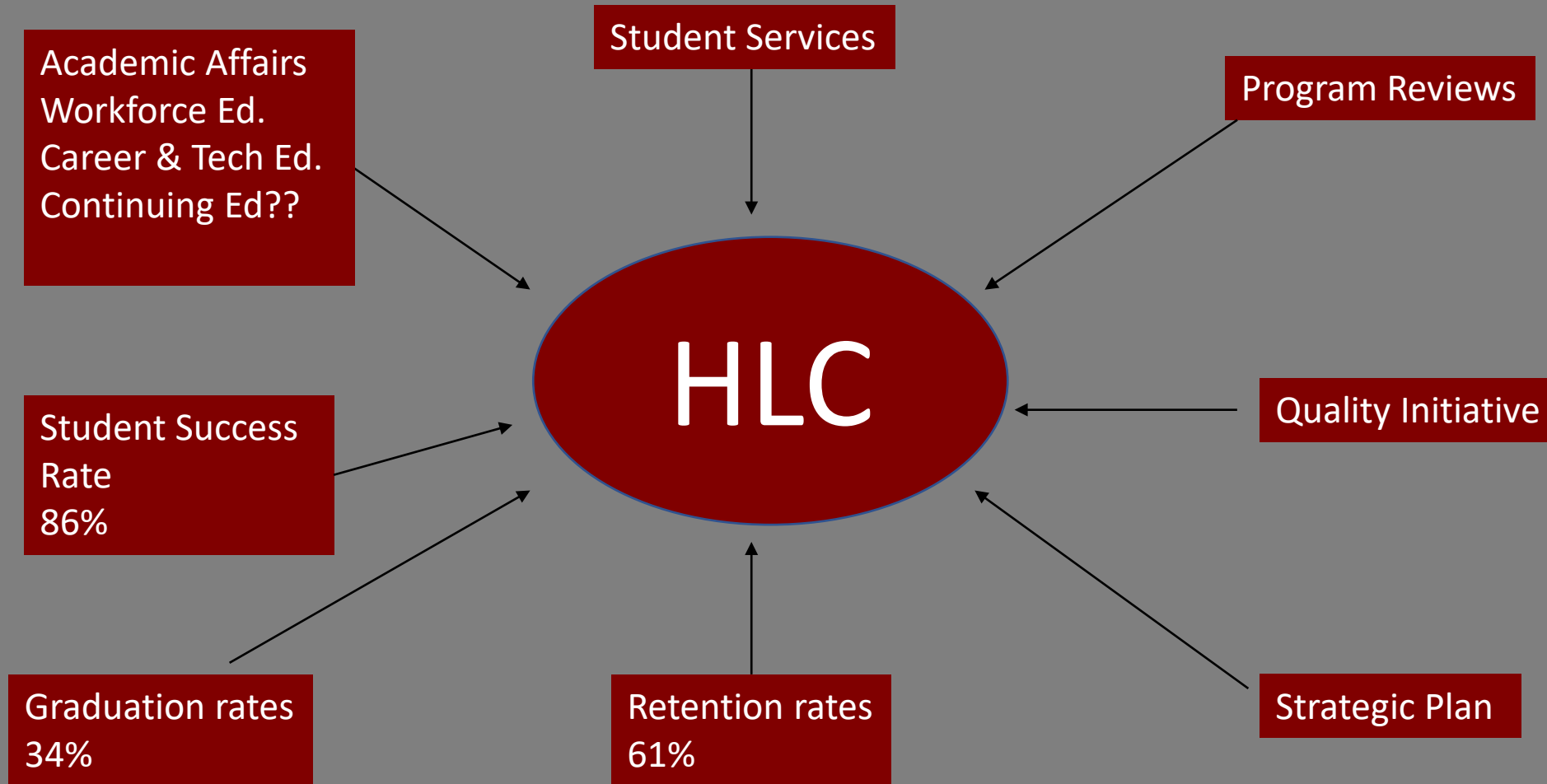# Fort Scott Community College HLC Comprehensive Reaffirmation of Accreditation

HLC CAMPUS AWARENESS MEETING 1

OPERATIONAL DIRECTION

HLC

Student Services

Program Reviews

Academic Affairs
Workforce Ed.
Career & Tech Ed.
Continuing Ed??

