

DRAFT OF CRITERION 1: STRENGTHS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Strengths

- SMSU exhibits an exceptionally strong commitment to the public good.
- SMSU is a hub for regional activities and develops programs appropriate for its mission and service region.
- Departmental and unit missions are in alignment with the University mission.
- Strategic planning is well organized to operationalize the University mission.
- The design of the Liberal Education Program supports the mission.
- SMSU's dedication to enacting the mission creates numerous leadership and professional development opportunities for students and staff.
- The University mission has been maintained consistently through organizational and administrative changes.
- The University maintains a strong tradition of supporting students with disabilities.

Recommendations

- Plan to mitigate possible effects of other institutions increasing their concurrent enrollment offerings.
- Renew awareness of and investment in strategic planning by broader university community.
- Continue to refine and enact diversity-related measures.

HLC Criterion 1: Mission

The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

Core Component 1A: The institution's mission is broadly understood within the institution and guides its operations.

1A1. The mission statement is developed through a process suited to the nature and culture of the institution and is adopted by the governing board.

1A2. The institution's academic programs, student support services, and enrollment profile are consistent with its stated mission.

1A3. The institution's planning and budgeting priorities align with and support the mission.

Core Component 1B: The mission is articulated publicly.

1B1. The institution clearly articulates its mission through one or more public documents, such as statements of purpose, vision, values, goals, plans or institutional priorities.

1B2. The mission document or documents are current and explain the extent of the institution's emphasis on the various aspects of its mission, such as instruction, scholarship, research, application of research, creative works, clinical service, public service, economic development, and religious or cultural purpose.

1B3. The mission document or documents identify the nature, scope, and intended constituents of the higher education programs and services the institution provides.

Core Component 1C: The institution understands the relationship between its mission and the diversity of society.

1C1. The institution addresses its role in a multicultural society.

1C2. The institution's processes and activities reflect attention to human diversity as appropriate within its mission and for the constituencies it serves.

Core Components 1D: The institution's mission demonstrates commitment to the public good

1D1. Actions and decisions reflect an understanding that in its educational role the institution serves the public, not solely the institution, and thus entails a public obligation.

1D2. The institution's educational responsibilities take primacy over other purposes, such as generating financial returns for investors, contributing to a related or parent organization, or supporting external interests.

1D3. The institution engages with its identified external constituencies and communities of interest and responds to their needs as its mission and capacity allow.