1. Program Description

The Associate in Arts (AA) degree program offers a solid liberal arts and sciences foundation in preparation for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The AA degree program also develops critical thinking, information literacy, communication and problem-solving skills needed for a successful career.

The general education received in the program:

Encompasses the common knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed by individuals to be effective as persons, family members, workers, and citizens.

Provides opportunities to develop understanding, abilities, values, and personal attributes which should help students apply their knowledge, skills, and talents to make sound decisions and to analyze and solve problems in a multi-cultural community.

Helps the students gain a more integrated view of knowledge, a more realistic view of life and a more defined sense of community and social responsibility.

The program learning outcomes are:

1. Develop, support, and communicate ideas to a particular audience through writing [written communication].
2. Develop, support, and communicate ideas to a particular audience through speech and writing [oral communication].
3. Apply quantitative reasoning to solve problems, interpret answers, and communicate results [quantitative reasoning].
4. Use critical thinking to address issues and solve problems [critical thinking].
5. Find, evaluate, and use information [information literacy].
6. Use the concepts, theories, and methodologies in arts, humanities, natural and social sciences to examine natural phenomena or to evaluate human experiences [arts, humanities, and sciences].
7. Describe and analyze the nature of culture and its variations, past and present [cultural diversity].

2. Analysis of the Program

Overall program health for the Liberal Arts program is at a "Cautionary" level. This is due to decreases in demand (the number of Liberal Arts majors) and effectiveness (the number of degrees awarded and number of transfers to a UH-4 year institution). The program continues to maintain a “healthy” level of efficiency with a high class fill rate and majors to FTE faculty.

Demand - Unhealthy

The number of Liberal Arts majors has continued to decrease. In 2018-2019, the percent change from the prior year is 13 percent decrease. This is rated “Unhealthy” (greater than 8 percent).

Efficiency - Healthy

The overall class fill rate continues to be high: 80.9 percent, well inside the “Healthy” range. Average class size is 20.

The majors to FTE faculty ratio - 26.0 to 1 - is “Healthy.”

Together, they indicate a “Healthy” program in terms of efficiency.
Effectiveness – Cautionary

The health call for Effectiveness is “Cautionary.”

Indicator 1: Increasing the number of Associate Degrees awarded by 3% per year.

The number of students earning degrees has decreased from 621 to 532, a decrease of 8.5 percent. This indicator is considered “Unhealthy.”

Indicator 2: Increasing the number of Transfers to UH 4-year institutions by 3% per year.

The number of students transferring to a UH 4-year institution has decreased from 439 to 376, a decrease of 8.6 percent. This indicator is considered “Unhealthy.”

Indicator 3: Persistence from Fall to Spring

Persistence continues to remain stable with 71 percent continuing from Fall to Spring, four percent short of the healthy benchmark range of 75 percent. This indicator is considered “Cautionary.”

3. Program Student Learning Outcomes

The program learning outcomes are:

- Develop, support, and communicate ideas to a particular audience through writing [written communication].
- Develop, support, and communicate ideas to a particular audience through speech and writing [oral communication].
- Apply quantitative reasoning to solve problems, interpret answers, and communicate results [quantitative reasoning].
- Use critical thinking to address issues and solve problems [critical thinking].
- Find, evaluate, and use information [information literacy].
- Use the concepts, theories, and methodologies in arts, humanities, natural and social sciences to examine natural phenomena or to evaluate human experiences [arts, humanities, and sciences].
- Describe and analyze the nature of culture and its variations, past and present [cultural diversity].

Program Student Learning Outcomes that have been assessed in the year of the Annual Review of Program Data include: Written Communication, Oral Communication, Critical Thinking, Information Literacy, and the Arts, Humanities and Sciences.

As displayed below, the percentage of students who meet or exceed proficiency ranged from 58 to 81 percent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Percentage Meeting or Exceeding Proficiency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Communication</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Literacy</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Humanities and Sciences</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The AA Program Review Task Force has begun engaging faculty in exploring how to improve student learning. Faculty members include those teaching writing intensive courses. A focus on helping students further their critical thinking skills will be a focal area.

4. Action Plan

The college is pursuing initiatives aimed at student retention and degree completion. College pathways have been introduced and counseling teams are focusing on how to better meet the needs of our students, many who are part-time students. In addition to traditional face-to-face classes, options such as hybrid and online courses are being offered. Leeward Community College is also offering five-week online courses in the Liberal Arts.

The Waianae Moku campus is completing renovations and will continue to increase enrollment and support services. Currently, 62 percent of the students are Native Hawaiian.

These initiatives directly support the college’s mission.

At Leeward Community College, we work together to nurture and inspire all students. We help them attain their goals through high-quality liberal arts and career and technical education. We foster students to become responsible global citizens locally, nationally, and internationally. We advance the educational goals of all students with a special commitment to Native Hawaiians.

5. Resource Implications

The needs of the program are filtered through the Divisions and are articulated in the Planning Lists developed through the Annual Program Reviews.