Quality Initiative

Student Success
Rate
86%

Graduation rates
34%

Retention rates
61%

Strategic Plan

HLC CRITERION TEAMS

- (Responsible for collecting evidence and reviewing narrative draft)
  - Criterion 1: Sara Sutton, Juley McDaniel, Sonia Gugnani, Vanessa Poyner

  - Criterion 2: Vanessa Poyner, Rory Chaplin, Courtney Metcalf, Ashley Keylon, Alyssa Martin

  - Criterion 3: Sonia Gugnani, Tracy Springer, Maria Bahr, Susie Arvidson, Kevin Thomure, Ashley Keylon

  - Criterion 4: Missy Scott, Doug Hurd, Juley McDaniel, Cindy Proctor, Sara Sutton, Amber Swarens
- Federal Compliance Team
  - Sonia Gugnani, Ben Souza, Courtney Metcalf, Ashley Keylon, Vickie Laderer, Vanessa Poyner, Tanya Potthoff

FORT SCOTT TRIBUNE (PUBLIC NOTICE)

Sliced Whole Wheat
Breadstick
Cottage Cheese
Tomato Slices
Fruit of the Day
Milk

CHENEY WITT
FUNERAL CHAPEL
201 S. Main • 223-1186
www.cheneywitt.com
Find Us FAST in
Names and Numbers
★★★★★ Five Star Phone Book! ®

Friday, August 29
CLOSED

Monday, Sept. 1
Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, Sept. 2
Tater Tot Casserole
Buttered Carrots
Garlic Green Beans
Whole wheat
Dinner Roll
Fruit of the Day
Milk

Wheat Bread, Margarine &
1% Milk served with all menus
unless otherwise specified.

was released at 11:07 p.m.   47, was arrested at 8:38 p.m.

INVITATION TO COMMENT: FSCC HLC EVALUATION

Fort Scott, KS – Fort Scott Community College is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The college will host a visit on October 13-14, 2025, from a team of peer reviewers representing the Higher Learning Commission. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet HLC's Criteria for Accreditation. Fort Scott Community College has been accredited by HLC since 1976. Comments must be in writing and must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs.

Submit comments to HLC at
https://www.hlcommission.org/for-students/submit-comments-about-an-institution/
or mail them to the address below.
All comments must be received by September 10, 2025

Public Comment on Fort Scott Community College
Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

For details on submitting comments, visit the HLC's website at www.hlcommission.org/comment or mail comments to the address provided on the HLC website.

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officer, felony
resist; Kansas
violation; and
of opiates/opi
ic drugs and ce

DESIGN
FLORI
~ by Seka
620-223-5

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GIRARD ME
1624 S. N
JUST WALK IN!

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Chair: Tori Murphy
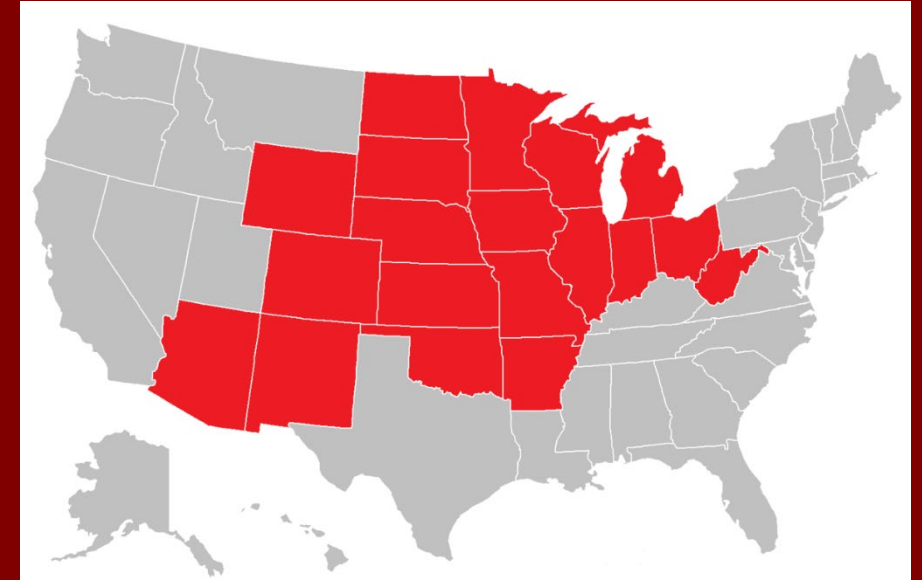
Preecia Howser

