

CRITERION 1: MISSION

The institutions mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

Core Component 1.A.

The institution's mission is broadly understood within the institutions and guides its operations.

1. The mission statement is developed through a process suited to the nature and culture of the institution and is adopted by the governing board.
 2. The institution's academic programs, student support services, and enrollment profile are consistent with its stated mission.
 3. The institution's planning and budgeting priorities align with and support the mission (5.C.1)
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Argument

GateWay Community College (GWCC), an urban community college with four sites and an annual student enrollment of approximately 12,000 annually in both credit and clock hour programs. The College employs more than 350 faculty and staff members and serves as one of the 10 colleges in the Maricopa Community College District (MCCCD). GWCC has evolved to a comprehensive community college offering approximately 150 Certificate and Degree programs in Professional/Occupational Education, Trade and Technical Training, and University Transfer.

Driven by the transformative and authentic leadership of current college President, Dr. Steven Gonzales, GWCC is committed to regular, collaborative, and inclusive review and revision of its guiding documents to sustain programs and services that meet the needs of students, community, and industry and business partners across Maricopa County and in some cases, the state of Arizona.

1.A.1

In the Spring of 2015, President Gonzales called for a collaborative and college-wide process to review and revise the college primary guiding documents: Vision, Mission, Values, Strategic Plan and Operational Goals. Reflective of a culture of shared leadership, the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee, consisting of 40 faculty, staff and administrators across all areas, levels of the organization and sites of the college, engaged in a collaborative and inclusive process resulting in a comprehensive New Day, New Approach Strategic Plan for 2016 – 2019.. The plan includes the adoption of the Maricopa County Community College (MCCCD) Vision and Mission, reaffirmation of the goals and values established in the 2011 -2105 Strategic Plan, and

current college Operational Goals. Operational goals are short term and updated annually as part of the annual college Operational Planning and Budget Development Process to be addressed in 5.C.1. On June 28, 2016, the GWCC Mission, Vision and Values were approved by the MCCCCD Governing Board.

1.A.2

Published in our annual Fast Fact Handbook, GWCC serves approximately 11,000 full and part time students on an annual basis. The majority of our students are part-time, female, non-Caucasian, and 23-27 years of age. GWCC is an identified Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI).

Stated in the college mission, our focus is to provide access to higher education for diverse students through a variety of learning programs and services. GWCC offers credit certificate and degree programs, clock hour certificate programs, non-credit training, continuing education, and community education programs. The comprehensive offerings of programs align with the mission of the college and meet the needs of the diverse students and communities in our service area, preparing them for transfer or entry into the workforce. GWCC Program Offerings are listed on the GWCC Website and in the GWCC Student Handbook & Catalog.

General Education & University Transfer

While nearly two-thirds of the programs GWCC offerings are occupational or technical in nature, just over half the students at GWCC are enrolled in general education courses. With the assistance of two Title V Grants, GWCC has focused on building the general education offerings to meet the needs for students. Title V Grant [XXXX to 2015] focused on strengthening developmental education offerings and support (addressed below). The current Title V Grant, Staying on TrAC, focuses on strengthening opportunities for students to transfer, articulate and complete. Relevant results of the grant include the addition of XXX 200 level courses that transfer to all three of our state university partners. This has strengthened the ability for students to complete the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC), a set of 35 credits that transfer as a block satisfying general education requirements at Arizona State University (ASU), Northern Arizona University (NAU) and University of Arizona (UofA) through a statewide articulation agreement. AGEC requirements and courses are stated in the MCCCCD Common Pages portion of the GWCC Student Handbook & Catalog

In addition to AGEC, GWCC has multiple transfer agreements with all three state universities including Maricopa to ASU Pathways (MAPP), NAU & UofA. These articulation agreements allow students to identify their program of study early and take courses at GWCC in their first two years and then transfer to a state university to complete their four-year degree.

As part of MCCCCD, GWCC students have access to a number of statewide transfer tools including the AzTransfer Course Equivalency Guide. This tool allows students to check course equivalency and transfer options across all Arizona community colleges and state universities.

Developmental Education

GWCC acknowledges a comprehensive definition of developmental education that includes instruction and support. The Developmental Education Committee consists of approximately 15 faculty and staff across various disciplines and academic and student support departments. The committee assists in coordination of pre-college level course work and support programming for students. They work in conjunction with the MCCCCD Developmental Education Council.

