

The Accreditation Review



Mission: Accreditation
Destination: 2023
Path to Possible

WELCOME!

November 2021, volume 1, issue 7

Welcome to SCC's Accreditation Review. This is the seventh issue of SCC's newsletter that provides the College with accreditation updates and shares important information about accreditation processes. Our last issue was at the end of the Spring 2021 term and there are several updates on the impactful accreditation work occurring in every corner of the College!

Criterion Corner

The Criteria for Accreditation are the standards of quality by which HLC will determine whether SCC merits reaffirmation of accreditation in Spring 2023. Each month we will review one or more parts of the five Criteria.

Criterion 1 is focused on the institution's mission. SCC's current mission statement was revised in 2020 as part of the 2020-2024 Strategic Planning process:

The mission of Southeast Community College is to empower and transform the diverse learners and communities of southeast Nebraska through accessible lifelong educational opportunities. The College provides dynamic and responsive pathways to career and technical, academic transfer, and continuing education programs that contribute to personal, community, and workforce development.

HLC's first standard of quality (Core Component 1.A.) describes how SCC's mission should be articulated publicly and operationalized throughout the institution. SCC employees have reported that most are familiar with SCC's mission statement (96%). Eighty-three percent of employee respondents also noted that the College's mission guides their own daily work either always or most of the time (SCC's Employee Survey, 2020). SCC's mission-driven culture is a key institutional strength, which guides operations that contribute to empowering and transforming our diverse learners.



Need to Know Nook

SCC has just under 15 months until we submit the Assurance Argument report and evidence filing as part of the Comprehensive Evaluation in spring 2023. The Accreditation Steering Team has been meeting weekly to prepare for the visit. To date, the Steering team has collected more than 600 sources of evidence to demonstrate how SCC meets HLC's Criteria for Accreditation. A big 'thank you' to the hundreds of employees across the College who have contributed to the evidence-gathering process! This evidence will be used to write a 35,000-word report on how SCC meets HLC's Criteria/Core Components.

As we've discussed in previous newsletter issues, SCC has a formal agreement with HLC to make progress on six areas of opportunity to ensure compliance with the Criteria: facilities, reduction in program lengths, revision of policies and procedures, assessment of student learning, cocurricular assessment, and strategic planning. As part of this proactive approach, on September 27 and 28, SCC hosted its HLC Liaison, Dr. Tom Bordenkircher. Tom assessed SCC's progress on those six areas and provided clear guidance for SCC as we continue to strengthen our ability to serve students and the surrounding community. He reported positive progress to the Board on SCC's commitment to a proactive and transparent accreditation relationship with HLC.



Accreditation Champions

We are looking for volunteers from each area to serve as an "Accreditation Champion." Serving as the Champion for your area is easy!

1. Read the monthly newsletter and complete the monthly passport challenge.
2. Actively encourage your team members to complete the monthly passport challenge!
3. Attend quarterly accreditation update meetings (approximately 1 hour) and distribute that information to your team(s).
4. Other duties as assigned as the site visit nears :)

If you're interested in serving as your area's Accreditation Champion, please complete this simple form by December 10th:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NpcjoKh5MkqdrWtkibFxdTvK8ZfhoHpEtPxrsvXKiC5UODRBQ0VROEtUNFIOOUxZTUIFTVIVTjIXSy4u>

Accreditation Passport

The Accreditation Passport program is designed to help the College community learn about the accreditation process, assist in gathering evidence, and prepare for the site visit. Thank you to the numerous employees who participated in the Passport challenges to date! SCC's talented Institutional Research Office created an interactive dashboard to track completed passport challenges. **Check out your own passport at:** <https://www.sccaccreditation.com/passport>.

There are TWO simple passport challenges related to SCC's mission. Each challenge takes five minutes or less to complete!

It's easy to access the Accreditation Passport monthly challenge:

- Go to <https://www.sccaccreditation.com/passport>
- Click "Begin the Challenge" and you will be redirected to the Canvas course
- **Complete the October and November Passport Challenges by December 10th for your chance to win a prize!**

Shawna's Shout Outs!

Every month Shawna's Shout Outs will include recognition of an individual or team of employees who have gone above and beyond! This month's Shout Out goes to two unsung accreditation heroes in the Institutional Research Office – Rebecca Carr and Sara Pegram! Rebecca and Sara have utilized their brilliant skills and talents in database management, data visualizations, and project management to develop a coherent and streamlined internal process used by the Steering Team to gather thousands of documents from hundreds of employees across the College. There are more than a dozen different steps involved in the evidence filing, from gathering documents from College employees to submission to the Higher Learning Commission. Most employees across the College do not have the opportunity to interact with these two outstanding employees, because most of their responsibilities are typically 'behind-the-scenes,' developing processes to ensure valid and reliable data across the College. However, every employee has viewed the results of their work in various reports that SCC utilizes to improve operations, services, and student learning.

Rebecca has exceptional talents in developing data visualizations and reports. Sara has the remarkable ability to communicate complicated concepts with understandable and clear information. The Accreditation Steering Team would not have been able to do the required work without their leadership creating clear processes that enable SCC to fulfill our commitment to a data-driven approach in the accreditation processes.

Thank you, Sara and Rebecca, for your leadership and commitment to accreditation at SCC.

Questions about SCC's accreditation? Please email accreditation@southeast.edu or sherwick@southeast.edu.