

MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

Section 104

SUBJECT: MISSION, PRIMARY POWERS AND DUTIES

PURPOSE: To identify the mission, primary powers and duties of M CCS

A. Purpose

The mission, primary powers and duties of M CCS arise from state and federal law, as well as regional and national accreditation standards. The purpose of this policy is to define the mission of M CCS, and to identify the primary powers and duties that are required, permitted, necessary or convenient under its governing authorities to accomplish M CCS' mission and responsibilities. The intent of this policy is to provide a summary that is organized and informative but not necessarily exhaustive of all such powers and duties.

B. Policy

All M CCS activities and expenditures shall extend and be limited to those necessary or convenient to accomplish the mission and duties of M CCS as expressly or implicitly required or permitted by the M CCS authorizing laws and governing accreditation standards.

C. Vision, Goal and Value Statement

Maine's Community Colleges are dedicated to educating today's students for tomorrow's career opportunities in an environment that supports personal and professional growth, innovation, and lifelong learning. The colleges are committed to enhancing the quality of life and economic prosperity of Maine through excellence in education.

The primary goals of M CCS are to create an educated, skilled and adaptable labor force which is responsive to the changing needs of the economy of the State, and to promote local, regional and statewide economic development. The M CCS Trustees recognize that an essential purpose of any community college mission is to admit and educate students who may require a wide range of academic and financial support, and commit to serving such students. The M CCS Trustees also recognize that M CCS is designed to serve regions with different economic needs and cultural characteristics, and the Trustees commit to accounting for such differences.

D. Mission

The mission of MCCS is to provide associate degree, certificate and diploma programs directed at the educational, occupational, technical and transfer needs of the State's citizens and the workforce needs of the State's employers. To those ends, MCCS has committed to a *Statement of Core Services and Attributes of a Comprehensive Two-year College System*. These *Core Services and Attributes*, as appropriately amended from time to time, require that MCCS:

1. Prepare a “well-educated person.” Generally speaking, the “well-educated person,” as defined in particular by each college and required by its regional accrediting association, is one who has the knowledge, skills and values to lead a thoughtful, creative and productive life; who seeks self-knowledge and understanding of others and the world; is a lifelong learner; is actively engaged in the community and civic life; and shows tolerance and respect for cultural, ethnic and intellectual diversity;
2. Award associate degrees, certificates and diplomas;
3. Offer programs that prepare students for occupations with career progression and/or transfer opportunities for the baccalaureate level;
4. Offer liberal arts transfer programs, providing the core liberal arts foundation required for most baccalaureate programs and associate degree career programs;
5. Focus primarily on the needs of each college’s service delivery area, and periodically in wider geographic, including occasionally statewide, areas;
6. Offer business & industry training and services, providing customized training and upgrading, at a place and time convenient for employees and employers;
7. Maintain low cost, to assure broad access to college;
8. Provide access to a diverse population, offering on-site and off-site day, evening and weekend courses with significant opportunity to pursue a degree part time;
9. Provide access to students who can benefit from its educational offerings through modified open admission policies;
10. Provide effective student support services such as academic assessment, counseling, remediation, and career placement;

11. Provide opportunities for lifelong learning to support professional and personal growth, through a diverse array of credit and noncredit courses, workshops and seminars;
12. Offer a diverse learning community in which cultural, ethnic and intellectual diversity are respected and embraced;
13. Provide a learner-centered environment, in which teaching and learning are the primary focus of the institution;
14. Partner with and facilitates regional economic development, providing training to support the creation of high-wage, high-skill jobs in new and established industries;
15. Develop students with awareness of global issues;
16. Offer co-curricular opportunities, including clubs, student activities, sports and leadership opportunities;
17. Commit to service learning and community building, serving as facilitator/community resource for bringing people and groups with a common interest together to address local issues;
18. Serve as a resource for the college and the public, offering cultural and special events;
19. Partner with other local and state providers in workforce development, and liaison with other regional and national college leaders;
20. Engage regularly the System leadership by typically holding meetings of the Presidents' Council each month, meetings of the Board of Trustees every other month, and rotating such meetings among the colleges and System Office to facilitate outreach and input;
21. Provide opportunities for meaningful professional development of employees; and
22. Meet the System's contractual obligations.

