

## Measure G Report for Word Jam

1. *Provide a brief description of your program/service (50 words or fewer).*

Word Jam is a free, one week, non-credit program that helps students in all levels of English, Reading, and ESL improve their academic skills and placement scores. Students work with faculty to develop reading/writing strategies, exceed expectations in their English, Reading, or ESL courses, and become familiar with campus resources.

2. *Is the college contractually obliged to provide your program/service? Explain.*

The college is not contractually obliged to fund Word Jam but it does have a mandate from the State Chancellor's Office to close the achievement gap and improve basic skills education. Given the fact that the overwhelming majority of students enter community college underprepared to do transfer-level work, Word Jam is a critical tool that we use to address the situation and support their needs.

3. *Is the college obligated to provide your program/service in order to meet accreditation requirements? Explain.*

The college is not obliged to offer Word Jam to meet an accreditation requirement but, in a more general sense, the purpose and goals of the program address directly several accreditation standards that we must satisfy.

Standard II.A.1.a lays out the following expectation for Cañada College: The institution identifies and seeks to meet the varied educational needs of its students through programs consistent with their educational preparation and the diversity, demographics, and economy of its communities.

Word Jam is integral to the college's effort to satisfy that accreditation standard.

4. *How does your program/service specifically support objectives of the Educational Master Plan or other strategic plans?*

Word Jam directly supports the objectives delineated in the Educational Master Plan, the Basic Skills Plan, and the Student Equity Plan by:

1. improving connections with potential students by providing increased information about assessment testing;
2. shortening the pathway to transfer through improved assessment scores;
3. augmenting basic reading/writing skills;
4. improving the success, retention and persistence of students who are in basic skills classes, including English as a Second Language.
5. improving the persistence and transfer rate of students enrolled in transfer classes.

5. *How many students (headcount) per semester are served by your program/service in an academic year?*

40 students participated the Fall 2013 Word Jam session and 68 students participated in the January 2014 Word Jam session. Thus, a total of 108 students participated in Word Jam this past academic year.

6. *Does your program/service provide for the needs of a special population of students?*

The overwhelming majority of Word Jam participants are basic skills/first generation college students. According to the latest Word Jam student survey 73% of students identified as Hispanic/Latino, 11% identified as Asian/Pacific Islander, 5% identified as White, and 5% identified as African American.

7. *What is your evidence of program success?*

The numbers for the January Word Jam session are as follows: According to the English Placement Test Assessment Results 57% of ESL students improved their scores in the Listening section, 29% improved in Reading, and 29% improved in Grammar. In the English/Reading cohort 18% posted a significant gain in their Reading score and 36% improved in Writing. While there is room for improvement with regard to improving assessment test scores, 78% of Word Jam students responded that they found Word Jam “very helpful” and 94% felt that their academic skills had improved as a result of participating in Word Jam.

8. *What measures would be required in order to accommodate your current students if your program were to lose funding?*

The college currently does not have another mechanism by which to promote skill acquisition in reading and writing in an accelerated, focused format.

9. *What specific measures of cost savings to your program/service can you propose? What are the consequences of implementing these measures?*

Rather than schedule daytime and evening sessions of Word Jam (which was the case in January) the college could fund just one session.

10. *What other possible sources of funding might be available to fund your program/service?*

Tapping funds from the Basic Skills Initiative could be a possibility.