

## **What is a “Program?”**

The term “program” can be used and defined differently based on the context – program review, program assessment, generically, and now in the context of institution-set standards for satisfactory performance of student success.

Title 5, 55000(g) defines an educational program as “an organized sequence of courses leading to a defined objective, a degree, a certificate, a diploma, a license, or transfer to another institution of high education.”

### **In the context of Program Review:**

The BRIC Inquiry Guide, Maximizing the Program Review Process (page 6) states “depending in part upon the size of a college, and in part upon local preferences, some instructional departments may be separate for the purposes of program review while other may combined.”

Sociology, Anthropology and Psychology may choose to do a single or separate program reviews. Similarly, in order to get a measure of the success of a ‘program’, the college may conduct program reviews of learning communities since they lead to a ‘defined objective’.

*All units and programs at LMC are required to participate in program review.*

### **In the context Program Assessment:**

Accreditation Standard II.A.1.c states “The institution identifies student learning outcomes for courses, **programs**, certificates, and degrees; assesses student achievement of those outcomes; and uses assessment results to make improvements.”

In addition to programs leading to certificates and degrees, the college may determine additional ‘programs’ which will then need learning outcomes and which will need to be assessed. For example, ESL may be viewed as a ‘program’ at LMC if most students take an organized sequence of courses with a defined objective (using the Title 5 definition of program). In such a case, ESL would need to develop and assess program-level SLOs to review and continue to improve program effectiveness.

*All programs defined or determined to be programs need to participate in program assessment.*

### **Generically:**

We tend to call many things a ‘program’ generically. For example, is Emergency Medical Services at LMC a program? It has one principle course - EMT 10 - that leads to a defined objective of becoming an EMT. It does not fit the title 5 definition of a program. EMS does not need to do a “program” assessment, but certainly needs to do course-level assessment. It does need to do a unit review or be included in another program’s program/unit review. At LMC, it is included in the Fire Program Review.

### **In the context of Institution-Set Standards for Satisfactory Performance of Student Success:**

See the handout on the latest information from ACCJC.