

Criterion Four: Acquisition, Discovery, and Application of Knowledge

Criterion Statement: The organization promotes a life of learning for its faculty, administration, staff, and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice, and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission.

Core Component 4d:

The organization provides support to ensure that faculty, students, and staff acquire, discover, and apply knowledge responsibly.

Members:

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Potential Evidence Sources and Collection Status:

Other than evidence that is available through online sources, no physical evidence has been collected. Where links are identified they are included below. Other evidence needs are addressed throughout the section outline. A brief summary list of evidence required includes data and information from:

- Policy: Intellectual Property Rights and Electronic Distance Learning Materials
- Graduate Project Assistant Policy
- Faculty Learning Communities: *Technology *Learner Centered *Critical Thinking
- Programs offered for faculty
- Timme Grants
- Copyright guidelines and policy draft
- Academic Support Center [Tutoring]
- Counseling Center: Educational and Career Counseling
- Counseling Center: Personal Counseling
- Developmental Curriculum
- FSUS Seminar
- SCHOLAR Program
- Structured Learning Assistance [SLA]
- Writing Center
- Grants/contracts policies
- Board of Trustees policy
- Code of Student Community Standards
- Co-curricular transcripts plan/process
- Animal Care and Use
- Human Subjects Review Committee

Draft Section Outline:

1. Introduction of criterion to be addressed
2. Student development and support
 - a. University College (home for academic support services at Ferris State University)
 - i. Academic Support Center and Speaker Series
 - ii. Writing Center
 - iii. Developmental Curriculum
 - iv. Educational and Career Counseling and Disabilities Services
 - v. FSUS Seminar
 - vi. Honors Program
 - vii. SCHOLAR Peer Mentoring Program
 - viii. Structured Learning Assistance (SLA)
 - b. TIP Scholars Program
 - c. Service Learning
3. Faculty development (Cross reference to criterion 4a.)
 - a. Adjunct faculty training
 - b. Tuition Benefit Program
 - c. Timme Travel Grants
 - d. Sabbatical
 - e. Professional Development Grants

- f. Exceptional merit grants program for faculty and staff
 - g. Faculty Research Grant
 - h. Dean's Initiative Grant (Arts and Science)
4. Staff development (Cross reference to criterion 4a.)
- a. Tuition Benefit Program
 - b. Exceptional merit grants program for faculty and staff

5. Student responsibilities

An important point to bring forward here is that the University addresses these items through Board policies and that each of the Colleges and/or programs may/will have additional documents specific to their students.

- a. Office of Student Conduct
 - b. Code of Student Community Standards (Student Handbook)
 - c. Student community standards policy
 - d. Academic honesty
6. Faculty and Staff responsibilities
- a. Employee handbook and policies
 - b. Conflict of interest

7. Research and intellectual property

How the University ensures that research is conducted ethically and in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local safety regulations. How the University ensures that intellectual property rights are granted and preserved.

- a. Copyright guidelines and policy
- b. Intellectual Property Rights and Electronic Distance Learning Materials
- c. Technology use (Computer Software Policy, Electronic Mail Guidelines, Electronic Mail Policy, Personal Use of University Technology, Proper Use of Information Resources, Information Technology, and Networks Policy)
- d. Human subjects review committee
- e. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
- f. Grants and contracts polices
- g. Graduate Project Assistant Policy
- h. University Advancement
- i. Office of Scholarship and Sponsored Programs
- j. Academic Freedom

Prospective Featured Items:

- The structure of University College in that it is a centralized location for the academic support services for services, while not entirely unique, is not a common approach to the clustering of service. This concerted effort to provide support to students may be highlighted in this section.
- How the University discovers, investigates, and acts when there are violations of the below policies. Refer to the VPAA office on the posting by students of recordings of lectures in open FerrisConnect courses.

Strengths Areas (from listening sessions):

- Tuition waivers.
- Support of scholarship through grants and other funds.
- The support and development of a culture of life-long learning.
- Student conduct process.
- FSUS course and supporting events.

Improvement Areas (from listening sessions):

- Support of research efforts.
- Copyright procedures/policy not enacted.
- Professional development:
 - Non-administrative staff development.
 - Board professional development.
 - Staff development.
 - Administration development.
 - Lack of professional development support (except for FCTL – that support is excellent).
 - Funding for professional development presentations at conferences, etc. outside of PDI.
 - Lack of professional development days/culture of development.
 - Lack of support/training for adjunct faculty in areas of technology and in conferences attendance/participation.
- Definition of “intellectual inquiry” for all to understand/adopt.