In addition to the above System-wide *Core Services and Attributes*, each college shall adopt its own specific policies, procedures and practices that further commit to the educated person, general education, critical thinking, methods of reasoning, learning outcomes, and any other standard or best practice that furthers the mission and duty of each college to achieve and maintain the necessary and appropriate community college accreditation.

E. Primary Statutory Powers and Duties

Maine law expressly provides that the primary powers and duties of MCCS include the following.

1. Cooperating closely with the private sector;
2. Providing long-term education and training required for certain occupations;
3. Providing occupational health and safety education and training;
4. Providing short-term training necessary to meet specific private sector and economic development needs;
5. Planning, coordinating and operating education, training, and economic development programs with other colleges and universities, the state Departments of Education and Labor ,and the economic development agencies throughout the State;
6. Providing opportunities to obtain job skills and an understanding of how to adapt those skills to the requirements of evolving technologies and a changing economy;
7. Offering general education designed to complement specific vocational and technical skills;
8. Offering courses and curricula designed to teach students to think clearly, logically and analytically and to comprehend the multiple dimensions and facets of public and private issues and problems;
9. Providing supplementary education programs designed to upgrade the skills of persons already employed or retrain persons for new employment opportunities;
10. Providing remedial and special training and education programs for disadvantaged and disabled persons;
11. Providing preparatory, educational and training programs for veterans and recipients of low-income public assistance;
12. Meeting the requirements necessary to receive federal aid; and
13. Meeting the accreditation, licensing, certification and registration requirements of the occupations served by the colleges.

In addition to the above state laws that expressly reference MCCS, MCCS also has all of the powers and duties ascribed to it under state and federal laws of general applicability. Likewise, under all state and federal laws or either express or general application, MCCS has all of the powers and duties necessarily implied from those powers and duties that are expressly stated therein.

F. Primary Powers and Duties under Accreditation Standards

Maine law requires the colleges of MCCS to satisfy the requirements necessary to achieve and maintain accreditation. The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (Commission) has accreditation jurisdiction over MCCS. The Commission's Standards and Considerations for Accreditation represent the accrued wisdom of over 200 colleges and universities about the essential elements of institutional quality and the public purposes of higher education.

MCCS must adhere to the Commission's Standards, Considerations, Policies, and Requirements of Affiliation as a condition of both receiving and maintaining accredited status. These criteria require, encourage or permit MCCS to, among other obligations, do the following:

1. Encourage and support teaching, learning, service, scholarship, research and creative activity;
2. Maintain in all budget and finance matters sufficient independence from any sponsoring entity or external agency, and not be unduly dependent upon vulnerable financial resources or a historically narrow base of support;
3. Provide faculty with opportunities for continued professional development, and ensure that other employees are appropriately trained and supported;
4. Respect the academic freedoms of the faculty, students and the institution itself;
5. Provide library and information resources and services for students, faculty and staff;
6. Provide access to an array of adequate student services, including:
 - a. academic and career guidance;
 - b. health services;
 - c. co-curricular activities;
 - d. new student orientation;
 - e. financial aid;

- f. student government;
 - g. recreation programs;
 - h. athletic programs; and
 - i. student housing.
7. Manage, maintain, operate and staff physical and technological resources, including classrooms, laboratories, network infrastructure, materials, equipment, buildings and grounds;
 8. Ensure facilities are constructed and maintained to ensure access, safety and security;
 9. Provide a healthful environment that considers environmental and ecological issues;
 10. Secure data and monitor, and respond to illegal or inappropriate uses of, technology systems and resources;
 11. Conduct appropriate fund-raising efforts; and
 12. Conduct appropriate conferences, institutes, workshops, or other instructional or enrichment activities.

MCCS and the colleges shall adopt policies and procedures that comply with accreditation requirements and best practices.

REFERENCES: 20-A M.R.S.A. §12703, §12704, §12715; *Board of Trustees' Resolution to Adopt a Statement of Core Services and Attributes of a Comprehensive Two-year College System, June 27, 2001*; *Standards and Considerations for Accreditation, Effective July 1, 2011, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges*; *Sweezy v. New Hampshire, 354 U.S. 234 (1957)*

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