Rio Salado College

Program Review Model and Process

Rio Salado College is a graduate of the Higher Learning Commission's Academy for the Assessment of Student Learning. The College joined the Assessment Academy in 2007 with the primary goal of developing and implementing a more robust program review process. During five years of Academy participation, Rio Salado developed, piloted, and refined a comprehensive Program Review Model that is systematic, formal, and sustainable.

At Rio Salado, a program is defined as a set of college-level courses resulting in a certificate or degree, and includes both occupational and academic programs. The types of certificates and degrees reviewed include the Associate in Applied Science, the Associate in Arts, and the Certificate of Completion. The College also includes its General Education program in its Program Review cycle.

Rio Salado's Program Review process contains a multi-level view of the program, which includes a comprehensive assessment of the college-, program- and course-level student learning outcomes. Programs are reviewed on a three-to-five year rotation according to a master calendar.

Every Program Review contains the same components, including program goals; student learning outcomes data; detailed analysis of student demographic, enrollment, retention, and graduation data; and program resources, which are addressed via a template containing a set of foundational questions. Once data are analyzed and the review completed by the program faculty chair, members of the College's Learning Assessment Team examine the Program Review report and provide feedback on best practices and opportunities for improvement in conformance with Rio Salado's value of Relentless Improvement.