

## Program Viability Executive Summary

Program: Agriculture

<b>Viability Criteria</b>	<b>Program's Response</b>	
<p><b>Employment outlook</b> for Kern County and State that demonstrates community needs (<i>labor market, EMSI, and/or advisory committee</i>)</p>	<p>Employment outlook data: Community Need (# employed, industry revenue, etc.)</p> <p>This statement from State of California Employment Development Department <a href="http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/indproj/bake\$_highlights.pdf">http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/indproj/bake\$_highlights.pdf</a> The 50 fastest growing occupations anticipate an annual growth rate of 2.5 percent or higher. The 50 occupations with the most job openings are forecasted to generate more than 65,300 total job openings by 2018, which is about 57 percent of all job openings in Kern County. The top three occupations with the most job openings are Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse; Cashiers; and Retail Salespersons. Higher-skilled occupations include Teachers; Accountants and Auditors; General and Operations Managers; Management Analysts; and Farm, Ranch, and Other Agricultural Managers. These are entry level positions to jobs requiring a bachelor's degree or higher.</p>	
<p><b>Employment statistics</b> for BC students (<i>employment rate from latest VTEA core indicator report and/or program-generated data</i>)</p>	<p>Perkins IV data 2011 Core 4 employment is one of the areas that historically has been very difficult gather proper statistics for agriculture majors. When examining these areas across agriculture, employment statistics are very sparse. Example: not all potential jobs are found, nursery production jobs are available but retail nursery sales are found under sales which also includes clothing stores, convenience stores, etc. The data is not specific to show the true potential of employment.</p>	
<p><b>CTE licensure exam pass rates</b> of graduates or completers (<i>generated by program for those who have licensure processes</i>)</p>	<p>The only CTE licensure exam that agriculture has is the Jobs Skills Certificate of Specialization, Registered Veterinarian Technician. The qualification for this test requires 4,500 hours (approximately 2 years full time work) of on the job training which is completed at local veterinarian facilities. After completion of the hours this exam is administered by the State of California. All who have attempted this test have passed. 2 passed this fall.</p>	
<p><b>Success rate</b> of program (<i>KCCCD Course Book data, compared to similar programs in the state from CCCCCO Data Mart</i>)</p>	<p>BC: 74.7%</p>	<p>Statewide: 73.26%</p>
<p><b>Retention rate</b> of program (<i>KCCCD Course Book data, compared to similar programs in the state from CCCCCO Data Mart</i>)</p>	<p>BC: 89.3%</p>	<p>Statewide: 81.77</p>
<p><b>Completion rate</b> of</p>	<p>BC: 87.36%</p>	<p>Statewide: 75.15%</p>

program (KCCD Course Book data, compared to similar programs in the state from CCCCCO Data Mart)					
<b>CTE program completion rate</b> (completion rate from latest VTEA core indicator report and/or program generated data)	67%				
<b>Trend enrollment</b> for five years (Yearly FTEF of program for these five years from KCCD Course Book data)	2007-08 2,230	2008-09 2,357	2009-10 2,253	2010-11 2,361	2011-12 2,209
<b>Cost per FTEF</b> (using correct data)	\$2,153.76				
<b>Productivity</b> (FTES per FTEF)	18.5				
<b>Number of student contacts</b> (for student services programs)					
<b>Transfer-ready</b> rates of students	42.86%				
Program meets one of the three <b>missions</b> : basic skills, CTE, transfer	<b>Mission(s):</b> The mission of the Bakersfield College Agriculture Department is to provide pertinent state-of-the-art education for vocational and transfer students in order to produce skilled agricultural and natural resource professionals for the industry, both public and private. This is in accordance with the college mission to respond to student and community needs with efficiency and flexibility and with the BC institutional level learning outcomes, i.e. to demonstrate knowledge and abilities in a chosen area of study.				
<b>Provides necessary student services</b>	Explanation/rationale:				
Ability to meet <b>outside agency standards</b> , such as accrediting, licensing, and governing boards.	Explanation/rationale: The only CTE licensure exam that agriculture has is the Jobs Skills Certificate of Specialization, Registered Veterinarian Technician.				
<b>Ability for students to complete their</b>	Presently, the Agriculture department is teaching only courses necessary for graduation. The students have the ability to complete their degree in 2-3 years. Eliminating Agriculture classes could impact over 2,000				

<b>program of study</b> (explanation/rationale) or the need students have who are in the program (numeric data)	students.
<b>Transfer Model Curriculum</b> (either completed or in process)	Identify TMC major and the status of the TMC approval: A TMC curriculum is being developed through the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. Bakersfield College Agriculture is participating in this process.
<b>Additional revenue-generating data</b> that the program wishes to be considered as a evidence of viability	The Agriculture Department has generated money in kind and monetary donations \$50,450 this fiscal year. Some of the donations are used for classroom use (fertilizers, plants, irrigation). Some are used around campus – Centennial 100 tree planting. Garden Fest, Lamb sales, Country Garden Radio all generates funds to support these programs. The activities also use funding SB70 grants to promote, outreach and educate the public and local schools.
<b>Additional comments relating to the effect</b> on other programs and services on campus should this program be altered from its current condition ( <b>the “domino effect”</b> ).	Many of the classes are very specific to industry, although the domino effect would not severely affect the campus environment it would severely affect the local Kern County agricultural industry which ranks as the #2 producer in the United States.

**Additional data, information, and rationale that demonstrates program viability:**

The Agriculture Department is a Career Technical Education (CTE) department. Therefore, our certificate programs align us with one of the core missions of Bakersfield College, and that is to supply trained individuals to work in vocational jobs of regional agricultural businesses. Agricultural supervisory level jobs have increased about 4% in Kern County and in California since 2009, despite predictions that those jobs will decrease 7% by 2014. This is the highest percentage growth of any major occupational category. Most occupations have seen a decline in employment during the same period. These jobs require a minimum of an associate degree and two years of experience. (EMSI Occupational Change Summary 2011)

Although we are formally a CTE department, almost 80% of our course offerings are transferable to the CSU and/or UC system and we also offers six courses that meet CSU, and/or UC general education transfer requirements in biology, life-long learning, social science, economics, natural science, art, and educational planning. All of our disciplines, except the Registered Veterinary Technician program, also lead to four year degrees or higher. Therefore, we also meet the third Budget Decision Criteria for transfer.

The closest competing school with an agriculture program is over 70 miles away at College of Sequoias (COS) in Visalia. Porterville College has a small agriculture program and we work very closely with them

regarding curriculum needs within our district. We are the only agricultural program in Kern County, which is the second leading county in the United States in value of agricultural production (USDA Agricultural Statistics Summary 2011). COS has an agriculture program but has eliminated their Veterinary medicine/ RVT program due to staffing issues making BC the only program within 100 miles.