

2024 Non-Instructional Program Review

Reviewing 2022/23 Academic Year



Program/Department: Athletics
Completed by Christian Deleon

1. Please provide your position and department:

Athletics Director/Athletics

2. Please identify the non-instructional program you are reviewing.

Athletics - soccer and cross country

3. Describe how your department supports the vision, mission, and beliefs of Lake Tahoe Community College.

During my brief tenure at this institution as the Athletic Director, I have witnessed the unwavering commitment of athletics to uphold LTCC's mission through strategic recruitment efforts spanning local, regional, and global arenas. Our approach has been distinctly student-centric, fostering collaboration among multiple departments to bolster the holistic support provided to our student athletes. The concerted efforts of the athletics, housing, academic counseling, and international support departments have synergized to create a positive and enriching experience for our athletes.

Notably, our commitment to diversity extends beyond staffing to the composition of our athletes, reflecting a broad spectrum of backgrounds and experiences. This inclusivity has contributed to the success of LTCC athletics and has elevated the college to the status of a highly sought-after destination for aspiring athletes. The winning tradition established by LTCC athletics has undoubtedly played a pivotal role in making our college a desirable and reputable choice for those seeking excellence in both academics and sports.

4. Do you have a **supervisor approved** alternative for this Annual Program Review? If so, please be prepared to upload the approved alternative, as a PDF, in the next prompt.

No.

5. What are the major strengths of your department?

Presently, within our athletic department, a strong spirit of collaboration prevails among our athletic coaches, athletic trainer, and physical education professors. We actively try to engage in monthly meetings, delving into discussions not only about the intricacies of our facility but also addressing the specific requirements of our programs and sports. These sessions provide a platform for open dialogue, enabling us to tackle challenging topics with a refreshing and constructive approach.

I find great satisfaction in observing the adeptness of our coaches in recruiting talent from local, regional, and international arenas. Their capability to identify and attract athletes from diverse backgrounds adds an enriching dimension to our programs, making the entire process a pleasure to witness.

6. In what ways could your department improve to better meet the needs of the College and support student success?

We've pinpointed key issues and initiated the implementation of programs, such as enhancing the study hall experience, to address them. The active involvement of our academic counselor in supporting athletes has been evident, and collaboration with the foundation has resulted in the provision of grants to better cater to the needs of our student athletes.

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It is crucial for athletics to align with the overarching vision set at the executive level. Once we comprehend the executive vision, the athletics department can then formulate its own vision, outlining how best to support the overarching goals. In this regard, athletics has been making consistent progress, not only in identifying but also in engaging quality community resources for collaboration, further enhancing our ability to support the holistic development of our athletes.

7. What are the biggest challenges your department may face in making these improvements?

We face multiple challenges in defining the role of athletics within the master plan. These challenges span various aspects, from infrastructure considerations that necessitate collaboration with several departments for effective programming, to the imperative of ensuring that our facilities deliver a student-athlete centric experience. Addressing these challenges is crucial to aligning athletics seamlessly with the broader objectives outlined in the master plan.

The achievements in our soccer program and the initial success in year one of cross-country prompt us to conduct thorough research, comparing our staff dynamics with those of other institutions. It is imperative that we address the potential issue of staff turnover, as consistent leadership within the soccer program has demonstrated the positive outcomes of a winning team.

In our quest to attract top-tier applicants for current and future programs, it's essential to provide a platform where individuals can align with our vision and receive the necessary financial support. This becomes even more crucial in the current tight financial and housing market. The current candidates we risk attracting may include motivated young individuals without family commitments then move on, financially independent retirees seeking new challenges, and local talents with some prior experience. We need to create an environment that appeals to these diverse profiles or quality candidates that will continue, recruit, build, and stay. This will contribute to the sustained success of our programs.

8. If there is additional information you wish to provide that wasn't addressed in this survey, please do so here.