
Description of Noncredit Courses

Noncredit ESL and Citizenship Courses – Students enrolled in the College’s noncredit ESL and citizenship programs take these courses to improve their language skills, prepare for citizenship, and address other specialized learning needs¹. Since the last accreditation, the College’s noncredit ESL program has completed its reorganization process, which included providing 20% release time to a full-time faculty member serving as program leader, a complete revision and approval of the curriculum, and a reinvigorated plan for hiring and evaluating faculty. The program increased in size by 60% in the period from 2007 to 2011, and as K-12 schools reduce and eliminate similar programs, the College’s offerings will become more critical for this vulnerable group of students.

Continuing Education for Older Adults – The College offers non-credit courses for older adults through the Emeritus College². This program has seen many challenges in the past few years, mainly due to severe financial cutbacks from the state of California during the economic recession. After the June 2014 amendment of Senate Bill 173, which no longer eradicates funding for older adults, the program is able to move forward with stable funding. Student demand is much greater than the College’s ability to offer classes with students reporting that these courses are a critical connection to the local community.

In order to ensure effectiveness, the program has recently introduced a new faculty review process for Emeritus faculty. Additionally, they are currently exploring the development of CTE classes and certificates to address the growing Baby Boomer population at Emeritus, since demographic studies are showing that increasing numbers of the target student population are remaining in the workforce.

¹ Evidence: Non-credit ESL and citizenship courses web pages

² Evidence: <http://www.smc.edu/AcademicAffairs/Emeritus/Pages/default.aspx>