Suzanne Griffin

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION (HLC)

- FSCC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

- HLC accredits degree-granting post-secondary educational institutions in the United States.

- "Accreditation" is a review of the quality of higher education institutions and programs. Accreditation is a major way that students, families, government officials, and the press know that an institution or program provides a quality education.

WHO IS HLC?

- Barbara Gellman-Danley, President

- Staff Liaisons

- Peer Reviewers

- About 1,000 colleges and universities

Dr. Anthea Sweeney
HLC Liaison

SITE TEAM REVIEWERS

Chair: Jon K. Dalager
 Instructor
 Alexandria Technical and Community College

Reviewer: Sadique Isahaku
Vice Provost & Chief Academic Officer
Milwaukee Area Technical College

Reviewer: Todd Russell DeKay
Vice President of Operations
Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell

Reviewer: Josephine M. Kershaw
Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Innovation
Jefferson College

Reviewer: Yolanda Farmer
Executive Vice President
Joliet Junior College

FORT SCOTT ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

- Current status: Accredited

- Status   Dates

- Candidate   11/01/1969 - 03/30/1976

- Accredited   03/31/1976 - Present

- Most recent reaffirmation of accreditation: 2015 - 2016

- Next reaffirmation of accreditation: October 13-14, 2025

ACCREDITATION IS OUR LICENSE TO OPERATE:

Institutional accreditation allows FSCC to:

1. Issue recognized degrees and credentials
2. Issue (and accept) transferable credit
3. Students to receive Title IV federal aid (Pell, Loans, and Other)
4. Receive state funding as a public institution
5. Qualify for federal, state, and private grants

11

The COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW HAS 3 PARTS:

Federal Compliance Review
[DOCUMENTS]

Comprehensive Visit
[On-campus]

Assurance Argument & Supporting Evidence
[DOCUMENTS]

FEDERAL COMPLIANCE REVIEW

- Assignment of Credits, Program Length and Tuition
- Institutional Mechanisms for Handling Student Complaints
- Publication of Transfer Policies
- Practices for Verification of Student Identity
- Protection of Student Privacy
- Publication of Student Outcome Data
- Standing With State and Other Accreditors

The COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW HAS 3 PARTS:

Federal
Compliance Review
[DOCUMENTS]

Comprehensive
Visit
[On-campus]

**Assurance Argument
& Supporting
Evidence**
[DOCUMENTS]

ASSURANCE ARGUMENT

- Criterion 1-4
- Tell our story in 35,000 words or <
- Evidence (Appendices) Show CANOPY here

The **self-study report** is your institution's self-reflection and the cornerstone of the information you need for your peer review visit.

The COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW HAS 3 PARTS:

Federal
Compliance Review
[DOCUMENTS]

Comprehensive
Visit
[On-campus]

Assurance Argument
& Supporting
Evidence
[DOCUMENTS]

ASSURANCE ARGUMENT CRITERIA

Criterion 1- Mission

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

Criterion 2 - Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

In fulfilling its mission, the institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

Criterion 3 - Teaching and Learning for Student Success

The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness in fulfilling its mission. The rigor and quality of each educational program is consistent regardless of modality, location or other differentiating factors.

