

BUDGET NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPLICATION
Fall 2016

Name of Person Submitting Request:	Todd Heibel
Program or Service Area:	Geography
Division:	Science
Date of Last Program Efficacy:	SP 15
What rating was given?	Continuation
Amount Requested:	\$4,000
Object Code:	2389
Strategic Initiatives Addressed: (See http://www.valleycollege.edu/about-sbvc/office-of-president/college_planning_documents/documents/strategic-plan-report-working-doc-8-25-15-2.pdf)	Access and Student Success

Note: To facilitate ranking by the committee, please submit separate requests for each general area of budget augmentation needed. Do not request a lump sum to encompass many different areas.

One-Time Ongoing

Does program or service area have an existing budget? Yes No

Are there alternative funding sources? (for example, Department, Budget, Perkins, Grants, etc.)

Yes No

If yes, what are they: There are potential tutorial funding sources throughout campus (e.g. STEM PASS GO, HSI, FDT, and other SI-/tutor-related grants, as well as institutional support for SI and tutor services). However, these funding streams are cyclical, limited in scope, and ephemeral.

1. Provide a rationale for your request (Give a detailed explanation of why this budget increase is needed.)

At present, **there is no budget to support a tutor**. While the Student Success Center and its various grants support a significant number of tutors and SI leaders, these funds *do not* include support for a Geography tutor (in fact, the total number of SIs and tutors is greatly diminished from previous academic years). While the Geography Department was grateful for tutorial support for several years, this **support ceased during the current academic year** (2016-17). This means that more than 25 lecture and laboratory sections comprising hundreds of geography students are **without tutorial services**. Therefore, the department requests **\$4,000** to support a Geography **tutor**. The amount of \$4,000 has been calculated by estimating tutor compensation of \$12/hour working an average of 10 hours/week for 16 weeks (total of \$1,920 per semester plus benefits). This is **growth funding** that the institution would support on an annual basis. In other words, this is not a one-time, stopgap request, as this growth funding is needed on an ongoing, annual basis. Because there are two full-time and six adjunct Geography faculty (nearly seven FTEF and more than 105 FTES), the department will remain strong and student demand will continue.

2. Indicate how the content of the department/program's latest Efficacy Report and/or current EMP supports this request and how the request is tied to program planning. (*Directly reference the relevant information from your latest Efficacy Report and/or current EMP in your discussion.*)

The addition of a dedicated Geography tutor has the potential to increase student success,

retention, and overall enrollment. By extension, efficiency – a campus-wide goal – may also increase. There are AA-T and AS degree options for Geography students, and all courses are being offered on a regular basis following a multi-semester hiatus. Within the EMP document, the need for a tutor is clearly identified within Department Goals section. In addition, the SP 2015 Geography-GIS document identifies the need for tutors on pages 14, 15, 35, and 36.

3. Indicate any additional information you want the committee to consider (*for example, regulatory information, compliance, updated efficiency, student success data, or planning, etc.*).

A dedicated Geography tutor has the potential to increase the FTES, census, FTEF, efficiency, success, and retention for these programs and students. As the total enrollment for the Geography Department increases, demand for a tutor will also increase. In addition, the job market for geographers and geologists is forecast to improve. A tutor can better ensure that SBVC Geography students are prepared to enter this expanding career field (State of California EDD, 2014-24 statewide occupation profile):

Occupation:	Median Annual Wage:	Annual Average Openings:
Geographers	\$85,180	10
Cartographers and Photogrammetrists	\$71,690	80
Geospatial Information Scientists and Technologists	\$91,630	131

Source: O Net Online and State of California Employment Development Department (2016).

4. Indicate any related costs (including any ongoing maintenance or updates) and department/program plans to support those costs.

Although \$4,000 per academic year appears to be a large sum, consider that the average tutor is paid \$12 per hour. This means that there are 320 hours of tutoring available for the entire 36-week academic year (fall and spring semesters). Therefore, the per-week tutoring schedule would average a bit less than 9 hours (8.9 hours per week). This funding is needed on an ongoing basis, as demand for Geography courses is anticipated to increase with the addition of faculty, approval of the AA-T degree, and improved job market prospects (especially within the GIS and related geospatial sectors). The Student Success Center uses various STEM-related grant funding to support SI and tutorial services. However, the Geography Department is not currently included within these various grants even though it clearly fits within the STEM rubric. Although a Geography tutor has been included within past college-wide grants, there is no guarantee that funding will be available during the next academic year. In addition, there is no guarantee that a future grant would be funded, especially in the current hyper-competitive grant climate.

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

If funding for a Geography tutor is not approved, then students will not be appropriately prepared for transfer to four-year programs, and students will not qualify for well-paid positions within the geographic, cartographic, and geospatial sectors. In addition, student enrollment may stagnate. This is unfortunate, as dedicated full- and part-time faculty members and approved AA-T degree provide an excellent opportunity for transfer into a variety of geography and related programs within the Cal State and UC systems.