

NORTH CENTRAL STATE COLLEGE FUNCTIONAL MISSION STATEMENT

INSTITUTIONAL IDENTITY

A. Summary of the purpose of the Institution

North Central State College serves the residents of Ashland, Richland, and Crawford Counties. The College provides two-year technical education programs, a practical nursing certificate program, short-term certificate programs, customized business and industrial training, and professional continuing education. A total of 44 different credit degrees and certificates are granted on a regular basis.

NC State offers a full range of developmental education service through its Student Success Center to more fully meet student needs:

- peer tutoring
- writing assistance
- reading assistance
- math assistance
- science assistance
- credit by examination
- developmental studies

The division of Workforce and Community Development offers both regular credit course work and contract training for local business and industry. Workforce and Community Development offers non-credit training through its Continuing Education for Health Care Professionals and non-credit courses for the improvement of personal and workplace skills.

The College involves community representatives in the delivery of services through the activities of curriculum advisory committees. These advisory committees provide input on program content and marketability as well as evaluation activities.

The educational needs of the region are assessed through the activities of curriculum advisory committees, the College Trustees, the NC State Foundation, survey activity with both current and former students, as well as with employers of students, and a myriad of local organizations in which NC State personnel participate.

B. Functional emphases: comparative information related to instruction, research, and public service.

NC State is committed to the delivery of high-quality instruction. Research is not a formal function of the College. Public Service is important in that the College seeks to serve its constituents, and service area in any way that is not incompatible with its mission.

The faculty reward system focuses on classroom and laboratory instruction. Faculty load policies mandate 15 credit hours or 18 contact hours per quarter plus a requisite number of hours of preparation for class, participation on task forces and committees, and office hours for student advising and consultation. Research as a factor in the faculty reward system comes into play only in the sense of course development activities and not as an end in itself. Public service is not a criteria in the faculty reward system. Administrators are not eligible for tenure and are evaluated on job performance rather than instruction, research, and public service. If research and/or public service have an impact on job performance they are specifically included in the evaluation criteria.

C. Disciplinary emphasis central to institutions mission

The primary disciplinary emphasis in the mission of NC State is instruction. Public service plays an important but secondary role. Research is not a major emphasis. Classroom, laboratory, and clinical instruction are paramount in the achievement of the College mission. Institutional support is greatest in the instructional areas.

D. Relative emphasis given to baccalaureate instruction and general education

NC State is not involved in graduate education. Its involvement in baccalaureate education is limited to course work that fulfills technical associate degree requirements much of which articulates with baccalaureate programs and course work that falls into the transfer module concept. General education is an important component of the College's curriculum. One fourth to one half of the curriculum in any associate degree is composed of general studies classes: English, speech, mathematics, sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Regular faculty teach 60% to 70% of the general education courses with the balance taught by adjunct faculty. Graduate teaching assistants and graduate courses are not available.

E. Relative emphasis on research

While research is not a component of NC State's mission, and no institutional funds are committed to support personal faculty research activities, monies are made available to support research activities that directly impact instructional processes and grant-related institutional research.

F. Relative emphasis on public service

NC State has a close relationship with the local job market and thus with local employers. The College is receptive and responsive to local community needs that go beyond the classroom, such as participating in a consortium of area high schools, a computer network, the Tech Prep initiative, and in a career awareness project for area ninth graders.

The College is involved in area work training and retraining in both its traditional associate degree programs as well as its business and industry activities through the Workforce and Community Development division, which include work place literacy programs, technology training programs with area manufacturers, and programs geared to health care professionals. The College has links with the local chamber of commerce, the Richland Economic Development Corporation, The Literacy Coalition, the Private Industry Council, and the NC State Foundation.