SSI Annual Report

Response ID:61 Data

1. Page One

Dept./Program/Project Name:

Philosophy/Logic Lab

University Division:

Academic Affairs

Person Responsible for Overseeing SSI Project/Activities:

Name : John Mumma
Title : Associate Professor
Email Address : jmumma@csusb.edu

Person Preparing Report (if different than above):

Name : William Lee Vanderburgh
Title : Professor
Email Address : wvanderburgh@csusb.edu

2.

Total SSI amount allocated this year:

$9,600.00

Total SSI amount expended thus far:

$0.00

Number of unique students served (July 1 - Winter Quarter):

000

3. (untitled)

SSI Program/Project Overview: In 750 words or less, describe the overarching purpose, goals and outcomes of your SSI-funded project(s), program(s), etc.

The Logic lab provides support for students developing their critical thinking skills in courses offered by the Philosophy Department. This support has two components: tutoring from undergraduate lab assistants, and computer-aided instruction facilitated by lab assistants (there are 16 workstations in the lab, equipped with specialized software). The Logic lab serves all students enrolled in a philosophy course—3,500 in number annually. The core group of students served by the lab use it on almost a daily basis. The group is composed of those enrolled in Phil 200, Critical Thinking Through Symbolic Logic. The lab computers run software that allow these students to ascertain the validity of their proofs from their Phil 200 classes (indeed, students in Phil 200 are required to visit the Logic lab to complete specific assignments). Since Phil 200 satisfies the general education critical thinking requirement and has a high DFWI rate (the average from 2013 to present is 41%), it is a bottleneck course. The support the Logic lab provides to students in the course thus contributes to the CSU Graduation Initiative 2025. In his October 2013 visit to campus at the invitation of President Tomas Morales, renowned student success expert Dr. Vincent Tinto recommended highly the tutoring experience, summing it up as: students doing well helping students who are not doing that well is to the educational benefit of all. This is exactly what happens in the Logic lab. It provides educational benefits and a very effective learning environment for students. The Logic lab tutors help students with paper drafts, homework

assignments, and problem sets for courses in introductory philosophy, critical thinking, and symbolic logic. They also provide one-to-one and group instruction on the use of specialized logic software. The experience our Logic lab tutors gain helps them build a strong resume and makes them more competitive when they apply for jobs after they graduate from CSUSB. The effectiveness of the Logic lab depends essentially on its ability to accommodate the busy schedules of CSUSB students. The Philosophy department does not have the funds to keep the lab open the number of hours necessary to do this, and absent funding from outside the department it would fail to serve a great number of the students it is intended to serve. Moreover, philosophy instructors would no longer have the option of including logic lab assignments in their courses, as they could not reasonably expect every student to find time in his or her weekly schedule to visit the lab during its hours of operation. Hence the primary outcome supported by SSI funds is an expansion of the hours per week that the Logic lab is available to students.

4. (untitled)

Alignment to ILOs: To which of the following Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) do you feel as though your SSI-funded project aligns? (Check all that apply.) Details regarding the ILOs can be found on Office of Academic Programs website.

Depth of Knowledge
Critical Literacies
Ways of Reasoning and Inquiry
Integrative Learning

5. (untitled)

SSI-Funded Activities: Please list and describe the activities undertaken through winter quarter with your SSI allocation. This section should address only those activities occurring this fiscal year.

Funding of Logic lab tutor salaries.

6. (untitled)

Progress Towards Outcomes/Cumulative Findings: Describe the progress you have made toward your original SSI goals and outcomes though winter quarter. Indicate clearly how student success was enhanced by your program or service/s. Be sure to include the measures you employed and evidence/data you collected for each outcome where appropriate.

First outcome achieved: Logic Lab open an average of 43 hours per week.

To assess progress towards the second and third outcomes, a survey was distributed to students who visited the Logic Lab.

40 students filled out the survey in the fall 2018 quarter. Results are below.

Question 1
Because of my visits to the logic lab, my understanding of the material in my philosophy course improved.

45% strongly agree, 45% agree, 5% neither, 2% disagree

Question 2
Because of my visits to the logic lab, my ability to complete my philosophy coursework (e.g. logic exercises, papers) improved.

57.5 % strongly agree, 27.5% agree, 7.5% neither, 7.5% disagree

Question 3
Because of my visits to the logic lab, I had helpful discussions with my philosophy classmates about the course material.

42.5 % strongly agree, 27.5% agree, 22.5% neither, 7.5% disagree

Question 4
The tutors in the logic lab were knowledgeable about the material in my philosophy course, and provided clear and helpful explanations.

