

Standard I: Mission, Academic Quality and Institutional Effectiveness, and Integrity

The institution demonstrates strong commitment to a mission that emphasizes student learning and student achievement. Using analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, the institution continuously and systematically evaluates, plans, implements, and improves the quality of its educational programs and services. The institution demonstrates integrity in all policies, actions, and communication. The administration, faculty, staff, and governing board members act honestly, ethically, and fairly in the performance of their duties.

A. Mission

Cuesta College is committed to high quality student learning and achievement. The college realizes this commitment through a mission that clearly articulates its purpose, the populations it serves, and the types of educational degrees and certificates it offers. Planning, decision making, and resource allocation, in the improvement of institutional programs and services, is driven by the college's mission, as illustrated by the evidence provided. Through the use of relevant data, Cuesta regularly assesses how well it is accomplishing its mission, and institutional goals and priorities for student learning and achievement are developed and guided by these assessment efforts and the mission overall. The evidence provided demonstrates how institutional processes and decision making are driven by data assessment at the college. Cuesta College, and all its constituents, including the Board of Trustees, are proud of its mission, which is widely publicized and made available. Cuesta College regularly reviews and updates its mission, as needed, to keep the mission appropriate and responsive to the college's commitment to exceptional learning experiences and success for the populations it serves.

Information or narrative provided in response to each of the standards is limited to that which is necessary, including mostly reference to evidence, in demonstrating how the college is fulfilling the essence of the standards. Specific aspects of the evidence are highlighted and exemplified, to assist the reader in identify those aspects and/or components of the evidence that addresses the particular standard.

1.A.1 The mission describes the institution's broad educational purposes, its intended student population, the types of degrees and other credentials it offers, and its commitment to student learning and student achievement. (ER 6)
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The San Luis Obispo County Community College District (SLOCCCD) mission statement is:

Mission

Cuesta College is an inclusive institution that inspires a diverse student population to achieve their educational goals.

We effectively support students in their efforts to improve foundational skills, earn certificates or associate degrees, transfer to four-year institutions, and advance in the workforce.

Through innovative and challenging learning opportunities, Cuesta College enhances lives by promoting cultural, intellectual, personal, and professional growth. We prepare students to become engaged citizens in our increasingly complex communities and world.

Vision

Cuesta College is dedicated to accessible, high-quality education for the support and enhancement of student success, professional development, and the community we serve.

Values

Access - Success - Excellence

The San Luis Obispo County Community College District's Mission reflects the institution's commitment to serving a diverse student population as they pursue their educational and career goals. The mission defines the college's broad educational purpose and its students as they seek to improve foundational skills, earn certificates or associate degrees, transfer to four-year institutions, and advance in the workforce. These skills, certificates, degrees, and student transfer and career goals are aligned with those of a degree-granting institution of higher learning. In conjunction with the SLOCCCD Vision and Values, the Mission defines its commitment to student learning and achievement.

The SLOCCCD Mission, Vision and Values statement is clearly defined in Board Policy 1200 (evidence 1) and is broadly published in all major SLOCCCD planning documents, including the 2016-2026 Comprehensive Master Plan (evidence 2), the 2017 Integrated Planning Manual (evidence 3), the 2017 Participatory Governance: Decision-Making and Committee Handbook (evidence 4), the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan (evidence 5), and the 2012-2017 Technology Plan (evidence 6). It is also published on the Cuesta College webpage (evidence 7) and in the Cuesta College Catalog (evidence 8). The mission statement drives all planning processes at the College. It is reviewed and revised, as needed, on a regular cycle that is outlined in the SLOCCCD Integrated Planning Manual (evidence 3). All District programs provide updates and describe the way in which they address or help to achieve the District's mission in their annual and comprehensive planning documents (evidence 9).

The college meets Standard 1.A.1 and Eligibility Requirement 6.

Evidence:

1. SLOCCCD Board Policy 1200
 - o [https://www.boarddocs.com/ca/cuesta/Board.nsf/files/ACXVHE7FEF1/\\$file/BP_1200_District_Mission.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/ca/cuesta/Board.nsf/files/ACXVHE7FEF1/$file/BP_1200_District_Mission.pdf)
2. SLOCCCD Comprehensive Master Plan 2016-2026, Educational Master Plan, page
 - o https://www.cuesta.edu/about/documents/collegeplans-docs/2017-college-plans/districtplan-docs/SLOCCCD_EducationalMasterPlan2016-2026.pdf
3. SLOCCCD Integrated Planning Manual 2017, page 2
 - o https://www.cuesta.edu/about/documents/collegeplans-docs/2017-college-plans/integratedplan-docs/SLOCCCD_Integrated_Planning_Manual_maua.pdf
4. SLOCCCD Participatory Governance: Decision-Making and Committee Handbook 2017, page 3
 - o https://www.cuesta.edu/about/documents/collegeplans-docs/2017-college-plans/governance-plan-docs/SLOCCCD_Participatory_Governance_Handbook_2017.pdf
5. SLOCCCD Strategic Plan 2017-2020, page 5

