

Instructional Unit – Program Review

Reporting Period: 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022

Part 1: - Program Overview

Program Name: New Options

Program Mission and Description: The purpose of the New Options Program is to assist adults who are interested in beginning college for the first time or re-entering college after an interruption and to assist not-traditional students in their educational/career pursuits.

Program Admission and Awards: The NEW OPTIONS Program serves adults and non-traditional students (single – 25 and older; married/divorced/widowed; single parents; and/or GED recipients). The program provides information, academic guidance, and referrals (both on and off campus) to these adults and students who are thinking about attending college, entering the workforce, or making a career change. These adults are frequently challenged with the need to provide a better life for themselves and their families. In most cases, they must update or learn new skills. They look to education to progress from where they are (low paying, unskilled, minimum wage jobs or unemployment) – to where they wish to be (higher paying, skilled/career/professional jobs). Therefore, they begin or return to college.

The NEW OPTIONS Program recruits program participants through a variety of methods – on campus advertising (campus website article and campus-wide posting of flyers); off campus advertising (mailing program information to a contact list of 40+ community organizations and public agencies (including public libraries, local and state governmental services agencies, housing departments, churches, non-profit groups, etc.); community information/health fairs; and local newspaper articles. The program has a benchmark of enrolling 140 participants annually. The program’s average enrollment for the past two years is 147 participants. Individual in-office seminars were offered if requested by a prospective student.

Program Demographics: Please complete the following chart for your area (this data can be found on the IE website or by contacting ie@jeffstateonline.com)

Category	Student Totals (3yrs)	Percentage (of total students)
Total Students	63	100%
Number of Male	19	30%
Number of Female	44	70%
Age 18-25	5	8%
Age 26-40	43	68%
Age 41+	15	24%
African American Students	46	73%
Asian Students	2	3%
Caucasian Students	13	21%
Hispanic Students	1	1.5%
Unknown	1	1.5%

In review of the data above do you see any trends that are encouraging or discouraging? How would you address those trends? You can compare your demographics to the overall college demographics by accessing the Fall Facts document on the IE website.

There are opportunities to recruit more individuals overall, especially Hispanic individuals in our service area. More intention will be focused on building relationships with community organizations through individual meetings, and connection with Hispanic organizations and churches for recruiting.

Mode of Delivery: The NEW OPTIONS Program recruits program participants through a variety of methods – on campus advertising (campus website article and campus-wide posting of flyers); off campus advertising (mailing program information to a contact list of 40+ community organizations and public agencies (including public libraries, local and state governmental services agencies, housing departments, churches, non-profit groups, etc.); community information/health fairs; and local newspaper articles.

Program/Department Goals:

Goal 1: Recruit non-traditional adults/students to attend NEW OPTIONS seminars/workshops at each of the college's four locations.

Goal 2: Continue to seek off-campus funding to assist with supporting the NEW OPTIONS Program.

Goal 3: Increase the number of textbooks in the program's Book Loan Library.

Program/Department Outcomes Achievement: Please provide a detailed account of the achievement of each Program/Department Goal (above). Your report should be comprehensive in nature and include data (numbers, success rates) for the past three years. If you have incorporated the changes cited in a previous Program Review, please cite that. Clearly link the Student Learning Outcomes in each course to the Program/Department outcomes. Also please include your three years of assessment data at the END of this report.

Goal 1: Recruiting

57 seminars/workshops were held on all 4 campuses as well as over zoom, phone and via a PowerPoint.

155 students were recruited for the 3 academic year on all four campuses.

Goal 2: Funding

\$102,544 in funding from City of Birmingham Community Development Block Grant.

Goal 3: Textbooks

\$24,431.91 was spent to increase the textbook loaning library (56 new books were purchased)

Part 2: Program/Department Change

Program/Department Goal Changes: Please discuss any changes in the specific Program/Department Goals and/or mission statement published in the catalog. Cite any data generated through Student Learning Objectives and/or department meetings (supported by minutes).

Course Student Learning Outcome Changes: Please use the space below to highlight changes that will be made for the next three years of assessment. Use specific course headings (ex: BIO 101), cite the change, the rationale, and the expected future outcome.

With the retirement of the Director, Lynn Evans, in 2022 and a new Director, Angie Kelly, starting in 2023, a comprehensive review of the program was conducted. The goal of serving non-traditional students has not changed, however, the scope of the program will expand with additional grant funding to provide more textbooks and scholarships to be awarded.

Institutional and community sources will be investigated through the Director or Resource Development and Dean of Economic Development. Deeper relationships with community partners (Salvation Army, United Way, YWCA, HICA, Alethia House, Oasis, Libraries) and college partners (Financial Aid, Advising, Adult Education, Career Center, Student Success Center) will be developed through individual meetings and ongoing engagement. Proactive recruiting will be conducted by marketing target populations through organizations with whom they engage (probations, churches, food banks).

Part-time employees will be utilized as Coaches to provide ongoing referrals to other services, encouragement, and general wrap-around services based on individual needs.

Part 3: Evidence of Staff Participation in Program Review

Faculty/staff participation: Describe the faculty and/or staff who participated in this program review and the role they played. Include specific dates for meetings held or activities conducted.

Advisory committee minutes (if applicable) and list of members: Describe any changes made in the unit as a result of input from the advisory committee.

This review was assimilated by the new Director, Angie Kelly, on behalf of the previous Director, Lynn Evans using her data files.