70% strongly agree, 20% agree, 7.5% neither, 2.5% disagree

Students were also asked to provide any comments they had about their experience at the logic lab. These were very positive. Some examples:

-Great help, definitely will continue to go to the lab for my prior [sic] philosophy classes.

-very helpful, thanks

-great tutors :)

-I liked going, helped me finish my work

-The logic lab has been a great resource to use and get help on homework and answer any questions concerning my philosophy courses.

7. (untitled)

Recommendations for Continual Improvement/Action Plan: Based on the analysis of your assessment results, what actionable steps can be taken to make improvements? How can you improve students' achievement of the SLO or your office's performance in terms of operations? What is your expected timeline?

At the advice of the CAL Dean, in winter 2019 the CAL IT staff devised an iPad-based sign-in system to replace paper-based Logic Lab tutoring logs. It is too early to judge the system since it was only operational as of early February 2019, but from its launch to the end of Winter quarter, 41 students signed in with this tool. We have data on which classes they are seeking help with, and what reason they have for visiting the Logic Lab. Given that the data is incomplete for Winter 2019, we won't report it here. But we do intend to look at the system after Spring, make any changes that seem advisable, and continue using this system to track attendance and other data in the future. This tool could ultimately be linked to the student data system to allow us to acquire detailed data about student grades in courses for which they visited, etc.

Resources for Continual Improvement/Action Plan: What additional resources, if any, are needed to bring the above continual improvements to fruition?

John Mumma has been on sabbatical for most of this academic year. Upon his return, he will continue to work a plan for continual improvement. No additional resources are currently required for this.

8. (untitled)

Challenges: If applicable, please list any significant challenges encountered that have affected your ability to fully implement your intended activities or to reach your articulated outcomes. Please also indicate if you need assistance in addressing these challenges.

Mumma's sabbatical has interrupted the continuity of assessment this year, but things will return to normal next year. As always, it is nearly impossible to assess direct impacts of things like the Logic Lab, tutoring or Supplemental Instruction. We can't know what a student's grade or other success would have been had they not attended Logic Lab. And we can't know that

if a student who failed had attended Logic Lab, that they would not have failed. We are forced to rely on our professional judgement that this sort of service has a significant benefit, and on student self-reports of satisfaction. Self-reports are notoriously unreliable, and response rates are very low. To some extent, this makes the whole assessment exercise a bit of a farce, or at least makes it yield information whose value is very likely not worth the effort it takes to gather it.

The most significant challenge we face in the Logic Lab is the same one shared by other similar resources: getting students to take advantage of the service in the first place. The department encourages faculty from all our courses to require, when it makes sense for the course, that their students visit the Logic Lab to complete an assignment. This is of some benefit in helping students to feel comfortable coming back for another visit, and to see the benefit of doing so.

9. Budget Summary with Alignment to Outcomes and Activities

Budget Summary: Please account for all expenditures of SSI funds for this project using the SSI Annual Report Budget Summary Template. (The template can be found at http://ssi.csusb.edu/assessment.) Upload your completed summary here.

SSI_Annual_Report_Budget_Summary_Logic_Lab_2018-19.xlsx

10. (untitled)

Check-in/Usage Report: Please upload any check-in or usage data you have for students who have engaged with your project/program since July 1 through the end of winter quarter. Uploads should be in Excel and include, at minimum, students' CoyoteIDs; password-protected SPSS files may be submitted via email to Institutional_Research@csusb.edu. Additional information such as date(s) of visit(s)/interaction(s) and students' names would also be helpful. (The Office of Institutional Research is working to establish an overall assessment of SSI; to do this, we need your help in collecting and sharing students' engagement with and usage of SSI-funded projects and programs.)

Logic_Lab_student_visits_2018_19.xlsx

11. Thank You!

New Send Email

May 08, 2019 23:19:44 Success: Email Sent to: jmumma@csusb.edu,wvanderburgh@csusb.edu

Student Success Initiative Annual Report

Budget Summary with Alignment to Outcomes and Activities

Please save your completed summary using the following format: SSI_Budget_Year_Unit/Dept Name. You will be asked to upload this completed form as part of the online submission process.

Project Name: College of Arts & Letters Logic Lab Tutors   2018-19

University Dvision: Academic Affairs   "Other" Project Name:

Name and Title of Person Responsible for SSI/VTI Project: John Mumma, assistant professor, philosophy department

Expenditure Description	Outcome(s) Supported	Supported Activities	EO 1060 Category (All VTI projects should be coded Expanded Technologies.)	Amount
Logic Lab tutor salaries	The Logic Lab with SSI funding will increase the number of hours	One-on-one tutoring in logic and philosophy; con	Advising & Retention	$ 10,725.00
			GRAND TOTAL	$ 10,725.00