Foreign Language

Program Strengths and Accomplishments
The Foreign Language program addresses a number of student and community needs. With an increasingly diverse local community, the need for proficient foreign language speakers increases proportionally. By offering courses in Spanish, French, Japanese and Chinese, the program significantly addresses the promotion of language fluency and general education degree requirements. The development of new courses, particularly in the field of Japanese, is an attempt to expand the viability of the program within a context of contemporary social developments. The number of Foreign Language sections offered has increased from 67 in the 2003-2004 academic year to 104 in the 2006-2007 academic year. Similarly, seats available and seats taken have increased in the same time-frame from 2134 to 3162 and from 1670 to 1733 respectively. Tutors are currently available for all of the Foreign Language program courses.

Other Issues Facing the Department
The Foreign Language Department faces significant challenges with respect to attracting students and providing qualified teachers. Though the program has experienced limited growth over the last 5 years, growth in seats offered has increased significantly more than the growth in seats taken. The result has been a significant increase in the cost of providing classes with a notable decrease in course fill rates. The ratio of full time to part time program instructors will be addressed within the context of student demand and productivity increases. Our ability to offer third and fourth level language courses is dependent upon student demand for such courses. That demand has not been significant in the last 3 years.

Goals/Action Plans for the Next Three Years
- Revise Spanish 203 and Spanish 204.
- Hire a full time Spanish/French instructor.
- Identify and hire well qualified adjunct instructors proficient in the languages offered within the program.
- Increase student demand for Foreign Language courses by developing and utilizing effective marketing and outreach efforts.
- Review course offerings to meet student demand while contributing to the College’s efforts to improve efficiency and reduce instructional costs.