



The mission of Merritt College is to enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve by helping students to attain knowledge, master skills, and develop the appreciation, attitudes and values needed to succeed and participate responsibly in a democratic society and a global economy

2020-2021

Annual Program Update

Fire Science and Emergency Medical Technician

I. Introduction and Directions

The Peralta Community College District has an institutional effectiveness process which consists of the following components: a District-wide Strategic Plan which is updated every six years; Comprehensive Program Reviews which are completed every three years; and Annual Program Updates (APUs) which are completed in non-program review years. While there are individualized Program Review Handbooks for Instructional units, Counseling, CTE, Library Services, Student Services, Administrative units, and District Service Centers, there is one Annual Program Update template for use by everyone at the colleges which is completed in the Fall semester of non-program review years.

The Annual Program Update is intended to primarily focus upon planning and institutional effectiveness by requesting that everyone report upon the progress they are making in attaining the goals (outcomes) and program improvement objectives described in the most recent program review document. The Annual Program Update is therefore a document which reflects continuous quality improvement. The Annual Program Update serves a critical role in the Integrated Planning and Budgeting cycle of the college in that it provides a vehicle in which to identify and request additional resources that support reaching the stated goals (outcomes) and program improvement objectives in the unit's program review.

Throughout this document, the term "program" is used to refer to any of the following institutional structures: discipline, department, program, administrative unit, or unit.

If you have questions regarding data, please contact Nathan Pellegrin, Director of Research

and Planning (npellegrin@peralta.edu).

If you have questions regarding SLOs, PLOs, SAOs or ILOs, please visit the [SLOAC webpage](#), or contact the SLOAC committee member for your division:

Division 1 - Evan Nichols (anichols@peralta.edu)

Division 2 – Laura Forlin (lforlin@peralta.edu)

Division 3 – Heather Casale (hcasale@peralta.edu).

If you have questions regarding the curriculum section, please contact Nghiem Thai (nthai@peralta.edu), chair of the [Curriculum Committee](#).

If you have questions regarding other material in the APU, please contact your Dean or Manager.

This document contains hyperlinks to external documents, spreadsheets, and data dashboards. Some of the links will not work unless you are signed in to Office 365 through the [Peralta Faculty & Staff Portal](#).

You will need the following items in order to complete the Annual Program Update document at the colleges:

- [Program Review or APU document](#) from AY 2019-20.
- [Budget Information](#) for the current and prior fiscal year.
- Any comments or feedback provided during the program review validation process.
- College Goals and Peralta District Goals (see below).
- [Institution Set Standards](#).
- [College 2018 Educational Master Plan Update](#).
- [Guided Pathways Plan](#)
- [Student Equity Plan](#).
- Data drawn from program review dashboards and/or other sources relevant to your department, service area or administrative unit (see below).

Merritt College Institution-Set Standards 2020-2021

Institution-set standards are used to evaluate the quality of the institution as to success with respect to student achievement in relation to the institution's mission. The evaluation of student achievement performance may include different standards for different programs, as established by the institution.

Metric	Definition	Set Standard
Course Completion (Success)	the number of student completions with a grade of C or better divided by the number of student enrollments	66%
Certificates	Number of certificates earned in an academic year	222
Degrees	Number of associate degrees earned in an academic year	322
Transfer	Number of students who transfer to a 4- year college/university	187
Licensure (CE)	Examination pass rates in programs for which students must pass a licensure examination in order to work in their field of study	70%
Employment (CE)	The job placement rate of student completing a degree or certificate in a CE program in the year after graduation.	Macro-Region Employment Rate, by

College Profile

Student Body Demographics

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Annual Unduplicated Count of Students	12,336	12,861	12,130
Gender			
Female	64%	64%	63%
Male	34%	34%	34%
Decline to State/ Unknown	2%	2%	3%
Race/Ethnicity			
American Indian	< 1%	< 1%	< 1%
Asian	19%	20%	19%
Black / African American	23%	23%	22%
Hispanic / Latino	31%	32%	33%
Pacific Islander	1%	< 1%	< 1%
Two or More	5%	6%	5%
Unknown / NR	4%	4%	5%
White	16%	16%	15%
Age			
18 and Under	15%	15%	16%
19-24	35%	35%	35%
25-29	16%	17%	16%
30-34	11%	11%	11%
35-54	17%	17%	17%
55 and Over	6%	6%	5%

