Standard I: Institutional Mission and Effectiveness

The institution demonstrates strong commitment to a mission that emphasizes achievement of student learning and to communicating the mission internally and externally. The institution uses analyses of quantitative and qualitative data and analysis in an ongoing and systematic cycle of evaluation, integrated planning, implementation, and re-evaluation to verify and improve the effectiveness by which the mission is accomplished.

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Standard IA: Mission

**IA**

The institution has a statement of mission that defines the institution’s broad educational purposes, its intended student population, and its commitment to achieving student learning.

**IA.1**

The institution establishes student learning programs and services aligned with its purposes, its character, and its student population.

**Descriptive Summary**

The mission statement of Fresno City College is:

Fresno City College is a comprehensive community college offering innovative instructional programs in anticipation of and responsive to the life-long learning needs of our diverse population. Fresno City College provides a wide variety of quality services to support student success by engaging our students in achieving their educational goals. Moreover, we are dedicated to working collaboratively with our community to enhance the economic and social development of the region.

Fresno City College is a comprehensive community college offering innovative instructional programs in anticipation of and responsive to the life-long learning needs of a diverse population. Serving an average of 22,000 students a year, Fresno City College provides a wide variety of supportive services to assist students in achieving their educational goals. Moreover, the College is dedicated to working collaboratively with the community to enhance the economic and social development of the region.

According to the mission statement, the purpose of Fresno City College as a comprehensive community college is to offer a variety of learning programs and services to meet the needs of students. College programs are broad in scope while also meeting the needs of specific student groups. Fresno City College offers over 250 degrees and certificates. These programs meet occupational as well as transfer goals. Approximately 19 percent of Fresno City College students have identified their goal as occupational training, 47 percent as transfer to a four-year college or university, and 17 percent are “undecided” (IA.1: Institutional Research Report, December 21, 2010*).

The College provides academic and career counseling to assist undecided students in identifying their educational goals.

Fresno City College’s character is well-described as a diverse community. As referenced in the Demographic Summary, over one-third of the College’s students are Hispanic, another eighth are Asian, and eight percent are African American. The gender split is nearly equal. The majority of students are under the age of 24 (59 percent). Over 60 percent of students are low income (IA.2: Email from Institutional Research Director Feb 28, 2011). The College’s programs and services align with this diversity, by offering instructional programs which study diversity, and programs and services which celebrate diversity. The College is inclusive in its understanding of and support for a broad interpretation of diversity beyond race and ethnicity. For example, a large percentage of students enter the College unprepared for college-level courses. Student learning programs and services are available to meet these students’ needs through the Basic Skills Initiative as well as an extensive developmental education program (in math, English and ESL). At the other end of the educational spectrum, Fresno City College Honors Program provides courses with additional educational exploration for the honors student. The College provides financial aid assistance (in the form of federal and state financial aid as well as scholarships) to assist the large number of low income students.

Fresno City College also provides instructional programs and student services to celebrate ethnic diversity. There are courses and degrees in African American Studies, Asian American Studies, American Indian Studies, Chicano-Latino Studies, Women’s Studies, Islamic Studies and American Pluralism.

* Second and subsequent references to evidence will only include the evidence number.
Each year a group of students visits the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles to further engage the diversity found at the College. The College also celebrates diversity through activities including Asian American Month, Black History Month, Women’s History Month, and celebrations for Cinco de Mayo, Día de los Muertos, and César Chávez. Student clubs embody cultural celebration, with those such as Pan Afrikan Club, Grupo Folklorico, the Abilities Club, the Diversity Club, and the Veterans Club.

Additionally, the College offers traditional, online, and blended courses to meet scheduling needs of students (IA.3: Schedule of classes). Counseling, tutorial, and student organizations are among the many tools available to promote student success. These programs and activities are discussed further in Standard II.

The College works with the local community to enhance the economic and social development of the region. Such projects include the local Workforce Investment Board, the High-speed Rail Initiative, and several projects funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA).

