Program Planning and Assessment Philosophy – adopted by Senate in 2008

The purpose of Program Planning and Assessment at Hartnell College is to obtain an honest and authentic view of a program and to assess its strengths, opportunities, needs, and connection to the mission and goals of the college.  The process is based on the premise that each instructional program, student services department or administrative unit receives assessment data and uses it to plan for improvement.  Program Planning and Assessment is a formative and cyclical process, by which faculty and staff analyze data, prepare annual plans, implement the plans, and reassess.  The results of this cycle will feed into a periodic (every five-years) program self-study showing evidence of improvement and outlining long range goals. The self-assessment process will also be the foundation upon which programs advocate for their needs in achieving educational excellence. It will result in recommendations that will be addressed in the college plans and budgets. Program Planning and Assessment will provide fundamental information for college-wide decision making and resource allocation.  Finally, the Program Planning and Assessment process will improve the flow of information about student learning at Hartnell College.  It will provide communication to the governance process and to decision makers.  The end result will be to improve institutional effectiveness and student success.