

PREPARING FOR THE COLLEGE WIDE READING OF CRITERION 1

ASSURANCE ARGUMENT COLLEGE READING

INTRODUCTION

Input from you is valued, and we appreciate your comments and suggestions.

Part of this Assurance Argument process is to be sure we accurately represent the College. We are at the word limit on these criteria, so we need to be careful about new information. In some cases, we may not include suggestions as part of a narrative, but we might include it in the evidence in some way

READING TIPS

1. Evidentiary statements have been written, and examples are provided. Any underlined item denotes that evidence is linked. This means if we say, PCCUA has had conversations about the mission.” We must show documentation of those conversations. If we say, “PCCUA retention has increased.” We must prove that with official documents reflecting the accuracy of that statement. You will not see that evidence in your reading, but we have it.
2. This assurance argument is based on what we have done since 2015. We are trying to use evidence from 2021-2025 because we had a mid-cycle review. There will not be much about 2025-26 because most of the data we have is two or three years behind. This is true with all data used by ADHE, Clearinghouse, IPEDS, etc.
3. Each segment has a 1500-word limit.
4. All evidence is embedded. The document is not necessarily beautifully written. It is technical in nature and is an attempt to demonstrate as much of the criterion focus as we can.

CRITERION 1. MISSION

THE INSTITUTION’S MISSION IS CLEAR AND ARTICULATED PUBLICLY, IT GUIDES THE INSTITUTION’S OPERATIONS.

As noted above in Institutional Mission, an institution’s distinctive mission will inform how it demonstrates that it meets the following Core Components of Criterion 1.

1.A. Mission Alignment

The institution’s educational programs, enrollment profile, and scope of operations align with its publicly articulated mission.

The kind of evidence include the following examples:

Documentation of the history, development and adoption of the institution's mission statement. Information about where the mission statement, purpose, vision, values, plans and goals are located and their accessibility to staff, faculty, students and the general public.

Documentation that educational programs, student support services, and planning and budgeting priorities align with the mission (e.g., documents with budget allocations to instruction, student services, etc.).

Enrollment profile.

Information about new student, employee, and board member orientation that imparts the mission.

Documentation of the policies and actions implemented or discontinued to achieve clearer alignment between an institution's practices and its mission.

Recruitment materials. (This will be where mission and alignment with mission is reflected.)

Carefully Read 1A

1.B. Mission and Public Good

The institution's operation of the academic enterprise demonstrates its commitment to serving the public good.

The kind of evidence includes the following examples:

The institution's mission documents if they specifically address the institution's role in the community.

Brief descriptions of initiatives, services, educational programs, workforce development projects, partnerships and consulting arrangements that meet community or constituent needs.

Information about the institution's collaborative involvement in local or regional initiatives such as those focused on environmental stewardship, community development activities, and sustainability initiatives.

Evidence that academic programs serve the public good and/or enhance economic development in the region through such activities as advisory boards, training initiatives, clinical sites, workforce development and job attainment.

Documentation of public events and artistic/cultural series the community may attend.

Documentation of the utilization of campus facilities by the community.

Engagement of faculty, staff, and students in the community (i.e., community service, service-learning).

Carefully Read 1B

1.C. Mission and Diversity of Society

The institution provides opportunities for civic engagement in a diverse, multicultural society and globally connected world, as appropriate within its mission and for the constituencies it serves.

The kind of evidence include the following examples:

Documentation of course-based activities that promote civic engagement, such as capstone experiences, community service projects, international service projects, professional or clinical practicum, community-based student employment, organized mission- or faith-based services in the community, alternative spring break experiences, military service, or entrepreneurship.

Documentation of student or campus-life-based service or experiences, such as service clubs, fraternity or sorority service projects, athletic team service activities, resident advisor employment or residential life service projects, or institution-led volunteer experiences.

Documentation of extramural and independent volunteer or community service activities, including arts- and culture-based activities, children/youth-based service, human rights service or advocacy, public health and public policy-based activities, environmental and sustainability activities, food security/hunger-relief volunteering, church-based community service, or political campaign volunteering.

Campus definitions of diversity, equity, and inclusion, if applicable.

Student demographics and enrollment strategies that demonstrate a focus on access and inclusion.

Documentation of campus committees, student organizations and associated activities that support civic engagement, multicultural perspectives, and global awareness.

Documentation of events and activities that the institution hosts or in which it participates, if applicable, to support diverse perspectives and global connections.

Carefully Read 1C