

Fort Scott Community College — Criterion 2 Summary

Integrity • Transparency • Governance • Academic Freedom • Knowledge Practices

Big Picture

- Institution-wide integrity, transparent communications, autonomous and ethical governance, robust protections for academic freedom, and responsible knowledge practices.
- Evidence base includes adopted policies, routine trainings, public processes, and regular reporting across divisions.

2A Integrity

- Board adheres to bylaws/Board–Administrative Policies; day-to-day management delegated to the President and appointees.
- Fiscal integrity: GAAP, GASB, Kansas statutes; zero-based budgeting (since FY2018) with requests tied to the strategic plan; monthly reports; formal supplemental-funds process.
- Inclusive budget cycle: Executive Team spring review; Board workshops & public hearings; formal adoption per state law; community participation.
- Academic honesty: policies in Catalog, syllabi, Student Handbook, FYE; tools include Respondus LockDown Browser & SafeAssign; sanctions up to expulsion; faculty duties in Negotiated Agreement.
- Personnel integrity & compliance: equitable hiring; nondiscrimination; Title IX, Drug-Free Workplace, grievance procedures; annual VAWA, ALICE, CPR/AED, conflict-of-interest trainings; Network Use & Privacy Policy.
- Vector Solutions online training platform for students/employees (assignments, tracking, compliance).
- Student services & auxiliaries: housing with surveillance, RDs/RAs, nightly security; bookstore rental model with scholarships & OER expansion; dining partnership supports events; Greyhound Pantry for essential needs.
- Foundation stewardship: ~\$6.9M assets; ~\$1.09M scholarships to 782 students last year; first comprehensive Annual Report releasing this year.
- Readiness & safety: FERPA/ADA/Title IX compliance; Emergency Action Plan; annual ALICE; tabletop exercises with local agencies.

2B Transparency

- Website & online Catalog provide programs, requirements, transfer/CPL/military credit, schedules; Catalog reviewed regularly.
- Jenzabar Internet Campus Solution (JICS) portal + mobile app for registration, grades, finance, housing/vehicle, communications.
- LMS transition Blackboard → Canvas to improve usability and integration.
- RAVE emergency alerts; Jenzabar J1 for centralized student information; EdSights chatbot for 24/7 support and early alerts.
- Financial transparency: Tuition & Fees, Net Price Calculator, Consumer Information (safety, protocols, data, policies, forms).
- Recruitment Code of Conduct (aligned with NACAC/HLC): accuracy; no incentives/misrepresentation; FERPA protections; limits on unsolicited military outreach.
- Governance & accreditation disclosures: elected six-member Board; KBOR oversight context; HLC and program accreditations listed.
- Student life & civic engagement: broad co-curriculars; FYE requires 8 volunteer hours; high student-life satisfaction (2024–25).

- Up-to-date directory and Board-approved organizational chart; active Student Government voice.

2C Board Governance

- Autonomous Board; conflict-of-interest disclosures; ongoing PD (e.g., KACCT).
- Open, public process: monthly meetings under KOMA; clear comment protocols; advance agendas; detailed minutes; annual retreats.
- Board selects/evaluates/dismisses the President; delegates daily operations; budget/investment policies guide stewardship.
- Faculty-led Program Review & Curriculum Committee processes respected and formalized.

2D Academic Freedom & Freedom of Expression

- Employee Handbook & Board Policy Manual affirm inquiry and expression without censorship/retaliation; Negotiated Agreement protects instructional judgment and scholarly work.
- Peaceful Assembly Policy supports First Amendment activity with safety/operations guardrails; applies to campus and non-college groups per procedures.
- Education & culture: onboarding/orientation; annual in-service; events, forums, Gordon Parks Museum, TRIO programming.

2E Knowledge Acquisition, Discovery & Application

- Academic Ethics & Academic Dishonesty policies with defined violations, sanctions, documentation, and appeals; many syllabi include AI-use statements.
- Faculty roles supported by Master Syllabus template, Instructor Responsibilities, Negotiated Agreement; PD and salary advancement.
- Information literacy & responsible research embedded in GE and FYE; Library, Student Success Center, tutoring; librarian-led workshops.
- Curriculum & quality: Curriculum Committee and Academic Affairs Committee ensure rigor and alignment.
- Applied learning & grants: project-based/service learning; recent grants for Pantry expansion, Construction Trades tooling, and AED expansion; growing integration of AI/digital research and tech ethics.