Criterion 4 - Sustainability: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources, and Planning

The institution's resources, structures, policies, procedures and planning enable it to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational programs, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

PATHWAYS FOR REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION

- Two primary pathways: Standard and Open

- FSCC: Open Pathway
  - 10 year cycle
  - Focuses on quality assurance and institutional improvement
  - Unique improvement component – Quality Initiative provides institutions the opportunity to pursue improvement projects that meet their current needs and aspirations.
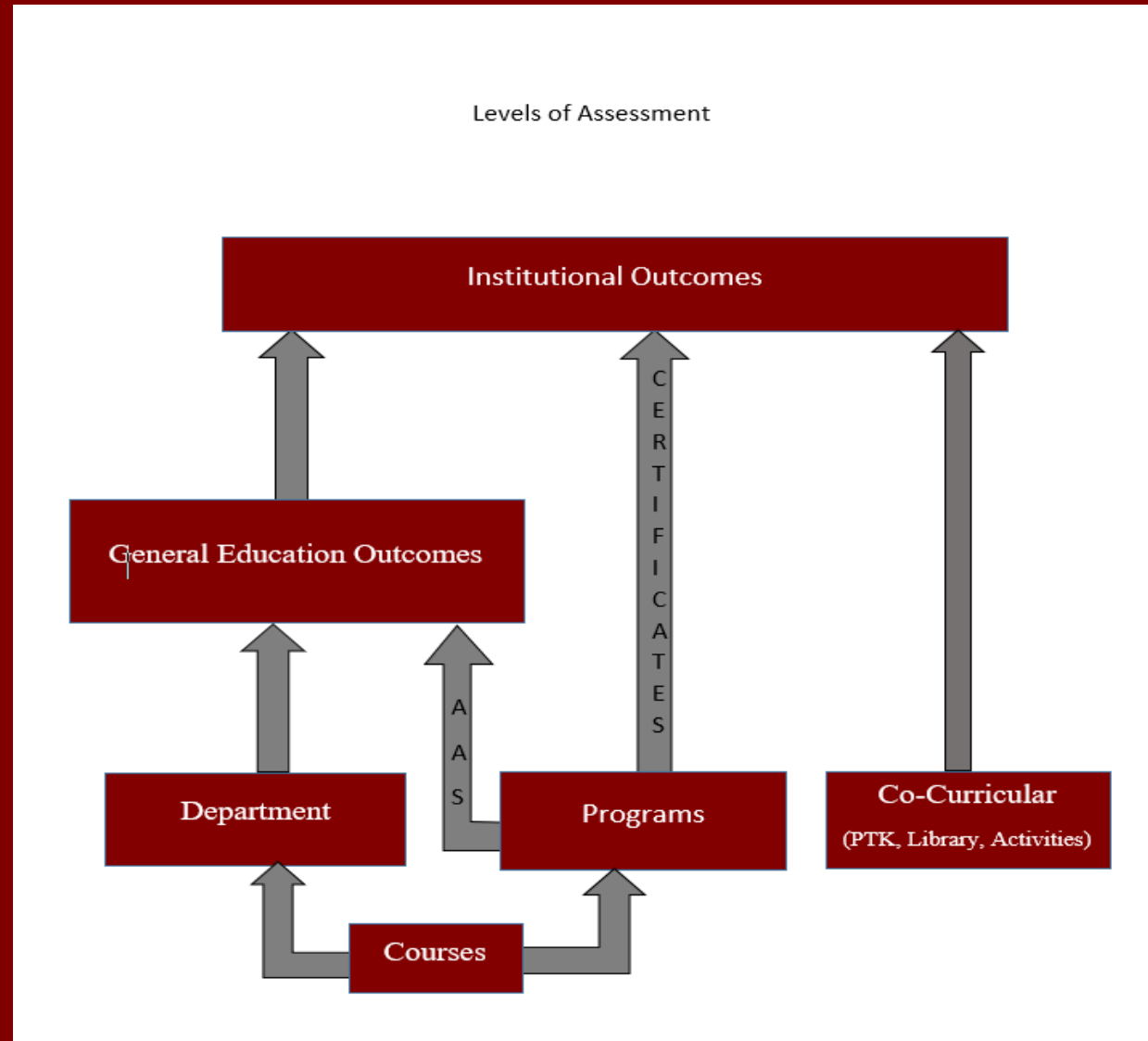- One Comprehensive Evaluation Visit

QUALITY INITIATIVE

- Holistic Assessment Plan

- Assessment at FSCC involves improving student learning through systematic collection of data and using that data to make informed curricular changes. The main objective of assessment is to improve the overall educational experience based on the evidence resulting from comprehensive data collection.

