

Humanities Division Program Review 2013-2014 Executive Summary

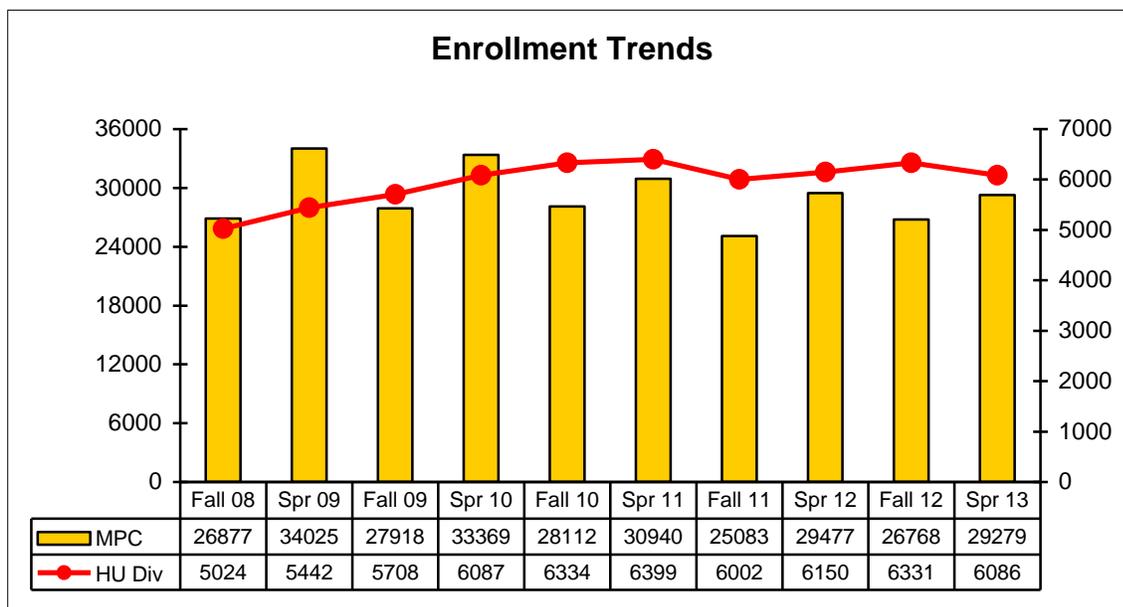
The Humanities Division of Monterey Peninsula College encompasses disciplines and academic skills that are foundational to the mission of the college. The Humanities Division offers basic skills courses and support centers, general education and transfer courses, and a variety of lifelong learning courses and opportunities to its students and the community. Its departments are committed to supporting “the goals of students pursuing transfer, career, basic skills, and lifelong learning opportunities.”

The Humanities Division is large both in scope and in number. Currently, the division includes seven departments (English, ESL, Humanities, Linguistics, Philosophy, Speech Communication, and World Languages), two centers (the English and Study Skills Center and the Reading Center), and the ESL lab. The Division also includes twenty staff members and approximately 90 faculty.

Although the disciplines of the Humanities Division are unique and meet different educational goals, they share many similarities. Each program demonstrates a commitment to students; each program is designed to offer substantive and relevant courses, as well as excellent instruction and supportive learning environments.

The Humanities Division makes use of space in the Humanities (HU) and Humanities and Supportive Services (HSS) buildings, as well as in the Library and Technology Center (LTC) on the Monterey campus. The division also supports instruction at the Education Center, offering classes in English, ESL, humanities, philosophy, speech communication, and Spanish. The ESSC has a presence at the Education Center as well.

Enrollment data (including number of sections, number of students, and WSCH) indicate that the division’s programs are, in most instances, increasing and decreasing in line with the college. The following chart reflects the division’s enrollment in comparison to the college (excluding contract courses).