- https://www.cuesta.edu/about/documents/collegeplans-docs/2017-college-plans/districtplan-docs/SLOCCCD_StrategicPlan_2017_2020.pdf
- 6. SLOCCCD Technology Plan 2012-2017, page 1
 - https://www.cuesta.edu/about/documents/collegeplans-docs/2017-college-plans/districtplan-docs/SLOCCCD_Technology_Plan_2012-2017.pdf
- 7. Cuesta College Webpage
 - <https://www.cuesta.edu/about/leadership/president/missionstatement.html>
- 8. Cuesta College 2018-2019 Catalog, pages 7-8
 - https://www.cuesta.edu/academics/documents/catalog/catalog_2018-19/1-intro-2018-19CuestaCatalog.pdf
- 9. Institutional Planning and Program Review (IPPR) documents: Administrative Services, Instructional, Non-Instructional, and Student Services

1.A.2 | The institution uses data to determine how effectively it is accomplishing its mission, and whether the mission directs institutional priorities in meeting the educational needs of students.

The San Luis Obispo County Community College District collects, analyzes, and makes public the data it uses to assess its effectiveness. Data regarding student success, completion, and career and technical education derived from the Scorecard is presented to the Board of Trustees on an annual basis (1: Institutional Effectiveness Outcomes Report 2018 pages 3, 4, 12 and, 2: Report Presented to Board of Trustees). The analysis of institutional data is called for in the 2017 Integrated Planning Manual (3: excerpt of pages 5, 6, 7) and is used in the creation of planning documents such as the 2016-2026 Comprehensive Master Plan (4: pages 21, 134-135) and the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan (5: page 13). Student-related data at the institutional level is tracked and analyzed for the assessment of how the district is meeting its mission (6: SLOCCCD_StrategicPlan_2017_2020_2018_ProgressReport). At the unit level, data is used to assess program effectiveness (7: CPPR for math, pages 17-18, 20-21). The educational and programming needs of students were assessed through a community survey and the results were presented district-wide (8: County-Wide Programming Survey Analysis SLOCCCD, 9: BOT presentation).

Evidence

- 1 [Institutional Effectiveness Outcomes Report 2018.pdf](#)
- 2 [Institutional Effectiveness Report Presented to Board of Trustees.pdf](#)
- 3 [Data used in planning SLOCCCD Integrated Planning Manual.pdf](#)
- 4 [SLOCCCD EducationalMasterPlan2016-2026.pdf](#)
- 5 [SLOCCCD StrategicPlan_2017_2020.pdf](#)
- 6 [SLOCCCD StrategicPlan_2017_2020_2018_ProgressReport.pdf](#)
- 7 [Math CPPR 2017_2018 MATH Final.pdf](#)
- 8 [County-Wide Programming Survey Analysis SLOCCCD.pdf](#)
- 9 [Community survey data presented to the Board of Trustees.pdf](#)

1.A.3 | The institution's programs and services are aligned with its mission. The mission guides institutional decision-making, planning, and resource allocation and informs institutional goals for student learning and achievement.

Cuesta's programs and services are aligned with its mission. The college catalog describes the courses, certificate and degree programs, and college services designed to help students improve their foundational skills, earn certificates and degrees, transfer, and improve their employment opportunities. (evidence 1) The college's course and program offerings are also included in the Educational Master Plan where the descriptions of programs indicate how they benefit students specifically in reference to the college's mission statement. (evidence 2) The mission specifically informed the creation of five institutional goals, which serve as the basis of all other college planning.

The college processes ensure that the mission guides all course and program development. The Curriculum Committee requires new program or course proposals to reference the college's mission in the rationale for development. Additionally, proposals must make the connection explicit prior to submitting curriculum for review. (evidence 3, 4)

The mission is the overall guiding principle of all college planning. The Educational Master Plan outlines how all college processes are connected to and in support of the college mission including long-term planning such as Educational Master Plan and Facilities Master Plan, short term planning such as the Strategic Plan as well as resource allocation and yearly reviews. (5, 6, 7).

