

### 3.A. THE RIGOR OF THE INSTITUTION'S ACADEMIC OFFERINGS IS APPROPRIATE TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

SCC follows well-established processes that ensure its courses are current and appropriate to the level of degree, diploma, or certificate awarded, including: Curriculum Committee review, program review, specialized accreditation, articulation agreements, DACUM curriculum development model, and Workforce Leadership Teams.

The College has consistently strong graduate employment rates and transfer rates to four-year institutions, thus demonstrating appropriate rigor.

SCC establishes consistency of program quality and learning goals across college locations and modes of delivery (i.e. face-to-face on campus, online, hybrid, dual credit) through consistent course documents, policies, instructor qualifications, and learning management system. This consistency is demonstrated by analysis of trends in grade distribution, pass rates, and attrition rates across divisions and course sections.

SCC differentiates learning outcomes for each degree, diploma and certificate offered.

### 3.B. THE INSTITUTION OFFERS PROGRAMS THAT ENGAGE STUDENTS IN COLLECTING, ANALYZING & COMMUNICATING INFORMATION; IN MASTERING MODES OF INTELLECTUAL INQUIRY OR CREATIVE WORK; & IN DEVELOPING SKILLS ADAPTABLE TO CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS.

SCC's general education courses provide students with transferrable, broad-based skills and knowledge, preparing them to acquire new competencies, broadening their perspectives, adapting to the needs of a changing society, and participating responsibly in local, national, and global communities.

The current SCC Core is comprised of six categories with 114 courses:

Speech Communication; Written Communication; Critical Thinking and Problem Solving; Global Awareness and Citizenship; Analytic, Quantitative, and Scientific Reasoning; and Career and Life Skills.

6

114

SCC is committed to providing students with opportunities to develop skills and attitudes to live and work in a diverse world.

This commitment is reflected explicitly in the College's Strategic Plan, Institutional Learning Outcomes, General Education Learning Outcomes, institutional policies and curricular/co-curricular programming.

SCC's Global Education program offers students opportunities to learn about cultural diversity. SCC added a Global Studies Certificate in 2022-2023 and has recently revitalized its Student World Denizen Project. The program also offers opportunities to travel internationally and in the U.S, including service-learning experiences.

SCC's faculty and students are engaged in a variety of activities that enhance scholarship, creativity, and cultural diversity, such as creative performances and publication, student activities and organizations, Social Science Research Day and other student research experiences.

### **3.C. THE INSTITUTION HAS THE FACULTY & STAFF NEEDED FOR EFFECTIVE, HIGH-QUALITY PROGRAMS & STUDENT SERVICES.**

SCC maintains appropriately qualified faculty members, in sufficient numbers and continuity, to carry out both the classroom and the non-classroom roles of faculty, including oversight of the curriculum, student evaluation, and assessment of student learning.

1,109

SCC employs 1,109 faculty (IPEDS, Fall 2021), and has the highest ratio of full-time faculty to adjunct faculty among Nebraska community colleges.

In 2016, SCC completed a comprehensive review of its faculty credentials and established minimum qualifications for each academic discipline area in alignment with HLC policy. Faculty employed by the College to teach credit courses to high school students at approved locations must have credentials consistent with full-time faculty employed to teach similar courses at SCC.

SCC has processes and resources for ensuring that instructors are current in their disciplines, are supported in their professional development, and are adept in their teaching roles.

College Policy requires that faculty complete at least three professional development activities annually. Additionally, College Policy requires that faculty and staff fulfill annual requirements for diversity, safety, FERPA, and cybersecurity training. All new instructors complete training modules as part of their Individual Development Plans.

Building upon the success of the College's Engaged Learning Experience initiatives in 2014-2018, all new faculty are oriented to Engaged Learning strategies as part of New Faculty Orientation. Some instructional divisions have expanded this training to lunch-and-learns and other professional development opportunities.

Instructors are evaluated regularly in accordance with established institutional policies and procedures.

Student support services staff are qualified, trained and supported in their professional development.

Student Success and Student Enrollment divisions hire and train staff to support the College's goal of maximizing student enrollment, growth, and success. Qualifications are closely scrutinized to ensure education, training, skills, and experience meet minimum expectations.

### **3.D. THE INSTITUTION PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING AND RESOURCES FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING.**

SCC has a comprehensive student support services system in place, including an active admissions department, career advisors and services, financial aid resources, registration and records services, student activities, academic advisors, academic support, Library Resource Centers, accommodations resources, health and wellness centers, and mental health counseling.

SCC offers services designed to support underserved populations, including Learn to Dream, Special Populations Support Project, Military and Veterans Services, and TRiO Student Support Services.

Admissions advisors provide pre-enrollment support to prospective students. Once admitted, a student is assigned a College Advisor who assists students in understanding the academic pathway, identifying academic and non-academic resources available, and provides guidance throughout the student's time at SCC. Faculty/Program advisors support students through career mentoring and academic advising.

Institutional data indicate that nearly half of first-time SCC students (43%) test into at least one developmental course (math, English, or reading). College and Program advisors work together to direct students into developmental education, Adult Basic Education, or other academic support services, based on student course placement scores.

SCC provides to students and instructors technology, libraries, clinical practice sites, and simulation experiences to support teaching and learning. SCC has also made substantial progress in improving its instructional space across all campuses and locations.