QUALITY INITIATIVE

- Assessment at FSCC focuses on evaluation of student learning outcomes at the following levels:

- Course (Base level)

- Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

- Degree Outcomes

- General Education Learning Outcomes (GELO)

- Institutional (ILO)

- Co-curricular ("The FSCC co-curricular experience is learning that supports the academic curriculum).

LEVELS OF ASSESSMENT

ETS Proficiency Profile Report for GELO Baseline Data Fall 2021-Spring 2025

Skill	FSCC Fall 21 (n=22)	Standard Deviation (F21)	FSCC Spring 22 (n=116)	Standard Deviation (S22)	FSCC Overall AY21/22 Mean (n=138)	National Mean 2016-2021 (75 institutions)
Critical Thinking	107.55	5.46	107.36	5.12	107.4	109.6
Math	111.59	5.94	110.76	4.61	110.9	111.7

Skill	FSCC Fall 22 (n=29)	Standard Deviation (F22)	FSCC Spring 23 (n=120)	Standard Deviation (S23)	FSCC Overall AY22/23 Mean (n=149)	National Mean 2016-2022 (69 institutions)
Critical Thinking	110.48	5.39	108.8	5.33	109.1	109.6
Math	112.48	5.22	111.44	4.61	111.6	111.6

Skill	FSCC Fall 23 (n=27)	Standard Deviation (F23)	FSCC Spring 24 (n=99)	Standard Deviation (S24)	FSCC Overall AY23/24 Mean (n=126)	National Mean 2019- 2024 (34 institutions)
Critical Thinking	108.59	6.54	107.92	4.91	108.1	109.1
Math	111.59	4.13	111.34	5.55	111.4	111

Skill	FSCC Fall 24 (n=41)	Standard Deviation (F24)	FSCC Spring 25 (n=120)	Standard Deviation (S25)	FSCC Overall AY24/25 Mean (n=161)	National Mean 2020-2025 (47 institutions)
Critical Thinking	114.5	5.79	117.21	6.62	116.5	108.9
Math	117.5	5.63	118.9	6.74	118.5	110.9

OPEN PATHWAY 10-YEAR CYCLE

- ✓ Prepare Assurance Filing (Years 1-3)
- ✓ Assurance Review (Year 4)
- ✓ Quality Initiative Proposal (Years 5-7)
- ✓ Quality Initiative Report (Years 7-9)
- Comprehensive Evaluation Visit (Year 10)
  - **Assurance Argument**: Narrative in which institutions explains how it meets criteria for accreditation, supported by evidence.
  - **Federal Compliance**: assures HLC institutions are meeting their Title IV responsibilities and complying with federal regulations.
  - **Student Opinion Survey**: 2 months prior to the visit