Fresno City College has been involved with the local Workforce Investment Board to support the “Foster Bridge Project.” This project supports the educational goals of Fresno County foster youth and emancipated foster youth (IA.4: Foster Bridge agreement with WIB). The College also partnered with the Workforce Investment Board and Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to provide training for PG&E line workers. (IA.5: Workforce Development & Education Support). The College has been highly involved in the development of plans for the Central Valley’s high-speed rail corridor, which demonstrates the ability to provide training for future rail maintenance workers (IA.6: San Joaquin Valley Academy for Railway Success California High Speed Rail Authority Sept. 2010 Board Meeting Minutes). Fresno City College Head Start, a community collaboration project, assists Head Start teachers and teachers’ aides in completing their associate and bachelor degrees. (IA.7: SCCCD Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes Oct. 7, 2008). The College has also used State Chancellor’s Office funding to provide training through the Career Advancement Academy in programs such as Computer Aided Manufacturing, Warehouse Technician, and Water Treatment T2 and T3. Plans are also underway to provide training in wastewater management, water distribution, and welding in the spring and summer 2011.

The College contributes to the region’s social development with a wide variety of cultural and educational events which are open to the public. A brief listing of the social and educational events hosted by Fresno City College in the past several years include: presentations by Spike Lee, Maya Angelou, Tedde McMillan, and Dr. Harry Edwards. Cross-campus colloquia on current events are presented by College faculty throughout the academic year (IA.8: Event and Master Calendars).

In sum, Fresno City College provides a wide array of programs and services to meet the needs of students and the community. These services range from the recruitment of high school students to a full-service counseling center, tutoring, psychological services, disability support services, financial aid, career counseling, health services, and a wide variety of academic programs, as well as student clubs and organizations. Each of these programs is designed to promote student persistence and success as students work toward their educational goals while also enhancing the economic and social development of its community.

Self Evaluation

The College meets the standard. Fresno City College is providing comprehensive programs and services for its students. Additionally, the College continues to work with the community to assist in the development of the economic and social growth of its service area.

Planning Agenda

None.

IA.2 The mission statement is approved by the governing board and published.

Descriptive Summary

The mission statement is approved by the governing board. The mission statement is published in the College catalog, the College strategic plan, and on
the College website. The mission statement was last approved by the State Center Community College District Board of Trustees in January 2011 as part of the 2010–2012 Fresno City College Strategic Plan (IA.9: Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, January 13, 2011).

**Self Evaluation**

FCC meets this standard. The mission statement is approved by the governing board and is widely published.

**Planning Agenda**

None.

**IA.3 Using the institution’s governance and decision-making processes, the institution reviews its mission statement on a regular basis and revises it as necessary.**

**Descriptive Summary**

The Fresno City College Strategic Planning Council, the College’s participatory governance planning and recommending body, reviewed and revised the mission statement in August 2007 and again in February 2010. Each time the mission was reviewed the revised statement was sent to the respective constituent groups for feedback and approval. The constituent groups (faculty, staff, students and administrators) approved the revised mission statement in October 2007 and April 2010. The changes to the mission statement in October 2007 and 2010 were non-substantive. (IA.10: 2006, 2007, and 2010 Mission Statements). In May 2010, the Fresno City College Strategic Planning Council voted to review the mission statement every two years. (IA.11: May 13, 2010 SPC minutes).

**Self Evaluation**

The College meets the standard. As part of the accreditation process and strategic plan, the mission statement has been reviewed annually and revised as needed.

**Planning Agenda**

None.

**IA.4 The institution’s mission is central to institutional planning and decision making.**

**Descriptive Summary**

The mission statement was central in the development of the Fresno City College Strategic Plan (IA.12: 2008–2010 Strategic Plan, and 2010–2012 Strategic Plan). The strategic plan is used to identify and evaluate action plans, decision packages, and hiring requests. As illustrated in the action planning process, the writing of requests for lottery monies (decision packages) and requests for new faculty must support the strategic plan and consequently the College mission (IA.13: Templates for action plans, decision packages and new faculty requests).

Additionally, since 2008, expenditure requisitions from the College operations budget require a cover memo delineating how the expenditure supports the College strategic plan. The area manager and a vice president must approve the request (IA.14: Expenditure Justification form).

Program reviews begin with a question about how the program supports the College’s mission. (IA.15: Program Review Templates). All programs must tie their work and goals back to the mission.

**Self Evaluation**

The College meets this standard. The mission statement is central to institutional planning and decision making and is operationalized through the College wide strategic planning process.

**Planning Agenda**

None.