GateWay provides comprehensive offerings for students placing into below college level Composition, Mathematics, and Reading. Most notable are the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) in Composition and the Power Math Camp.

ALP at GWCC is a co-requisite model in which students placing into developmental level English (MAT 091) co-enroll in First Year composition. These students receive additional support. This program has resulted in an increase in successful completion in both First and Second-Year Composition courses.

Power Math Camp is a 4-day math review session provided free to GWCC students that prepares them to be successful in their math class and, in many cases, place into higher level mathematics courses.

Workforce Development

The vast majority of programs offered by GWCC are occupational or Technical in nature. To meet the needs of students and workforce partners, these programs are offered in a variety of formats including credit, clock hour and non-credit. Programs are offered through traditional classroom instruction, online learning options, and apprenticeship partnerships.

GWCC is best known for its comprehensive offerings in Nursing and Allied Health. We are the largest provider of education for Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses in Maricopa County. We have Concurrent Enrollment Program (CEP) agreements with ASU, NAU, Grand Canyon University, and XXXX allowing students to start and complete course work for both an Associates and a Bachelors degree in Nursing.

Programs unique to GW: Water Technology, Allied Health (how many)

Student Development Services

GWCC Student Support Services consistently support the college mission both developmentally and academically at all four locations. The Student Success Center provides guidance in the onboarding through group advising (Gecko Gear Up) and New Student Orientation. GWCC Counseling department provides services supporting students through understanding and adjusting to college life and expectations. The GWCC Learning Center provides learning support through tutoring, workshops and structured study groups.

Continuing & Community Education

GWCC provides lifelong learning opportunities through formal continuing education programs and a newly formed Community Education Department. The highest concentration of continuing education comes through the GWCC Allied Health and Nursing departments. Programs provide health care professionals throughout Maricopa County enhance and retain credentials. New to GWCC in Fall 2018, the Community Education department provides learning opportunities in XXX areas across all GWCC locations

Civic Responsibility & Global Engagement

GWCC is committed to provide opportunities for its students and communities to practice civic responsibility and to engage globally. As part of the Title V Stay on TrAC grant, GWCC formalized the Office of Service Learning & Civic Engagement. Programming supported by this office has grown enough such that in the Fall 2018, GWCC committed to support a fulltime coordinator of Service Learning & Civic Engagement.

In the Fall 2017, GWCC initiated the Global Education Center, a department dedicated to International Education, Study Abroad Programs, and English as a Second Language (ESL/ESOL) programming. GWCC has offered two Study Abroad programs over the last 10 years (Prague and Japan/Korea).

1.A.3.

GWCC uses a collaborative and comprehensive operational planning and budget development process that is driven by the college strategic plan and annual institutional priorities to support the college mission. The process and evidence are fully addressed in the 5.C.1. Argument.

In addition to an operational planning and budget development process that supports the college mission, GWCC actively seeks and secures external fund sources, such as partnerships and grants in alignment with the college mission. Currently administering two active TriO Federal Grants through the Department of Education (DOE). Upward Bound provides early college coursework and wrap around services to students currently enrolled in high school. Student Support Services (SSS) – Prosper, provides college courses and wrap around services to existing college students. Stay on TrAC, a Title V Federally funded grant, focuses on the development and implementation of programming, academic and support, strengthening opportunities for students to complete coursework on a transfer pathway to a four-year college or university. Now in its final year, the AZ RAMP Up, a Trade Adjustment Assistance for Community Colleges and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant funded by the Department of Labor (DOL) supports the development of advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies in alignment with a demand industry sector in Maricopa County.

Core Component 1.B

The mission is articulated publicly.

1. The institution clearly articulates its mission through one or more public documents such as statements of purpose, vision, values, goals, plan or institutional priorities.
 2. The mission document or documents are current and explain the extent of the institution's emphasis on the various aspects of its mission, such as instruction, scholarship, research, application of research, creative works, clinical service, public service, economic development, and religious or cultural purpose.
 3. The mission document or documents identify the nature, scope, and intended constituents of the higher education programs and services the institution provides.
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Argument

1.B.1

GWCC articulates its guiding documents on its website and through a variety of public documents including the New Day, New Approach GateWay 2016-2019 Strategic Plan, Geckos Media Guide (specifically for students), and the GWCC Fast Facts Handbook. These institutional guiding documents are published on the GWCC website and are distributed to employees, students, stakeholders and community members at GWCC events and advisory meetings. Additionally, programmatic handbooks and publications include the Mission, Vision, Goals and Values. These include but are not limited to Children's Learning Center Parent Handbook, NEED OTHERS

1B.2

The current GW Strategic plan is for 2016 through 2019 and represents Vision, Mission, Values and Goals at the highest level of the organization. The document is reviewed annually and updated to reflect current operational goals.