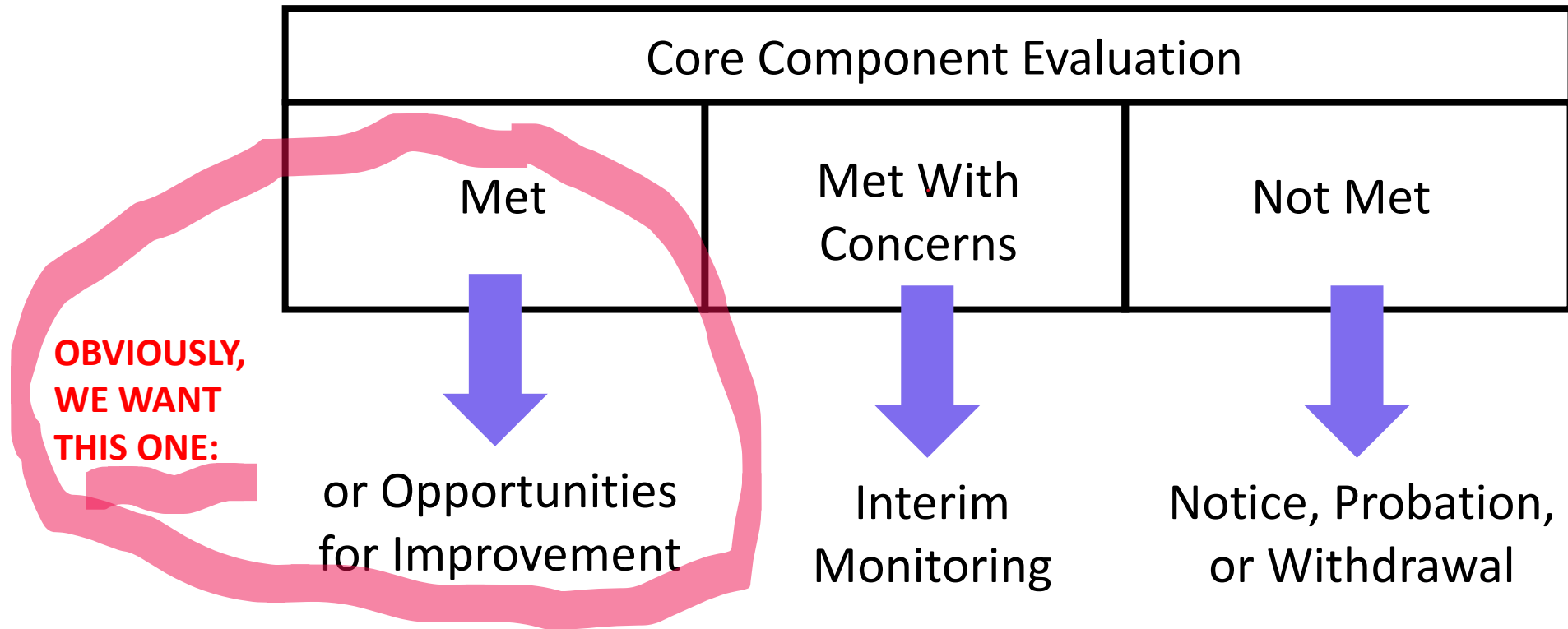# HLC COMPREHENSIVE SITE VISIT

- What happens during an HLC visit?

  - Agenda- 2 weeks before site visit

  - Typically includes meetings with board and leadership

  - Open forum sessions with faculty, staff, and students

  - Federal Compliance Review

  - Reviews Assurance Argument

Revised Criteria	Location in 2020 Criteria
Criterion 1. Mission	Criterion 1. Mission
1.A. Mission Alignment	1.A.
1.B. Mission and Public Good	1.B.
1.C. Mission and Diversity of Society	1.C.
Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct	Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
2.A. Integrity	2.A.
2.B. Transparency	2.B.
2.C. Board Governance	2.C.
2.D. Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression	2.D.
2.E. Knowledge Acquisition, Discovery and Application	2.E.
Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning for Student Success	Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources and Support, & Criterion 4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
3.A. Educational Programs	3.A.
3.B. Exercise of Intellectual Inquiry	3.B.
3.C. Sufficiency of Faculty and Staff	3.C.
3.D. Support for Student Learning and Resources for Teaching	3.D.
3.E Assessment of Student Learning	4.B.
3.F Program Review	4.A.
3.G. Student Success Outcomes	4.C.
Criterion 4. Sustainability: Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning	Criterion 5. Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning
4.A Effective Administrative Structures	5.A.
4.B Resource Base and Sustainability	5.B.
4.C Planning for Quality Improvement	5.C.

Evaluation Outcomes

ASSURANCE ARGUMENT

Core Component Evaluation

Met | Met With Concerns | Not Met

OBVIOUSLY, WE WANT THIS ONE:

or Opportunities for Improvement

Interim Monitoring

Notice, Probation, or Withdrawal

HOW DO WE PREPARE?

- Communicate/Share information
- Ask questions
- We need to have the same answers campus wide
- Poll departments, soft or deficient areas
- Update office area
- Update websites, names, emails, phone list, etc.
- Use "slides to study"

HOW DO WE PREPARE?

- Assist other departments
- Include students
- Business as usual, normal operations
- You are the "All-Stars"
- Continue this momentum!