Enrollment trends indicate that the Humanities Division is responsible for approximately 20% of the college's total enrollments (excluding contract courses):

Enrollment Percentages (Div/MPC)

| Fall 08 | Spr 09 | Fall 09 | Spr 10 | Fall 10 | Spr 11 | Fall 11 | Spr 12 | Fall 12 | Spr 13 |
|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| 18.7% | 15.9% | 20% | 18% | 20.4% | 20.6% | 24% | 20.8% | 23.6% | 20.8% |

The Division and Students: Positive Service

The Humanities Division is committed to serving students' academic goals by providing courses that transfer to four year colleges and universities, develop basic skills, support career development, and provide lifelong learning opportunities.

- **Commitment to Transfer Students.** The division's course offerings allow students to meet most of their general education goals. CSU general education requirements, areas A and C specifically, are typically met through courses offered through the Humanities Division. IGETC general education requirements, areas 1 and 3 specifically, are typically met through courses offered through this division. MPC general education requirements, areas A and C specifically, are typically met through this division's courses.
- **Commitment to Basic Skills Students.** The English and ESL departments, along with the English and Study Skills Center and Reading Center, support the development of basic skills. Numerous classes are designed to help students improve their reading and writing, as well as their English language skills.
- **Commitment to Career Development.** Although none of the programs in this division are specifically career-development programs, many of the courses offered help students develop skills that are relevant to career goals. English, ESL, reading, and speech communication courses, for example, are often completed by students who wish to enhance their reading, writing, and communication skills for professional reasons.
- **Commitment to Lifelong Learning.** Given the nature of the programs under this division (English, ESL, humanities, linguistics, philosophy, speech communication, and world languages), this division is clearly committed to lifelong learning. English offers literature courses that often attract community members, humanities offers a course that articulates as a "Lifelong Understanding and Self-Development" CSU general education requirement, and speech communication offers a course that meets MPC's Lifelong Learning and Self-Development general education requirement.

Challenges

The Humanities Division has been challenged by changes in processes and personnel, as well as by limited resources. Challenges include:

- Changes in matriculation processes
- Decisions related to printed schedules
- Lack of marketing support
- Old and failing technology

- Curricular changes to ESL requiring tracking of noncredit courses for completion of certificates
- Retirements of full-time faculty and difficulties in attracting part-time faculty
- The recent loss of the division office's administrative assistant

Goals

The Humanities Division boasts excellent full- and part-time faculty as well as classified staff. Its classrooms are attractive and appropriately furnished (though there is room for improvement!), and its programs are, for the most part, strong. With a solid foundation, the Humanities Division anticipates fulfillment of the following goals during the next five years:

- **Technology**
 - Refresh technology, especially in the Reading Center and the ESSC.
 - Revise/update department or center websites.
- **Curriculum**
 - Integrate basic skills reading and writing courses. The English Department expects to begin offering integrated courses by Fall 2015.
 - Revise non-credit ESSC and Reading Center lab co-requisites and courses to credit.
 - Continue to explore and/or add online offerings.
 - Review prerequisites for courses.
 - Explore options for online tutoring.
- **Student Success**
 - Schedule enough courses to meet student need. This goal will only be accomplished if departments can hire enough faculty.
 - Participate in collaborative efforts to strengthen student success. The Humanities Division is committed to working with other programs and services through the Basic Skills Initiative, the Student Success Initiative, and other college-wide efforts.
- **Communication**
 - Improve coordination and communication with other MPC programs and services across campus.
 - Establish an optimal configuration of the ESSC, Reading Center, and ESL Center space.
- **Enrollments**
 - Seek out possible collaborative efforts within the wider community, especially with CSUMB.
 - Market courses and programs through brochures, posters, and on-campus activities.
 - Review and improve offerings at the Education Center.
 - Streamline process for managing prerequisites in noncredit courses (ESL and ESSC).
- **Staffing**
 - Hire an ESL counselor to support student needs relevant to application and matriculation processes.
 - Consider ways to attract and provide support to adjunct faculty.
 - Hire full-time faculty in English and world languages.
 - Hire an administrative assistant for the division office.
- **Special Programs**
 - Continue to develop special programs, such as Creative Writing, Visiting Authors, and Great Books.