Course Success Rates

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*
Total Enrollment (Duplicated Count)	33,288	33,637	32,928
Overall Success Rate	70%	70%	68%
Gender			
Female	70%	70%	69%
Male	69%	69%	66%
Decline to State/ Unknown	77%	74%	64%
Race/Ethnicity			
Black/African-American	62%	62%	60%
Asian	81%	80%	81%
Hispanic	68%	68%	64%
Native American	66%	72%	53%
Pacific Islander	61%	71%	63%
Two or More	65%	67%	68%
Unknown	72%	73%	66%
White	78%	78%	75%
Age			
Under 16	83%	91%	84%
16-18	73%	75%	69%
19-24	65%	66%	64%
25-29	70%	69%	68%
30-34	73%	73%	73%
35-54	74%	73%	71%
55-64	74%	71%	66%
65 and Over	77%	77%	60%

**Includes 'EW' grades*

II. Program Overview

Mission Statement

Please verify the mission statement for your program. If your program has not created a mission statement, provide details on how your program supports and contributes to the College mission.

The mission of the EMT and Fire Science Programs are to provide students with a comprehensive learning experience that will serve as a gateway for successful careers as firefighters and EMS healthcare providers throughout the United States.

Faculty and Staff

List your Faculty and/or Staff. Indicate if they are part-time or full-time. (If names are already listed, they were imported from last year's APU/PR. Add or remove persons as needed to reflect current personnel).

<u>Name</u>	<u>Faculty/Staff</u>	<u>PT/FT</u>
David Brue	Faculty	PT
Felicia Bryant	Faculty	PT
Gilbert Cody	Faculty	PT
Damon Covington	Faculty	PT
Tracey Chin	Faculty	PT
Quentin McWhorter	Faculty	PT
Demond Simmons	Faculty	PT

III. Program Goals

In this section, indicate programs goals, the status of each, and how they align with College and District strategic goals. Following are the strategic goals for Peralta CCD and Merritt College.

Peralta District Strategic Goals

- P1. Advance student access, equity, and success.
- P2. Engage and leverage partners.
- P3. Build programs of distinction.
- P4. Strengthen accountability, innovation, and collaboration.
- P5. Develop and manage resources to advance our mission.

Merritt College Strategic Goals

- M1. **Completion** - Increase number of degrees and certificates by 20% over the next 5 years.
- M2. **Transfer** - Increase transfers to CSU and UC by 6% annually. (Reach approx. 35% in 5 years).
- M3. **Time to Completion** - Reduce the number of excess units earned by students.
- M4. **Employment** - Maintain at least 82% of students attaining employment in the field of study.
- M5. **Equity** - Reduce the achievement gaps for African-American, multiethnic, and male students.

Below are your Program Goals from your most recent Program Review or APU, if available. Indicate whether the goal has been completed (C), is in progress (IP), no longer applicable (NA), or new (NEW). Be sure to state goals which are *measurable* and *time-based*. Indicate which College and District goal your program goal aligns to. If your goal has been completed, what evidence supports completion of this goal? How did you measure the achievement of this goal?

Program Goal	Status (C, IP, NA, NEW)	Applicable College Goal(s)	Applicable District Goal(s)	If completed, describe supporting evidence, including measurements of achievements.
Establish an A.S. degree option for Fire Science students	C	M1	P3	Received written confirmation from the chancellor's office.
Establish three Certificate of Achievement options for Fire Science students	C	M1	P3	Received written confirmation from the chancellor's office.
Obtain program accreditation from California State Fire Training	C	M1	P1, P2, P3, and P4	Received written confirmation from State Fire Training.
Enhance equipment resources for capstone courses in both programs (EMT 211 & Fisci 211)	IP	M1	P3	
Enhance the digital presence of both programs with employers, prospective students, and current students	IP	M1, M4, and M5	P1 – P5	
Offer interview training for entry level and career positions	IP	M4 & M5	P1 & P2	

IV. Facilities Utilization

Describe your current utilization of facilities, including labs and other space.
Confirm previously reported content.

On campus, room S-309 is used for EMT 211 lab training; lab training for Fire Science 211 is held offsite at the Oakland Fire Training Center; and all other Fire Science courses are delivered online.

V. Program Update Data

In this section you will review and reflect upon the data for your program. Use data which measure performance on outcomes relevant to the mission and goals of your program, which will vary according to which area of the college your program is in.

In your response, refer to data applicable to your program obtained from the APU dashboards and/or other sources.

APU Data Dashboards:

- [Course Completion and Retention Rates Dashboard – Instruction](#)
- [Course Completion and Retention Rates Dashboard – Student Services](#)
- [Enrollment Trend and Productivity Dashboard](#)
- [Degrees and Certificates Dashboard](#)

For departments or programs in the Student Services area, refer to reports provided by institutional data systems (i.e., PeopleSoft or SARS), results of student surveys, or external reports (i.e. [IPEDS](#) or [Launchboard](#)). Include the number of students served over an academic year and summarize their demographics.

