***1)      What are the strengths of your department/program? What do you already do well?  Remember that these responses will be shared with the community at large, so please use this opportunity to brag a little bit.  What do you want people outside your department/program to know about your successes and strengths?***

* Representation of Communication as a Discipline

Communication as a discipline is itself interdisciplinary. The three main areas of study are media studies, communication theory, and rhetoric. The students in the Communication major experience a good overview of the entire Communication discipline.

* Leader in Experiential Learning in a variety of ways
	+ Service Learning:
		- Many of our classes partner with outside organizations during the semester. Our students provide services for them such as content calendars, marketing plans, thoughts about their brand, and various types of analysis.
		- Many of our classes partner with internal organizations during the semester to provide similar help. Examples of such partners include CSBSJU Social Media, Admissions, publishing stories in the Record, or the Communication Department. Some classes develop media materials for the Communication department to be used in recruiting.
		- In other classes, students work with adult and/or student English Language Learners from the community.
		- Other classes partner with a charities like Boys and Girls Club or Kids Stop. Students devote 20 hours per week volunteering. Students create a lesson plan on media literacy for the kids at the end of the semester. There is a Political Campaign Communication course that partners with candidates’ political campaigns to apply their knowledge to the campaigns’ strategy. This helps address the importance of civic engagement and democratic participation.
		- Internships:

- Many of our students do internships.

* + - Undergraduate Research:

- A lot of undergraduate research, including as Independent Learning Projects. These projects are presented at regional and national conferences in addition to on campus Scholarship and Creativity Day

* + - Partnerships with Outside Groups:

- We work to create opportunities for analysis and application of coursework by working with outside groups (that is not officially counted as “experiential learning”, including marketing, creating social media plans, branding.

* Global and Intercultural Partnerships:
	+ Partners with short term exchange students from Chile, China, Japan and India. These students visit CSBSJU to experience campus life and get to know American culture. Our students mentor these students and provide them with home-stays (and take them home for breaks such as Thanksgiving).
	+ ESL semester long partnership in the intercultural class
	+ Exchange students are introduced to American culture through cinema in media courses designed specifically for them.
* Recently changed major requirements to more directly embrace liberal arts:
	+ Changed from distribution model where students would check off requirements in three topical areas (Rhetoric and public address, Communication theory, Media studies) to one based on learning goals (Message Design, Analysis of Communication, Communication and Community).
	+ Created deliberate pathways through the major to accommodate students with different interests.
	+ All majors complete an introductory course for each of the disciplinary areas, then choose courses to fulfill their goal-related requirements based on their interests (We provide courses from each of the disciplinary areas for each of the goals).
	+
* Departmental Identity
* During program review, we chose a program reviewer based on her ability to help critique learning goals and make suggestions about the curriculum.
	+ New curriculum is current and communicates clearer disciplinary identity to students and rest of the university.
	+ Communication would be three departments at a different university, but we are happy with the way they have pulled all three areas together.
* Close association with students:

- We work really closely with our students in our classes on projects (for example:

 students will submit paper, meet with the professor, revise, and resubmit).

* Study abroad – high participation in study abroad by our majors, and we strongly encourage this
* Consistently very high enrollment---most classes are full.
* Active Faculty
	+ Members of our department a very active on standing committees at CSBSJU.
* Excellence in Teaching

***2) What do you wish you could do better, or do more of?  What would it take (resources, support, etc.) for you to reach those goals?***

**Additional Faculty Resources for Research and Teaching**

* There is not enough time for research, both faculty and student research—there is too much to do for teaching. There is also not enough support for research (research sixths, funding for Undergraduate Research and travel, Writing retreats). All with increased expectation for research. This is made worse by the fact that research in Communication is mostly done individually by students, so more research projects are needed (as opposed to having many students work on one research project).
* Restriction in the ability to contribute to the CC due to the needs of the department. Many Communication courses fulfill Common Curriculum requirements: SS, HM, Intercultural, Experiential Learning, Gender and Ethics requirements, but all within existing Communication courses. Many would like to teach FYS/Ethics/Gender more often, but have the need to serve many majors (just shy of 400 total majors). Many also do a lot of faculty governance work (which have course releases connected to them such as vice chair/chair of faculty), which creates more need for other Communication professors to teach more of the major courses.
* Would like additional support beyond the “9 month contract”. There is no longer funding in summer for course development. This means that much of the course development gets shifted to the school year. If this continues, it could result in fewer people willing to do things like service.

**Student-Related**

* Would like to have more opportunities similar to what LES used to provide to improve pedagogy. In particular, training on how today's students learn (they seem to learn differently from students ten years ago).
* The demographics of our students also are changing. We need training on how to deal with that AND have support services for them.
* Students seem to have more serious mental health issues now, and Counseling and Disability Services are overwhelmed and need more support. Faculty can't be that support. Faculty also need to have opportunities to learn how to better work with students who do have mental health and learning challenges issues.
* There are a lot of plagiarism issues. Students are not learning how to cite properly. Additional opportunities for them to learn ethical choices in their work and additional guidance for incorporating that into each class, rather than only in FYS.

**Technology-Related**

* Tech support: Document cameras and smart boards would be helpful for teaching

**Would Like To:**

* Make better use of natural resources like the arboretum.

***3) Leaving aside discipline specific knowledge, in what ways does your department/program best contribute to providing our students with a liberal education for their lives beyond college, as informed and engaged citizens, productive employees, ethical beings, etc.?***

* By not being 3 different/separate departments, they integrate across disciplines to create engaged citizens.
* New learning goals embody liberal arts tradition
* Teach students to question common sense. Especially things like gender, culture. This is built into learning goals, experiential learning, and assignments.
* Exemplify what one report said employers want: oral and written communication skills, critical thinking and analytical problem solving skills, the application of knowledge and skills in real world settings, complex problem solving and analysis, teamwork skills, ethical decision making, and creativity. The whole Communication curriculum promotes liberal arts goals.
* Deal with under-reported issues and force students to engage with material as citizens.
* Ethics are strongly woven into content of all classes intentionally.

***4)      Are there ways in which you would like to see your department/program contribute to liberal education that so far it has not been able to?***

* Would love to team teach with people outside of Communication.
* Contribute more to FYS and Ethics (given the time that is currently entirely devoted to majors/minors/comm courses).
* IC/Gender classes are often reserved for majors and minors, so harder to see people outside of the major in those classes
* Need to save spots for Peace Studies, and other majors that can use Comm classes for their majors. This can be difficult to do.
* Would like to learn more about classes in other departments to better advise students. Requires more cooperation amongst departments and communication about what they are doing.
* Too hard to have students take classes across some majors because for some of those the students need to be a major and satisfy large hierarchical requirements.
* The major and CC should complement each other, but sometimes seem separate now. Would like to see better integration between the majors and the Common Curriculum.
* Need to help students to find connections among classes.