

Understanding the Facility Resource Allocation Rubric

Why the Criteria and Weighting Were Chosen

Facilities and Safety Committee — Committee Member Reference

Santa Ana College

Purpose of the Rubric

The Facilities and Safety Committee is responsible for helping prioritize facility requests submitted through the Program Review process using limited institutional resources.

The rubric was intentionally designed to balance multiple institutional responsibilities rather than allowing any single interest area to dominate the prioritization process.

The weighting structure reflects three core responsibilities of the college:

Institutional Responsibility	Combined Weight
Protect People & Meet Legal Obligations	40%
Support Student Success & Equitable Access	35%
Steward Institutional Resources Responsibly	25%

The rubric is intended to support balanced, evidence-based institutional decision-making.

Why Health & Safety Risk Is Weighted Highest (25%)

Colleges have a legal, ethical, and operational responsibility to provide safe learning and working environments.

Health and Safety includes:

- physical hazards,
- infrastructure failures,
- environmental concerns,
- emergency systems,
- and conditions creating liability or risk of injury.

Examples:

- fire alarm deficiencies,
- structural hazards,
- electrical risks,
- failing ventilation,
- water intrusion,
- unsafe flooring or walkways.

This category is weighted highest because known safety hazards cannot responsibly be ignored or indefinitely deferred.

However, safety alone does not determine prioritization except in verified emergency situations qualifying for Automatic Escalation.

Why Compliance & Mandates Are Weighted at 15%

Some facility obligations are required regardless of perceived urgency.

This category includes:

- ADA compliance,
- accreditation requirements,
- code compliance,
- legal mandates,
- and external regulatory obligations.

Compliance is weighted separately from safety because:

- not all compliance issues are safety issues,
- and not all safety issues involve legal mandates.

Separating these categories prevents all requests from being framed solely as “safety issues.”

Why Instructional & Student Impact Is Weighted at 20%

The institution’s primary mission is teaching, learning, and student support.

This category recognizes the importance of:

- gateway courses,
- high-enrollment instructional spaces,
- student support services,
- instructional continuity,
- and campuswide academic impact.

Projects affecting large numbers of students or essential academic functions may score very highly even if they are not safety-related.

Examples may include:

- instructional technology modernization,
- heavily utilized classroom spaces,
- tutoring and learning support centers,
- counseling or student service spaces,
- or infrastructure affecting multiple instructional divisions.

This weighting ensures the educational mission remains central to prioritization decisions.

Why Equity & Accessibility Are Weighted at 15%

Facilities directly affect:

- access,

- participation,
- inclusion,
- and student success.

This category supports the institution's commitment to:

- equitable student access,
- accessibility,
- and support for disproportionately impacted student populations.

Examples include:

- accessible learning environments,
- ADA-related improvements,
- technology access,
- inclusive instructional spaces,
- and improvements benefiting underserved student populations.

Equity is included as a distinct category because access and inclusion are institutional priorities and essential components of student success.

Why Strategic Stewardship Is Weighted at 15%

The committee's role is not only to respond to immediate problems, but also to support long-term institutional planning.

This category considers:

- Guided Pathways,
- sustainability,
- enrollment growth,
- modernization,
- deferred maintenance prevention,
- and alignment with institutional planning goals.

This helps ensure that facilities investments support the long-term health and effectiveness of the college.

Why Operational & Fiscal Stewardship Is Weighted at 10%

Responsible stewardship of public resources requires consideration of:

- sustainability,
- lifecycle costs,
- operational efficiency,
- maintenance burden,
- and long-term value.

This category encourages thoughtful investment decisions while intentionally preventing cost alone from driving institutional priorities.

The relatively lower weighting reflects the philosophy that:

educational institutions should not prioritize projects based solely on the least expensive option.

Important Clarification About Balance

The rubric was intentionally designed so that no single category independently determines priority.

For example:

- a non-safety project serving thousands of students may score very highly,
- while a smaller project with limited institutional impact may score lower even if it is desirable.

Similarly:

- not all safety-related issues automatically bypass the rubric,
- and Automatic Escalation applies only to verified critical conditions.

The rubric is intended to:

- improve transparency,
- support consistency,
- reduce subjective decision-making,
- and balance immediate needs with long-term institutional responsibilities.

Guiding Principle

The goal of the rubric is not simply to identify what is desirable, but to help the institution determine:

what is most critical, impactful, equitable, and institutionally responsible given limited resources.