

1. **Biology** Department PR Abstract:

The mission of the Bakersfield College Biological Sciences Department is to establish high quality science education, instilling discipline competencies for students in the vocational education and transfer pathways supported by BC Biology curriculum. The BC Biology Department pedagogical strategies value active learning, field experience, critical thinking and exposure to professional and research activities. Biology Faculty is dedicated to providing rigorous Biology education that is responsive to our diverse institutional and community needs. The department's mission supports Bakersfield College's Core Values, Strategic Goals and the Strategic Initiatives.

The Biology Department uses hands-on laboratory, field trip, discussion and didactic teaching. The department offers course work in the areas of pre-Allied Health (Biol 16, 18, 32, 33 and 34), General Education/Transfer Biology (Biol 7 and 11) and the Biology major (Biol 3A and 3B). All Biology courses emphasize critical thinking and writing. Students can earn an AS degree in Biology, with an emphasis in either General Biology or Human Biology. The department's teaching styles and curriculum development support BC's Core Values, Strategic Goals and Strategic Initiatives. The biology department continues to use Benchmark Data Strands of Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment to align the pathways for students.

2. Things Biology Department did well over the past 3-4 years:

The Biology Department continues to be an example of excellence;

- The Biology department's involvement campus, district and statewide groups (i.e. Club advisors, STEM, Week Zero, MESA, C-ID, State Scorecard...).
- Departmental Mentoring of Adjunct and New FT faculty
- All course curriculum is up-to-date
- Considered the departmental "Gold Standard" in class assessment
- Use of Instructional Technology
- Student transfer, outreach and articulation.
- Prepare students well-versed in biology, while maintaining reading, writing expectations.

3. What are the factors in the Bakersfield Community (job market, socio-economic climate, educational outlook) that will impact your department/program?

Projected Job Openings in High Growth/High Wage Opportunities (2008-2018): #1 Nursing (\$71,000), #3 Licensed Vocational Nurse (\$48,000), #5 Elementary School Teacher (\$58,700), , Clinical Lab Jobs (\$46,680).

Fastest Growing Occupations (2008-2018): 7 of top 10 fastest growing occupations in California require a minimum AA/AS in science/biology

4. How can your department/program best meet the needs of the community?

The Biology Department offers courses that prepare pre-allied health majors; by maintaining GE courses the prepare students for transfer, and for breadth of knowledge as they go into the local job market.

Courses offered in the Biology Department are often FULL (including waitlists) by the time students are able to add courses via "open registration". We need to provide more classes. There is large bottleneck of students that cannot register for courses or even get on the waitlist.

5. How can the college as a whole, with your program as an important part of that whole, meet the needs of the community best?

Hiring more FT-faculty and an increase in our departmental budget will allow the "bottleneck" of Biology students to complete their courses required to transfer or apply to allied health programs (which lead directly to jobs). Finding qualified adjuncts is a challenge.

Course alignment with Biology TMCs and internship opportunities within the community.

6. What are the most important ways Bakersfield College and your program impact positive change in our service area?

Bakersfield College Biology Department ranks second in Biology AS degrees awarded in the entire state of California. AS Degrees Awarded per year: The BC Biology Department has averaged 74 AS degrees awarded per year.

The number of Biology students transferring to CSUB ranks 4th among transferring disciplines.

Student transfer to UC; Biology students transferring to a UC ranks first among BC students transferring to a UC.

The Biology Department provides students with opportunities to look at the world around them and consider their impact on the environment and others. We give them skills to make Bakersfield a healthier environment to live in. We introduce the concept of life-long learning and application, so students can be more responsible for the health of their families.