There are procedures in place to ensure that resource allocation is also aligned with the college mission. The Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) plan uses the mission statement as a guideline for support services, specifically those targeting equity gaps, foundational skills, access, course completion, basic skills/ESL completion, degree/certificate completion, transfer to 4-year institutions, all of which directly support the mission of the college (8). Use and upgrades of technology also support the mission (9). The college's Planning and Budget Committee recommends that Institutional Goals and Objectives are directly linked to resource allocation and planning (10). To ensure this, expenditure requests are evaluated with a rubric that requires explicit reference to institutional objectives, which were derived from the mission (11,12). Finally, to ensure that decision-making and planning are informed by the mission at the program level, yearly reviews require reflection on how the program currently addresses the District's mission.

Evidence:

1. Cuesta College Catalog
2. SLOCCCD Educational Master Plan
3. Curriculum Proposal Review Guidelines
4. Curriculum Course Pre-Approval
5. SLOCCCD Educational Master Plan p. 22 - Model of Integrated Planning
6. SLOCCCD Facilities Master Plan p. 15
7. Strategic Plan p.13
8. SSSP Plan 017-19 Integrated Plan: Basic Skills Initiative, Student Equity, and Student Success and Support Program p. 10-11
9. Technology master plan p.8-9
10. 2018-2019 Budget Criteria
11. Resource Allocation Rubric
12. IEC Assessment Tool
13. CPPR- instructional
14. CPPR - student services, administrative services

15. APPW non-instructional

1.A.4 | The institution articulates its mission in a widely published statement approved by the governing board. The mission statement is periodically reviewed and updated as necessary. (ER 6)

The timeline and process for reviewing and updating the district's mission (1) are outlined in The SLOCCCD Integrated Planning Manual (2). Following the 2014 Self-Evaluation Report, the widely published statement (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9) was reviewed and updated off cycle by a College Council ad hoc group in 2015 (10) and approved by Academic Senate Council and College Council in the fall (11, 12) and the governing board in December 2015 (13) and is scheduled to be reviewed every three years. The process began again in January 2019 (14) and continued through May 2019 (evidence to be collected during Spring 2019).

Evidence:

1. SLOCCCD Board Policy 1200
 - [https://www.boarddocs.com/ca/cuesta/Board.nsf/files/ACXVHE7FEF1/\\$file/BP_1200_District_Mission.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/ca/cuesta/Board.nsf/files/ACXVHE7FEF1/$file/BP_1200_District_Mission.pdf)
2. SLOCCCD Integrated Planning Manual 2017, page 8
 - https://www.cuesta.edu/about/documents/collegeplans-docs/2017-college-plans/integratedplan-docs/SLOCCCD_Integrated_Planning_Manual_maua.pdf
3. SLOCCCD Integrated Planning Manual 2017, page 2
 - https://www.cuesta.edu/about/documents/collegeplans-docs/2017-college-plans/integratedplan-docs/SLOCCCD_Integrated_Planning_Manual_maua.pdf
4. SLOCCCD Comprehensive Master Plan 2016-2026, Educational Master Plan, page 1
 - https://www.cuesta.edu/about/documents/collegeplans-docs/2017-college-plans/districtplan-docs/SLOCCCD_EducationalMasterPlan2016-2026.pdf
5. SLOCCCD Participatory Governance: Decision-Making and Committee Handbook 2017, page 3
 - https://www.cuesta.edu/about/documents/collegeplans-docs/2017-college-plans/governance-plan-docs/SLOCCCD_Participatory_Governance_Handbook_2017.pdf
6. SLOCCCD Strategic Plan 2017-2020, page 5
 - https://www.cuesta.edu/about/documents/collegeplans-docs/2017-college-plans/districtplan-docs/SLOCCCD_StrategicPlan_2017_2020.pdf
7. SLOCCCD Technology Plan 2012-2017, page 1
 - https://www.cuesta.edu/about/documents/collegeplans-docs/2017-college-plans/districtplan-docs/SLOCCCD_Technology_Plan_2012-2017.pdf
8. Cuesta College Webpage
 - <https://www.cuesta.edu/about/leadership/president/missionstatement.html>
9. Cuesta College 2018-2019 Catalog, pages 7-8
 - https://www.cuesta.edu/academics/documents/catalog/catalog_2018-19/1-intro-2018-19CuestaCatalog.pdf
10. [College Council Mission Subcommittee Feedback](#)
11. [Academic Senate Council Minutes, Oct. 23, 2015](#)
12. [College Council Minutes, Nov. 24, 2015](#)
13. [Board of Trustees Minutes, Dec. 5, 2015](#)

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