For departments in the Business and Operations areas, use data which track the key function provided to the College, such as facilities usage for events, tickets received and closed, the number of invoices process or the time to disbursement.

Use historical data (3 years is recommended, if available) to estimate a baseline, then use this to project activity and inform requests for the coming year.

Describe any significant changes and discuss what the changes mean to your program. Consider whether performance or service gaps exist for disproportionality impacted students. Focus upon the most recent year and/or the years since your last comprehensive program review. Cite data points from the program review dashboards or other data sources relevant to your service, business, operations or administrative area to support your answer. If you wish, you may include screenshots of the dashboard to show filtered results containing the relevant figures. Instructions on taking screenshots for [Windows](#) and [Mac](#))

Data Sets for the EMT and Fire Science Programs

- Over a three-year period, the completion rate has averaged over 70%, and the retention rate has averaged over 80%. The above averages are in line with the school's completion and retention rate over a three-year period.
- Completion and retention rates by "ethnicity" are high for all groups.
- The retention rate for face to face courses are high for all courses. Not enough data

to compare retention rates between all three delivery modalities.

- With the exception of FISC1 211, the remaining six core Fire Science courses have attained completion and retention rates well above 80% over a three-year period. Faculty members are working on strategies to increase the completion and retention rates in FISC1 211. Not enough data to conclude if the hybrid delivery will increase both rates.
- Enrollment numbers for Fire Science have ranged from 138 – 149 over the three-year period. Not enough data to conclude that the accreditation achievement and new degree options will increase enrollment. We do believe these two achievements along with the use of the Merritt Hub will increase interest in both our programs.
- The EMT program does not offer a two-year degree option—certificates are low due to most individuals taking this course as part of Fire Science requirements, or as a single course that will lead to a job with an ambulance company or career opportunity with a fire service agency.
- The majority of our students are in the 19 – 24 years of age range. This is a common age group where interest in the fire service or as an EMT is extremely high. Both programs are currently working with OUSD to increase the number of high school students through dual enrollment. To increase diversity in the fire service, our aim is to start the interest in the profession during the “high school years.”
- The number of females in the Fire Science Program is extremely low. While the fire service is a male dominated profession, we are working with several outside fire service groups to increase the number of females in both the program and the profession.
- Completion and retention rates for all ethnicities are above percentage calculations rates for the entire student body.

Describe the program's progress on Service Area Outcomes and/or Administrative Unit Outcomes (AUOs) since the last Program Review or APU. For instructional programs, describe the program's progress on Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and, if your discipline offers a degree or certificate, please describe the department's progress on Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs).

Degree and certificate options in the Fire Science Program are recent—unable to comment on Program Learning Outcomes.

Describe the **results of** your department/program/service assessment of student and Program Learning Outcomes/AUO/SAO. Indicate when and where dialogue is occurring. Discuss **changes/updates/resource requests** made to your program based on the assessment of outcomes of the SLOs/PLOs/SAOs/AUOs assessed in the past year and discuss their alignment with the [ILOs](#).

The following item is for instructional programs only
Discuss how your PLOs align with the [ILOs](#).

VI. Curriculum

Note: If your department, program, or unit does not have a curricular component, please skip to the Section VII.

Curriculum review is an integral part of the program review process. Instructional departments and programs must consider the state of their curricula (i.e., courses, certificates, and degrees) in order to engage in meaningful assessment, planning, and continuous quality improvement.

In accordance with the [State Chancellor's Office Program and Course Approval Handbook \(7th Edition\)](#), California community college curricula must meet five criteria:

1. Appropriateness to the mission of the California Community Colleges (as established in [California Education Code § 66010.4](#))
2. Community, service area, or student need
3. Adherence to accreditation and higher education standards
4. Availability of adequate resources to maintain the course or program (including offering all required courses for a program at least once every two years)
5. Compliance with federal and state statutes and regulations (notably Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations)

PCCD [Board Policy 4020](#) and [Administrative Procedure 4020](#) require that curricula be evaluated regularly through program review and annual program updates on a three-year cycle. For Career Education programs, however, this policy is superseded by [California Education Code § 78016\(a\)](#), which requires reviews every two years.

This section of the APU requests information about the status of course and program updates, improvement plans based on curriculum review, and prospective curriculum development. The Curriculum Committee shall evaluate the responses as part of the validation of APU completion and the prioritization of resource requests.

Curriculum Review

Consult [CurriQunet](#) and the [Course Curriculum Review Status](#) or [Program Curriculum Review Status](#) spreadsheets to determine when a course or program was last updated or deactivated.

