School of Extended and Lifelong Learning Assessment 2012

Mission Statement

The School of Extended and Lifelong Learning (SELL) at The University of Montana creates and provides innovative and flexible education solutions and personal growth opportunities for diverse audiences.

Department Educational Objectives

- Collaborate with campus and community partners in developing and supporting equivalent success opportunities for students, with an emphasis on non-traditional, returning adult, and online students
- Provide flexible, accessible, adaptable, safe, and complete learning opportunities for modern lifestyles
- Expand international learning opportunities
- Cultivate professional development/CEU programs
- Support of UM students in work placements/internships in a dynamic global field
- Cultivate entrepreneurial opportunities
- Provide opportunities for collaborative teaching, learning, research, and creative works
- Provide educational opportunities unique to Montana
- Develop conferences and events utilizing local resources and expertise
- Ongoing assessment of innovations to support teaching and learning
- Collect and analyze data to drive decision-making and goal-setting
- Execute continuous environmental scans to assess educational needs

Student Learning Goals

Student Learning Goal 1

Collaborate with campus and community partners in developing and supporting equivalent success opportunities for students, with an emphasis on non-traditional, returning adult, and online students.

Measurement Tools

- Online ticketing system to manage student requests.
- Improved availability and accessibility of web based support resources tailored to respective student audiences.
- Extended technical and instructional design assistance in support of quality educational experiences.
Areas for Improvement

- Work with campus partners to coordinate and improve student support services.
- Hired an online academic advisor in a joint appointment with Office of Student Success.
- Hired a Student Support Services Manager.
- Enhanced and expanded online technical support staff.
- Work closely with Disabled Student Services to be sure the needs of this audience are met.

Student Learning Goal 2

Provide flexible, accessible, adaptable, safe, and complete learning opportunities for modern lifestyles.

Measurement Tools

- Student satisfaction surveys, enrollment trends in programs and courses, course completion numbers.
- Identification of alternative scheduling opportunities for learning.
- Strengthened institutional commitment to distance, online and blended learning modes.

Areas for Improvement

- Strengthened institutional commitment to distance, online and blended learning modes.
- XLi Conference for UM and MUS campuses.
- Creation of Innovation Studio to support faculty development for online delivery.
- Hiring of Professor Rick Hughes as Director of Academic Affairs in SELL.

Student Learning Goal 3

Provide educational opportunities unique to Montana.

Measurement Tools

- Delivery of programs for external audiences.
- Support and expand field-based educational offerings.
- Partner with people, organizations, and agencies actively involved in Montana to develop conferences and events.

Areas for Improvement

Developed and delivered noncredit programs that focus on the Crown of the Continent.
Future Plans

1. Continuing strategic development of online courses and programs coupled with continuous improvement of e-learning delivery and support systems including investing in new technology (hardware, software and training). 2. Continue to implement Moodle and support both faculty and students in the transition. 3. Providing access to student support services that equally address on- and off-campus students 4. Ensuring faculty supports related to instructional design and implement new Innovations Studio for instructional design. 5. Coordinating policies, practices, and services across MUS campuses related to online course/program development and delivery; 6. Continuing a robust set of student services that supports off-campus students. 7. Sustaining the over-all fiscal viability while returning funding to Academic Affairs.