

Program Name:

International Student Program

Program Evaluation Team Members:

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1. **Mission**

The International Student Program mission is:

The Mission of the International Student Program at Monterey Peninsula College is to educate our students to become well-prepared members of a global society by providing a comprehensive education plan and MPC services that will support their academic goals.

2. **Program Review**

The International Student Program (ISP) provides services to international students who attend MPC on an F1 visa. Some of the services provided are: academic, career and personal counseling; issue I20's; oversee the international student admission process specific to the department; oversee international student health insurance; and provide one on one support and services to address the needs of international students.

The ISP seeks to assist international students in blending their culture of origin with their current cultural experiences to create well rounded global citizens. Toward that end, ISP offers orientations specific to international students and counsels students for acculturation challenges and homesickness. There has been a shift toward offering these types of services in the wake of various world terrorist attacks. In addition, these global challenges may be partially responsible for the decline of international students attending MPC in recent years.

3. **Student Learning**

Although not an academic program, ISP helps to facilitate student learning by supporting the students themselves, in order to foster student success. Topics include: immigration challenges and concerns, housing needs, financial situations, and linguistic challenges. In addition, international students may go to the ISP office for cultural reference, in order to question American cultural norms in a safe environment. In this way, ISP helps to facilitate international student learning as a global citizen rather than within an academic discipline.

4. **Staffing**

The International Student Program (ISP) has experienced a decline in staffing and leadership over the last several years. In the face of this challenge, the department should be commended for retaining as many students as it has.

Although the program has experienced a downward shift in students, it has still been able to recruit and retain some international students. The number of students attending MPC on an F1 visa has experienced a slight downward shift in the last three years; moving from 57 students in the spring of 2013 to 45 students in the spring of 2016. As this is a minimal decline, this may indicate that international students still have an interest in attending MPC.

The International Student Program (ISP) has recently moved to the Student Services building. The relocation of this program offers opportunities and challenges for the future of the program itself. The proximity to other student service programs and departments helps to foster an inclusive environment for both students and staff. The ISP staff continues to adjust to the new location and to work collaboratively toward solutions in order to meet the needs of both staff and students.

5. Summary

The International Student Program (ISP) is an MPC program in need of a strategic vision. The program has been able to retain a core level of students in the face of staffing and leadership needs and changes in global affairs. MPC needs to facilitate discussion surrounding the future of this program. The specific outcome of this discussion is to determine if this program should continue as a program, or if it will simply become a service to those international students who chose to attend MPC of their own volition.

1. Areas of Focus

Resources

International students who attend MPC are full time students, required to maintain 12 units or more and a 2.0 GPA or better. This program is unique, as it is a direct revenue generating non-academic program. To grow this program several needs have been identified. These needs include: exploration of funding resources to offer recruitment plans; streamline student admission by implementing the online international application through Open CCCApply; explore special needs related to the physical office; provide a facelift to the program through attention to program presence, on the website and integration in campus activities and the community. In addition, program specific data is needed to assist in the decision making process for the future of this program.

Leadership

The International Student Program has been without direct leadership or supervision for several years. Although much work has been invested to keep this program moving forward, the lack of leadership is evidenced by program outcomes. This program has suffered from trying to maintain the remnants of a strong program, from a time when it benefited from strong, centralized, visionary leadership.

To enhance the future of this program the benefits of a collaborative, strategic, program plan is needed. Specific plan components to be incorporated would be: program health, program quality, program growth, and program integration with the campus and community. To meet these goals direct program leadership and/or supervision is required. If fulfilling the long vacant program director position is not feasible, the institution should consider integrating the program under an existing leadership position on a permanent rather than interim basis. This strategy would allow for a new partnership in order to establish a collaborative vision for our current and future international students.