



Merritt College Counseling Department

Counselor Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2002

Meeting convened at 11:00 a.m. In attendance: Zielke, McLean, Shriver, Pantell, Taylor, Wong, Allen, Scurry, Greene, Debra Jacks, Yvonne Lawrence, Intern White.

1. Vocational Nursing at Merritt Visit from Gail Sorrells, Department Chair of Vocational Nursing Program. Admission to program requires proof of high school completion or GED. If international student, must have transcript evaluated by transcript evaluation service. Must also complete Anatomy & Physiology course with “C” or better (C- is OK), and have taken course within 5 years. Approved A&P courses: Merritt’s BIOL 24 or higher or Chabot’s BIOL 50. BIOSC 30 at Los Medanos is not acceptable. Students who seem to do best in program are those eligible for ENG 201 or higher and MATH 253 or higher. Many current students seem under prepared and, in particular, have trouble with using math for dosage calculations and the writing required for essay exams. Students who struggle in program so do early, usually in Pharmacology. If student doesn’t pass a course (i.e. “D” or lower), they must withdraw from program. Can reapply after withdrawal, however, and re-take courses they didn’t pass (as well as those they did, if they like). Common themes for students who struggle in program: 1) insufficient study habits, 2) unfamiliar with college-level textbooks, 3) substandard writing skills, especially on essay exams, and 4) integrating material—acquiring knowledge vs. simply learning what’s needed to pass an exam. Drop-out rate of program currently around 20%. Program must maintain high standards to ensure that those who complete it pass state exam. If pass rate of state exam falls below acceptable standards, accreditation of program may be jeopardized. Program can only accept 30 students to meet state-mandated student/teacher ratio of 10/1. Application deadline for F03 is 5/31/03.
2. Educational Plan Review Counselors did preliminary review of ed plan. All counselors asked to review plan further and get comments to Shriver ASAP.
3. Articulation Report Pantell gave artic update. See written report published on Counselor Web Site.
4. PCCD Counselor Training Confirmed for Merritt College Student Lounge on 11/20 & 21. Re: hourly counselor attendance, current policy is that if an hourly counselor is scheduled to work on the day of training, they are to work their normal shift. If they aren’t scheduled, they are encouraged to attend the training but must do so on their own time without compensation.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.