

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-012-245

Program Review for BA in Spanish

Academic Programs Committee

Date: 1/22/2025

**Executive Committee
Received and Forwarded**

Date: 10/29/2025

Academic Senate

**Date: 11/5/2025
First Reading**

**Date: 12/03/2025
Second Reading**

BACKGROUND:

As part of the regular review cycle of campus programs, the English and Modern Languages Department conducted a self-study in early 2024. Drs. Taylor and Sotoudeh evaluated the self-study report, met with the department on February 8, 2024, and completed an internal review report. An external review by Drs. Laura Marques-Pascual (UC Santa Barbara) and Damian Bacich (San Jose State University) was conducted virtually on February 26, 2024 and in-person on March 5, 2024 and an external review report was prepared April 7, 2024. The Dean outlined key strengths and priorities for action, and the Department completed a post-review action plan.

The Department's self-study covered the program's core values, its quality, curriculum and other recent changes, and faculty and administrative support.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Dr. Kent Dickson, Chair, English and Modern Languages
Dr. Camille Johnson, Dean, College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences
Dr. Jocelyn Chong, Coordinator, Assessment and Program Review

DISCUSSION:

The BA in Spanish program was commended by multiple reviewers for their unwavering commitment to student success and their field. The external review of the program was highly positive, indicating strengths in the areas of curricular design, course delivery flexibility, strong and diverse faculty body, and an environment of engagement and collegiality in the program. Weaknesses were minor and included a need to improve outreach and have a more robust public-facing image for the program, a lack of a placement exam to enroll students at the right language level, and a low variety in courses offered, especially interdisciplinary and/or professional courses that could bridge with other programs. Opportunities were noted to develop these interdisciplinary courses, such as Spanish for STEM student, Spanish for Healthcare, etc. which would help the program collaborate with other programs. There are also opportunities for the program to improve heritage language support, an important way to support students at a Hispanic-serving institution. Threats were also identified, such as enrollment declines and a reduction in GE units in the CSU.

The internal reviewers highlighted similar areas and especially noted the strong assessment in place in the program. They recommended advocating lowering the SFR target for the program to help with GI 2025 challenges and to continue the already strong student support measures in the program. They also recommended additional university resources to help the program improve its website and social media presence to increase recruitment efforts. They also recommended a review of the various coordinator positions within the program to make sure that workload/release time is shared equitably among these positions.

In its response to the review, in the short term, the Department prioritized (1) identifying professional needs related to the Spanish language within the community; (2) creating a video about the program to use for recruiting; (3) improve their website; (4)

change the name of the department to English and Spanish to increase visibility; and (5) examine workloads of coordinator positions and request adequate release time. Longer term, the departmental action plan calls for (1) a revamp to the GE language courses to improve entryways for heritage speakers into the BA or minor programs; (2) work with other departments to create partnerships and blended programs; (3) consider additional changes in courses to increase visibility; and (4) elaborate a vision and mission statement for the program.

Dr. Chong echoed the reviewers and department's concerns about enrollment challenges and that increasing the program's visibility and connections with other degree programs would help address this concern. Dean Johnson agreed with the priorities of strengthening the department's website and social media, establishing an outreach and recruitment plan, and increasing the focus on professionalization.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee commends the Spanish program on their successful review, and on the high-impact value they provide to their students. Their action plan sufficiently addressed the areas of improvement noted in the review and will bring visibility to an already successful program.