Units and departments across the college use these guiding documents to develop mission statements and goals specific to their area that support the college level statements and goals through the college Operational Planning process. One of many examples, the Fast Track Practical Nursing Program Handbook provides extensive information on the delivery of its program. The webpage for the Center for Entrepreneurial Innovation (CEI) outlines its mission supporting entrepreneurialism, a GWCC value, and workforce development, a key component of the GWCC mission. GWCC commitment to serving the community is demonstrated through the existence of a Children's Learning Center.

1.B.3.

GWCC Vision, Mission, Values and Strategic Goals reflect the nature, scope, and intended constituents of programs and services provided by the institution and are acknowledged by college employees and stakeholders as guiding documents. The institution's values include learning, diversity, service, teamwork, integrity and entrepreneurial spirit, with each focusing on impact to students or community.

Core Component 1.C.

The institution understands the relationship between its mission and the diversity of society.

1. The institution addresses its roles in a multicultural society.
2. The institution's processes and activities reflect attention to human diversity as appropriate within its mission and for the constituencies it serves.

Argument

1.C.1

GWCC specifically identifies a diverse community as its key constituent and stakeholder in its mission statement and includes diversity as a college value. GWCC is the only college in MCCCCD that provides P-20 learning opportunities through preschool at the GateWay Childrens Learning Center, GateWay Early College High School, college certificate and degree programs, and on-site partnerships with state colleges. GWCC student demographics demonstrate its service to a diverse population in each of the P-20 learning experiences.

GWCC acknowledges a comprehensive and inclusive definition of diversity including, but not limited to gender, age, ethnicity, and ability. The institution tracks and discloses enrollment, Pell recipients, and retention, graduation and transfer rates, delineated by demographic. The institution strives to provide programming and services addressing the needs and educational goals its diverse constituents.

GWCC provides early college opportunities to current high school students that may consider earning a college degree as an unattainable goal. Achieving College Education (ACE) serves current high school students that are typically first in their family to attend college, come from a underrepresented group, and experience economic hardship. Hoop of Learning (HOL), supported by MCCCCD, serves Native American high school students and current college students.

Recognizing the diversity of the students who have served our country and now pursuing training or education at GWCC, the institution has an established Veterans Center that provides wrap around services supporting the transition into college and success in program of study.

In Fall 2017, GateWay established and now implements a Global Education Center that provide assistance and support for students who were born outside of the United States (US), as well as student who are interested in intercultural activities or studying outside of the US.

1C.2.

GWCC is committed to implementing various processes and activities supporting the institution's commitment to its diverse community. As a part of MCCCCD, GWCC acknowledges the MCCCCD Diversity and Inclusiveness Statement and adheres to the Non-Discrimination Policy. As part of the MCCCCD Leadership Foundations professional development, new leaders are required to complete Maximizing Our Strengths as an Inclusive Community (MOSAIC), a twenty-four hour series workshop focused on creating an inclusive environment for students and employees to thrive. Offered by the district, Safe Space is a seven hours workshop focused providing education on, increasing awareness of and creating a safe environment for LGBT students, employees, and community members. MOSAIC and Safe Space is open to all employees.

As an HSI, GWCC continues to pursue and secure funding through DOE and other external funding agencies. Current Title V and TRiO grants support both high school and current college students of underrepresented populations to get started in college and complete a program of study.

As part of MCCCCD, GWCC delivers several courses with a focus on diversity or multicultural understanding. Complementing this course work, the International Education Committee and Office of Service Learning & Civic Engagement collaborate to offer a number of opportunities for integration of multi-cultural experiences into teaching and learning at GWCC.

