RIO SALADO COLLEGE
A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Program Review Model

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 Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Arts, Associate in Applied Science, 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 typically reviewed on a three-to-five year rotation according to a master calendar. New four-year programs undergo initial formal review six years after launch, in alignment with the 150% of normal time to completion metric reported in the Integrated Postsecondary Education System (IPEDS).

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. Program chairs are responsible for closing the loop on recommendations and decisions that surface during the review.