

Institutional Research – Department Review

Summary

The Office of Institutional Research's is to respond to all the strategic information and analytical needs of MCC by applying and advancing the knowledge, theories, methods and standards of institutional research, assessment and planning to address educational issues facing the institution.

Mission Statement

The Office of Institutional Research collects, analyzes and disseminates internal and external data/information to assist the college in making informed decisions that improve institutional performance, accountability and student success.

Major Department Goals

Our goal is to provide college-wide assistance in the facilitation, preparation and submission of Federal and State reporting, new program development and grant proposals to increase external funding to assist MCC in achieving its mission and goals.

SWOC Analysis

Strengths:

- Staff experience and skills that result in an efficient and effective operation
- Organization that results in meeting state, federal and institutional deadlines
- Fast turnaround: data requesters get reports in a very acceptable time frame
- Accessibility: an IR person is always available to discuss data needs with a user
- All staff are members of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR)
- Accurate data reporting: all data is reviewed before release for accuracy

Weaknesses:

- Aging equipment delays the completion of projects
- Dated software versions frustrate the implementation of the latest methods of data processing

Opportunities:

- Develop a business intelligence model to aid senior management with decision making
- Become more proactive in selecting what data will help decision making best
- Enhance enrollment management efforts by providing relevant meaningful data
- Increase amount of Professional Development opportunities for IR staff

Challenges:

- Number of employees related to the volume of work
- Ever changing data requirements that arise from both external and internal sources
- State and federal funding that can limit the amount of training for staff or acquisition of the best equipment.

Action Recommendations:

- Increase participation in webinars and AIR conferences to keep up to date with the latest IR methods
- Assure that IR is included in any decision that relates to database structure
- Post a dashboard to the Institutional Research web site to provide a review of live data