Around the World in 90 Minutes is an annual event intended to expose college community members to food, music, and aspects of various cultures from around the world. Genocide Awareness Week occurs annually, focusing in populations and cultures experiencing some form of Genocide. Typically collaborating with another college and community partner, the events span over week long period and typically include guest speakers, panels, and a Human Library.

GateWay to the Arts partners with local performing and creative arts groups and agencies to provide opportunities both on and off campus for students to be exposed to various art and cultural experiences such as Silent Movies, Phoenix Symphony performances and visits to local museums

GWCC provides opportunity for students to engage in student organizations associated with a particular career or culture. Students are encourage to initiate new clubs and take on leadership roles.

Core component 1.D

The institution's mission demonstrates commitment to the public good.

1. Actions and decisions reflect an understanding that in its educational role the institution serves the public, not solely the institution, and thus entails a public obligation.
2. The institution's educational responsibilities take primacy over other purposes, such as generating financial returns for investors, contributing to a related or parent organization, or supporting external interests.
3. The institution engages with its identified external constituencies and communities of interest and responds to their needs as its mission and capacity allow.

Argument

GWCC is committed to providing programming and services designed to serve the public good. Clearly stated in the institution's Vision, GWCC is "...a college for the community...".

1.D.1

GWCC demonstrates understanding of its obligation to the public good through its decisions and actions resulting in various services and partnerships to community stakeholders. Strategic goals provide the direction for the institution to base planning and resource allocation decisions..

Driven by Strategic Goal 4, "Enhance civic, social and cultural engagement opportunities by serving as the community's college," guides decisions related to planning and resource allocation and with support from the current Title V Stay on TrAC grant for seed money, GWCC has committed to the establishment of the Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement. In Fall 2018, GWCC completed the hire of a full time Coordinator of Service Learning & Civic Engagement. The institution recognizes the value added to both learning and the community through strong and meaningful service learning partnerships and experiences.

1.D.2.

GWCC continues to seek partnerships and opportunities that serve the community, keeping in mind that educational responsibilities are of top priority. The institution currently provides opportunities to serve the community through educational experiences outside of regular college courses in a variety of ways.

Healthcare United Gateway (HUG), a pro-bono health clinic, provides free healthcare services to students, employees and community members. Services available include Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound, Physical Therapy, Pulmonary Rehabilitation Maintenance (Respiratory Therapy),

and Weight Loss Management. While the primary purpose of the HUG Clinic to provide health care, it serves as a clinical and lab site supporting the health care programs offered at GWCC.

Discover Summer at GateWay, a college for kids experience, provides a variety of learning experiences for elementary and middle school children, exposing them to being on a college campus. Community Education opportunities have recently expanded offering short-term, affordable workshops and sessions in arts and crafts, beauty and wellness, fitness and dance, money matters and personal enrichment. Coordinated through the Global Education Center, Non-credit English as Second Language and English for Speaker of Other Languages (ESL/ESOL) classes meet a need for the many international students and community members in the GWCC service area. The GWCC Career Services department is open to all students, alumni and community member to provide assistance in career assessment and planning, and job search skills and processes. Finally, GWCC partners with local school districts to provide early college opportunities through Dual Enrollment. Courses are offered on high school campuses and taught by high school instructors that have met the MCCC hiring qualifications for faculty.

1.D.3.

Engagement with external constituencies and community stakeholders provides the institution with information GWCC uses to inform decision related to partnership and programming to serve the community. To obtain this information, the college conducts various levels of advisory boards and councils.

The President's Advisory Council consists of approximately 25 community and partner stakeholder across local businesses, industries, educational organizations and public service entities. The college president meets with this advisory council on a quarterly basis.

Occupational programs offered at GWCC conduct regular advisory board meetings to obtain feedback on program effectiveness and to inform that curriculum is current in the field. The frequency varies from program to program, but occurs at least once an academic year for each program.

Beyond formal advisory meetings, GWCC stays connected with the community in general to provide and promote opportunities for service. Volunteerpalooza, an annual fair in which community service organizations are invited to share information about their organizations exposes students and employees to service opportunities in the GWCC community. Organized and sponsored by the GWCC Student Activities Management (SAM) Council, Geckoland is an annual free spring celebration that opens the Washington campus to the community to enjoy food, games, music and activities for people of all ages. Student Life and Leadership sponsors Family Movie Nights which students, employees and community members can come to and enjoy children appropriate movies with their families.