

Fort Scott Community College — Criterion 3 Summary

Teaching & Learning for Student Success

Big Picture

- FSCC ensures rigorous, high-quality programs and learning environments across all modalities and locations, with systematic evaluation for mission fulfillment.
- Consistency is maintained via common outcomes, master syllabi, faculty governance, and continuous assessment cycles.

3A Educational Programs

- Degrees: AA, AS (60 credits, transfer-focused), AGS, AAS (workforce-focused).
- General Education: state-mandated core with minimum 35 credits applicable toward bachelor's GE.
- Catalog lists ~26 degree programs, 11 technical certificates, 6 certificates of completion; updated annually and posted online.
- KBOR oversight of associate degrees/certificates; KCOG annually reviews transfer course outcomes.
- CTE alignment with industry standards via biannual advisory boards (minutes on file); specialized accreditations (e.g., Nursing, Allied Health, Harley-Davidson, Cosmetology).
- Curriculum Committee oversees approvals/reviews; faculty lead creation/revision and alignment with transfer partners.
- Master syllabus template with outcomes/assessments used across all sections, modalities, and locations.

3B Exercise of Intellectual Inquiry

- GE (35 credits in AA/AS/AGS): English (6), Communication (3), Science (5), Arts/Humanities (6), Social/Behavioral Science (6).
- Embedded outcomes across GE/CTE: critical thinking, information literacy, effective communication.
- English 101 (APA) and English 102 (MLA) scaffold research/writing; Public Speaking requires outlines, multiple speeches, peer evals, and audience analysis.
- Science courses emphasize the scientific method, data collection/analysis, and formal lab reporting.
- CTE examples: John Deere Tech diagnostics & internships; Welding/Ag/Allied Health interpret technical data for real-world problem solving.
- Inquiry & creativity supported through Fine Arts projects/critique and applied challenges in Ag/Heavy Equipment.

Transfer, Pathways & Partnerships

- Systemwide Associate Degree in Business Administration (62 credits transfer to any KS public university).
- Elementary Education pathway with Emporia State University.
- KCU Rural Health Scholars Pathway with MSSU/KCU (benchmarks + guaranteed interview).
- HEO program uses simulation/field tech; multiple pathway agreements provide affordable, flexible options.

Curriculum Governance & Responsiveness

- Faculty-driven development; Curriculum Committee bylaws guide proposals and revisions (agendas/minutes).
- Advisory-board feedback drives updates (e.g., expanded John Deere certificate adding A/C & Aftertreatment; standalone Heavy Equipment Operator Certificate in 2024).

- Academic Affairs Committee conducts program review, initiates new pathways (e.g., Exercise Science) and explores LPN expansion.

3C Sufficiency of Faculty & Staff

- Structured hiring with committee interviews, credential verification, background checks, and Board approval; qualified via HLC-aligned Faculty Qualifications policy (credentials/tested experience).
- Comprehensive onboarding: HR/IT setup, mentor program, monthly Teaching Academy (LMS, assessment, accessibility, OER/copyright).
- Evaluation: FT per Negotiated Agreement timelines; adjunct/dual-credit observed annually; VPAA/Chairs evaluate with student input and self-eval; action plans follow.
- Scale & ratios: ~38 FT faculty and ~36 adjuncts; avg class cap 30 (lower in lab/English/Speech/Science; many CTE caps at 20); avg student-to-faculty ~14:1; posted office hours.
- Student services staffed by qualified pros (Advising, TRIO, CAMP, SSC); expanded mental-health supports (intern then therapist + intern).
- PD supported for conferences/workshops; adjunct/concurrent in-service each fall; HS outreach/trainings and handbook distribution.
- CTE faculty industry internships (e.g., Kansas Technology Initiative Grant) to stay current with codes, certifications, and practices.

3D Support for Student Learning & Teaching Resources

- FYE required for AA/AS/AGS (time management, study skills, integrity, finances, well-being, cultural competence; resource introductions).
- Advising model: two FT advisors + TRIO advisors + program directors + Dean of Miami County; early alerts to intervene.
- Financial Aid: FAFSA help, scholarships, literacy sessions; proactive text/email outreach and billing timelines.
- Tutoring: in-person/online; published schedules each term; robust TRIO services for first-gen/low-income/disability.
- Student life: weekly activity bulletin; inclusive co-curriculars.
- Facilities/partnerships: Nursing/Allied Health simulation labs + clinicals; John Deere dealer sponsorships/work-based training.
- Library: SEKLS membership + Kansas State Online Library; librarian-led research instruction in FYE/ENG/Speech; embedded research assignments.

3E Assessment of Student Learning

- Comprehensive, multi-level plan (course, program/department, GE, institutional, co-curricular) with calendar and EoY checklist (Blackboard).
- Assessment Committee (VPAA, Library Dir/Chair, English Faculty Coordinator, IR, Division Chairs) supports rubrics, mapping, data collection.
- 4-semester PLO cycle using EAC Visual Data Analytics; formative and summative reports; actions documented and monitored.
- GE outcomes consolidated to four: Math, Communication, Technology, Critical Thinking.
- Capstone + course-embedded multiple-measures model (since 2023); mapping matrix aligns CLOs to GE outcomes; Blackboard portal aggregates by modality/instructor.
- Institutional outcomes: Academic Success & Social Responsibility—benchmarks tracked, annual public reporting; SEM Committee created (Fall 2023) to drive retention/completion.

3F Program Review

- Three- to five-year cycle; 2019 template streamlined; 2024 added Institutional Effectiveness Support and detailed checklist + SWOT/action plan.
- Academic Affairs Committee reviews; summaries to Board; results posted publicly.
- Evidence of impact: John Deere modernization + diagnostics and certification prep; Math Pathways redesign with co-req labs; Music program recruitment/Choir Director; Cosmetology 98% licensure and HS Manicuring (150-hour) pathway.

3G Student Success Outcomes

- Data to IPEDS, NCCBP, KBOR, NSC; annual Assessment Report.
- Course success: GE 84%→85%→86% (Fall '22-'24); CTE 88%→90%→92%.
- Retention (FT): 49%→61% ('22→'23, above 57% peer median); Grad rate (150%): 27%→37%→34% (≈ peer 34%).
- CTE concentrators: 573→621→591; credentials: 311→263→361; 639 employed in related fields ('22-'24).
- Initiatives: centralized advising; degree maps/articulation; multiple-measures placement; three math pathways + co-req; shortened late enrollment; inclusive access materials; SEM; Jenzabar One (2025) + Analytics (2026).