

BUDGET NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPLICATION

Name of Person Submitting Request:	Ailsa Aguilar-Kitibutr, Psy.D.
Program or Service Area:	Counseling Department
Division:	Counseling and Matriculation, Student Services
Date of Last Program Efficacy:	Spring 2012
What rating was given?	Continuation
Amount Requested:	\$104, 000 for two adjunct counselors for 41 hours weekly
Strategic Initiatives Addressed:	Access, Institutional Effectiveness, Partnership, Student Success

Replacement Growth

1. Provide a rationale for your request.

Presently, the Counseling Department’s budget for adjunctive hours is not adequate even with three main sources of monies- Matriculation, Counseling, and Basic Skills Initiative. In spring 2012, the Counseling Department received a one-time allocation of \$105, 000 from the President’s Office to augment hourly counseling services. In actuality, this current request for \$104, 000 needs to be budgeted permanently as augmentation because the full-time counselors would have been bereft of office hours to meet all the counseling needs of our students. With the implementation of the Student Success Act in 2014, additional hours are needed because of the mandates that each student must not only undergo orientation and assessment, but more importantly, must have an initial education plan and ultimately a comprehensive education plan after the completion of 15 units. Also mandated are academic advising and counseling, follow-up services for at risk students, and other follow-up, developmental interventions.

Several segments in our population need intensive counseling. Basic skills students who comprise 85% of our student population are underprepared, with SBVC charting five per cent higher than the statewide data per the Research and Planning Office. Under the Student Success Act, the education of basic skills students must improve. Furthermore, students must define a “program of study” upon completion of 15 units and must be encouraged to take 15 units every semester. Defining a program of study entails follow-up assessment, intensive career counseling, as well as, academic advising and comprehensive education plan including other counseling services. Students on academic/dismissal status comprise another segment of the population which demand additional hours of counseling services to meet the exigencies of their counseling and learning needs. This year, 3, 417 students have been placed on probation or dismissal status. Similarly, 3441 were underachieving in 2011-12. Our Service Area Outcome (SAO) study covering spring 2012 through spring 2013 on a sample of probation students showed that the average GPA was 1.635 which progressively increased to 1.855 in spring 2013. While an upward trend in GPA is observed, interventions for academic resilience including personal counseling and referral services are underscored based on students’ self-report on the Department’s Problem Checklist. With the Student Success Act, qualification for the Board of Governor’s waiver (BOGW) will be determined by satisfactory GPA (Student Success Task Force Recommendation, 2012), notwithstanding maintenance or loss in priority registration (Statewide Admissions and Records Advisory). Also projected is the increase in appeals for continued financial aid for students who have reached 70 plus units. Students on financial aid disqualification demand more focused academic, career, and transfer counseling, as well as, success interventions. Correspondingly, hours for counseling services for veterans need to increase. While all counselors see veterans at the Counseling

Department during the week, the adjunct counselor's four hours rendered at the Veterans Center needs to increase particularly during peak registration. A total of 693 veterans were enrolled in classes last year, and 331 this fall semester. Lastly, the Department does not only serve students who subsequently enroll in classes, it also affords counseling to those who may have the intent to study but do not register or cannot register because classes are overenrolled. This group comes to us during the entire year but they are not counted in SBVC's report of positive attendance. Finally, also included in the general population are students under the auspices of categorical programs who still seek services or are referred by categorical programs to the Counseling Department adding elevated demands to the already burdened service system.

2. Indicate how the content of the latest Program Efficacy Report and current EMP data support this request. How is the request tied to program planning? (*Reference the page number(s) where the information can be found on Program Efficacy.*)

The Program Efficacy Evaluation and Recommendation states – “The Counseling program thoroughly documents how they provide an efficient and necessary service for the student population at Valley College. Their service will only become more important as educational plans become required of all students. This department is currently severely understaffed ...” Furthermore, EMP data support the need for more adjunct hours and the corresponding EMP program goals including challenges and opportunities delineate the importance of this request. Likewise, additional SARS statistics for 2012-13 show a total of 21, 991 direct student contacts.

3. Indicate if there is additional information you wish the committee to consider (*for example: regulatory information, compliance, updated efficiency, student success data, or planning, etc.*).

SB 1456 mandates underscore the task ahead for SBVC to be in compliance of the focus areas identified by the Student Success Task Force including receipt of full funding allocation of 60% based on student services. In a similar vein, in meeting the Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid Recipients (Financial Aid Guide, 2010; Financial Aid Brochure), all students on financial aid are expected to complete their degree/certificate within 150% of the published unit requirement. They are expected as well to show satisfactory GPA and satisfactory completion of courses every semester. Meanwhile, the Obama Administration underlined the importance of increasing employability among veterans who need to meet specific guidelines to receive veterans' benefits. Our veterans will not get any of the Chapter and VRAP benefits without education plans.

4. Evaluation of initial cost, as well as related costs (including any ongoing maintenance or updates) and identification of any alternative or ongoing funding sources (for example Department Budget or Perkins).

Not applicable. Please see stated rationale on number 1.

5. What are the consequences of not funding this budget request?

If counseling needs of our general population will not be met, we will not be in compliance of the Student Success Act and the College's funding will severely suffer. Furthermore, academic success is associated with receiving counseling. Counseling services are a key component to achieving course retention, completion, and persistence until the attainment of degrees or certificates. This research bears implications towards specific segments of the general population who need intensive counseling to receive continued financial aid or receive veterans' benefits or to continue to take classes. With increase in adjunct hours, all counselors could function with greater effectiveness with more quality time given to all students.