CONSUMER INFORMATION and TITLE IV COMPLIANCE

ADMISSIONS POLICY

GRADUATION AND RETENTION RATES

SECONDARY STUDENT RECRUITMENT

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

EQUITY IN ATHLETICS

FINANCIAL AID POLICIES

TITLE IX POLICY

CAMPUS SAFETY AND FIRE REPORT

ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS

- How does the FSCC mission guide decision-making and planning?

- How does FSCC foster ethical behavior and integrity?

- How does FSCC support student success and retention?

- How does FSCC use data to drive improvement initiatives? What are recent examples?

- How does FSCC contribute to the broader community? What are recent examples?

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

- Why is accreditation important?

- What is the focus of each of the four criteria?

- What accreditation pathway do we use? What are the three parts?

- What is HLC's role in the accreditation process?

- Which Core Components do you help satisfy and how?

- Explain FSCC's Quality Initiative in Simple Terms

- FSCC's Mission, CORE Values, and Vision

WHAT DO STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW?

- Why is accreditation important?
- How do we maintain accreditation?
- Who is HLC?
- What is HLC's role in the accreditation process?
- What is FSCC's Mission and Core Values?
- When is FSCC's Comprehensive Visit?

ITEMS, DOCUMENTS, AND DATA TO PREPARE

MISSION STATEMENT

- Fort Scott Community College is an institution of higher learning with a long history of culture and diversity that provides affordable academic, technical, and occupational programs to meet student needs while fostering a mutually supportive relationship between the college and its communities.

VISION

- FSCC's vision for the future is to support "Students First, Community Always" through a central focus on teaching and learning; advancing strong, innovative programs and departments; maximizing and leveraging opportunities; initiating efficient and effective processes; and developing the region's workforce.

CORE VALUES

- Personal success and growth: Empower students, community, and employees to attain their goals by providing opportunities in a supportive, safe environment.

- Integrity and Respect: A focus on communication, relationships and experiences that value students, community, and employees; fostering a safe environment for all.

- Diversity and Inclusion: Operate as one college in purpose, plans, priorities, and processes.

- Stewardship: The careful, transparent, and responsible management of all resources under our care, including monetary, physical, and human resources

CURRENT FSCC GRANTS

- Kansas SPARK - APRA State   Heavy Equipment Simulators $800,103
- Kansas Tourism State   Wayman AME Church Signage $9,226
- Kansas Commerce State   FRAME Home Construction Support $528,600
- Kansas Arts Commission   State Gordon Parks Museum Mural $6,874
- Kansas Board of Regents   State Nursing Improvement $30,099
- Farm Credit Foundation   AED Expansion $13,727
- TRIO $272,364
- Perkins Career and Technical Education Grant $100,000

GRANTS SUBMITTED

- Patterson Family Foundation Pediatric Simulator $118,879

- Fort Scott Community Foundation Senior-Versity Support $1,000

- Bicknell Family Foundation Women's Luncheon Support $2,000

- Lattner Family Foundation Student Pantry Support $5,000

WHAT IS OUR RETENTION, GRADUATION, AND STUDENT SUCCESS RATE?

- Retention rate: 61%
- Graduation rate: 34%
- Student Success rate: 86%

ENROLLMENT COMPARISON

Semester	Year	Term	Heads	Credit Hours
2020FA	2020	FA20	1,774	18,363
2021SP	2021	SP21	1,449	14,313
2021SU	2021	SU21	383	1,952
2021FA	2021	FA21	1,775	18,433
2022SP	2022	SP22	1,415	14,062
2022SU	2022	SU22	306	1,476
2022FA	2022	FA22	1,603	16,613
2023SP	2023	SP23	1,475	14,192
2023SU	2023	SU23	276	1,265
2023FA	2023	FA23	1,532	15,671
2024SP	2024	SP24	1,365	12,986
2024SU	2024	SU24	308	1,587
2024FA	2024	FA24	1,447	14,419
2025SP	2025	SP25	1,273	12,009
2025SU	2025	SU25	112	397
2025FA	2025	FA25	1,144	10,626

Yellow=Fall
Green=Spring
Blue=Summer