recommendations from the reaccreditation site visit: Namely the curricular competency system now being revised within the EMT-Basic program. We will know if this is successful by evaluating attrition rates, certification pass rates, test scores, and student surveys.