HLC Accreditation

March 2015
Mesa Community College, a Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Pathways Pioneer Institution, is engaging in an Open Pathway Project in order to fulfill its requirements for reaffirmation of accreditation by HLC. Every aspect of the college contributes to student learning and success as it aligns with our vision, mission, and values.

**Vision**
MCC – Leading the way to success in our local and global community.

**Mission**
MCC excels in teaching, learning, and empowering individuals to succeed in our local and global community. We serve as a resource for college and career readiness, transfer education, workforce development, and lifelong learning.
Our Values

🌟 **Learning:**
MCC champions individual student success that reflects the highest academic standards.

🌟 **Innovation:**
MCC delivers cutting-edge instruction and service.

🌟 **Service Excellence:**
MCC makes a positive difference in the lives of our students, community members, and each other through meaningful relationships.

🌟 **Integrity:**
MCC upholds the highest standards of ethics and public stewardship.

🌟 **Individuals & Community:**
MCC encourages active citizenship and embraces the diversity of people and ideas.
Accreditation is a voluntary peer review process that helps colleges and universities to critically evaluate their purposes and how effectively those purposes are being accomplished. Accreditation:

- Certifies the quality and integrity of Mesa Community College’s (MCC) programs and services.
- Allows students to transfer credits to other accredited colleges and universities.
- Enables students to obtain financial aid and veteran’s services.
- Empowers the college to participate in projects funded by federal grants.
- Ensures that the college can recruit and retain quality faculty and staff.

MCC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA), www.ncalahlc.org, one of six regional accrediting bodies.
MCC - An HLC Pathways Pioneer!

In the fall of 2010, the Higher Learning Commission invited Mesa Community College to join a cohort of colleges and universities helping to develop and pilot a new accreditation process. MCC was the only Maricopa County Community College selected to participate in the HLC’s Pathways Pioneer Project due to our long, good accreditation standing with the HLC.

This new process, called Pathways, has two focuses: Assurance and Improvement. The assurance process asks a college to submit evidence of its effectiveness and responsibility. The improvement process tasks institutions to develop an ambitious and meaningful Quality Initiative as evidence of the institution’s commitment to improvement.
Assurance
A series of active learning sessions focused on the HLC’s new criteria for accreditation are being conducted with many key stakeholders across campus.

Improvement
MCC’s Quality Initiative, called informed improvement, empowers a culture of evidence-based decision-making dedicated to advancing student success. Placing an iterative process of critical inquiry at the heart of every college unit’s planning processes, informed improvement is premised upon the realization that every aspect of the college contributes to student learning and success.
**Assurance Process**

- **Spring 2013**
  Began to identify evidence for HLC criteria

- **Fall 2013**
  College leadership and management trained on accreditation criteria
  Gap analysis performed on criterion 3 & 4

- **Spring 2014- Summer 2014**
  Evidence is gathered
  Assurance argument drafted

- **Fall 2014**
  Assurance argument drafted and shared with stakeholders and College Forums on HLC criteria and Assurance Process

- **Spring 2015**
  Evidence is gathered
  Assurance argument submitted

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**Open Pathway Project**
Fall 2010-2012
MCC agrees to be an HLC Pathways Pioneer Institution
Develop and implement Quality Initiative – informed improvement (ii)

Spring 2013
Begin implementing Datasphere

Fall 2013
ii Resource Library unveiled

Spring 2014
First ii Expo

Fall 2014
Quality Initiative report submitted to HLC

Spring 2015
Second ii Expo
Mission
The institution’s mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution’s operations.

Video Overview
http://bit.ly/hlcmmcc1

For the Visually Impaired:
http://bit.ly/hlcmmcc1vi
MCC Employees Say

“I post the college mission card on my office board.”

“MCC e-Learning meets regularly to align efforts with the college mission.”

Our College Assurance Argument Says

“All planning and budgeting priorities align with and support the college mission.”
Integrity: Ethical & Responsible Conduct
The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

Video Overview

For the Visually Impaired:
MCC Employees Say
“Annual policy updates for students that align with college handbook.”

“Employees fill out annual acknowledgements and disclosures.”

Our College Assurance Argument Says
“The Governing Board represents all Maricopa County residents in the governance of the District.”

All met!

the Criteria
Teaching & Learning: Quality, Resources & Support
The institution provides high quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.

Video Overview

For the Visually Impaired:
MCC Employees Say

“Red Mountain Library outreach programs activity.”

“The Math Department is engaged in improving student outcomes in developmental courses.”

“Life Sciences has flipped classroom discussion and implementation, instructor hosted tutoring, open labs, and a study room. They also added a special lecture series to create an enriched educational environment.”

“MCC recently received the Carnegie Engagement Classification.”

Our College Assurance Argument Says

“A comprehensive suite of student services are available at both SD and RM to help students overcome obstacles and succeed.”
Teaching & Learning: Evaluation & Improvement
The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments, and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.

Video Overview

For the Visually Impaired:
Our College Assurance Argument Says

“All of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs participate in a process of program review.”

MCC Employees say

“The Art Department is conducting creativity tests in selected classes to assess that our students are improving as critical thinkers and problem solvers by the end of the semester.”

“The 4 MCC "4C"s were developed by us for us, to improve the overall quality of education.”

Our College Assurance Argument Says

“All of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs participate in a process of program review.”
Criterion 5

Resources, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness
The institution’s resources, structures, and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities. The institution plans for the future.

Video Overview

For the Visually Impaired:
Our College Assurance Argument Says

“The IT Strategic Plan has allowed the college to invest in technology in several areas.”

MCC Employees Say

“Maricopa Priorities is a systematic assessment of all educational programs and support services that works to improve programs and services across the college.”

“The college Nursing Department has a current and "living" systematic plan for evaluation.”

Our College Assurance Argument Says

“The IT Strategic Plan has allowed the college to invest in technology in several areas.”
The MCC Team

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Our Guests
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Thank You!
HLC Web App

Carry it with You!

Be in the know, on the GO!

Visit MCC HLC Web Application:

https://tinyurl.com/MCCHLC
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March 2015