Courses that have not been offered in the past three years should be deactivated to ensure that the college catalog presents a current and accurate inventory of actual course offerings at Merritt. Likewise, if certificates and degrees have not been awarded in recent years, or the required courses have not been offered regularly enough for students to complete, consider the relevance and viability of those programs for potential deactivation.

Modifications

Indicate courses reviewed/updated in the past academic year (2019-2020), following the example in red. Add additional rows as needed in the table below.

Course Number	Course Title	Reviewer
EMT 211	Emergency Medical Technician	Demond Simmons

Indicate programs reviewed/updated in the past academic year (2019-2020), following the example in red. Add additional rows as needed in the table below.

Program Title	Program Type	Reviewer
Chief Fire Officer	COA	Demond Simmons
Company Officer	COA	Demond Simmons

Deactivations

Indicate courses deactivated in the past academic year (2019-2020), following the example in red. Add additional rows as needed in the table below.

Course Number	Course Title	Reviewer
EMT 221	Paramedic	Demond Simmons

Indicate programs deactivated in the past academic year (2019-2020), following the example in red. Add additional rows as needed in the table below.

Program Title	Program Type	Reviewer
N/A		

Curriculum Improvement

Based on ongoing curriculum review, describe plans for **program-level** improvement in terms of any of the following considerations:

- Advancing **student equity and achievement** for disproportionately impacted students.
- Fostering **intersegmental alignment** and **guided pathways** through articulation, course sequencing, and program mapping.
- Implementing innovative **pedagogies, delivery methods/modalities, or educational resources and technologies.**

On-going plans include the following:

- **Increase the number of hybrid and fully online course**
- **Collaborate with Los Positas in the areas of civil service exam preparation for entry level candidates**
- **Continue planning sessions with the Oakland Fire Department in an effort to offer professional development courses for its members**
- **Use the Merritt Hub to promote both programs and to connect students with potential employers**
- **Continue to encourage faculty members to complete online training courses to increase their competency with hybrid and fully online delivery**
- **Coordinate information flow efforts with new CE counselor(s)**

Curriculum Development

Indicate new courses to be proposed and/or historical courses to be reactivated within the next academic year (2021-2022), following the example in red. Add additional rows as needed in the table below.

Title	Description	Justification	Anticipated Effective Term
Professional Development for the 21 st Century Fire Service Member	Course outlining essential skills needed to manage and lead in the 21 st century fire service	Industry need	Fall 2021

Indicate new programs slated for development within the next academic year (2021-2022), following the example in red. Add additional rows as needed in the table below.

Title	Description	Justification	Anticipated Effective Term
N/A			

The Curriculum Committee shall prioritize the review and approval of new courses and programs that are identified in this section of the APU.

VII. Funded Resources

For each resource allocation request from previous year's APU, indicate whether it was funded. Describe the outcomes and accomplishments for any requests which were funded.

Brief description of resource request	Was request funded? (Yes or No)	Funding Source (Specify Fund or Grant)	Total Award Amount	Outcome/Accomplishment
Skills instructors for FISCO 211 & EMT 211	Yes	Strong Workforce	\$10,000	Skills instructors/ICC's hired. New instructors have put both courses in mandatory student/teacher ratio requirements for lab courses. Faculty have noticed higher skills retention rates.

Resource Requests (Non-Personnel)

Resource Categories

- Professional Development (Department wide)
- Professional Development (Personal/Individual)
- Required Reasonable Accommodation
- Service Contract
- Supplies: Software
- Supplies: Books, Magazines, and/or Periodicals
- Supplies: Instructional Supplies
- Supplies: Non-Instructional Supplies
- Supplies: Library Collections
- Technology & Equipment: New
- Technology & Equipment: Replacement
- Other

Resource Category (select from above list)	Description/Justification	Total Estimated Cost	Priority Rank (1=Highest Priority)	COVID-19 Related (Yes/No)
Technology & New Equipment	Hi-fidelity training mannequins; ambulance simulator; and AED's. Items needed to enhance the learning experience and provide near "real world" training experiences for pre-hospital care providers.	\$50,000	1	No
Service Contract	Personal protective equipment used in FISCO 211 needs annual service and cleaning from an authorized service provider	\$10,000	2	Yes
Technology & New Equipment	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) needed for FISCO 211 students who are required to participate in live fire training as part of their academy experience	\$8,000	3	No
Technology & New Equipment	Fire service-related tools and equipment to remain in compliance with accreditation requirements and to enhance the learning experience for students in the Firefighter 1 Academy	\$25,000	1	No

IX. Participants

Please provide the list of members who participated in completing this program review.

Demond Simmons

Thank you for your time and effort in completing the Annual Program Update!