



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STANISLAUS
2008-2009 STUDENT AFFAIRS ASSESSMENT PROJECT
CAS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CAREER SERVICES CENTER

Scope of Review

The scope of this review was to assess the Career Services Center.

Mission

The Mission of the Career Services Center is to provide campus leadership in assisting students to take personal responsibility in the process of identifying, developing, implementing, and evaluating career plans in preparation for employment after graduation. We develop relationships with a diverse group of employers and organizations to obtain occupational information and opportunities for students that will guide their career development process. We also serve as the primary resource to employers seeking to recruit well-educated graduates to fill the Central Valley region's employment needs.

Assessment Summary

I. The Career Services Center was evaluated by using the criteria established by the Council for The Advancement of Standards (CAS) in Higher Education. The Internal Review Team identified the types of documentary evidence that would need to be compiled, and reviewed the criteria and evidence collectively, and then assigned a numerical value after consensus was reached for each item. Next, the External Review Team completed an independent review of the CAS instrument and the documentary evidence, and then provided a written review of their findings.

II. Strengths:

- Stable leadership. The Director hired June 1, 2004 has guided the program from simple, minimal services to a fully functional, integrated Career Center.
- Regular review of accountability, surveys, and evaluations and adherence to ethical standards and practices.
- The mission and objectives reflect student learning outcomes and the programs and services provided fairly to all students.
- The Center has expanded the campus internship program, significantly increased employer outreach and on-campus recruitment, established a career resource library and online job search service, bonded online student employment services to include both non-work study and work study jobs, greatly expanded the Career Fair, and now provides recruiting events for all of the colleges.

Weaknesses:

- Lack of means to gather evidence of student learning.
- There is an ongoing need for staff training to keep current on professional practices, including Director's participation in system wide meetings.

Priorities for the Program

1. Implement methods for surveys and data collection, marketing, and to also address staff training and development.
2. Continue outreach to faculty, academic departments, and clubs to more fully integrate career services into the broader educational mission.

3. Conduct faculty needs assessment to determine where communication can be improved and if consolidating campus efforts can be supported; identify ways for students/grads to self-report internships/employment (continue internship survey in fall 2009 to build continuity, response rates); implement plans to put grad survey online; evaluate and articulate learning outcomes coupled with an assessment system to measure what students learn.