

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
COLLEGE OF THE OUACHITAS**

SUBJECT AREA: **Governance**

POLICY/PROCEDURE: **Mission Documents**

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Vision Statement

College of the Ouachitas is a community of successful, lifelong learners and is acknowledged as responsive to the economic development needs of the region.

Statements of Value

As a student-centered institution, College of the Ouachitas is committed to ethical dealings with its constituencies—faculty, staff, administration, businesses, industries, students, and other educational institutions and agencies. We formally adopt the following set of values to guide the direction and operations of the College:

Integrity

We act honestly, courteously, decently, and fairly in all our dealings with our constituencies. Respect must characterize all of our internal and external relationships.

Quality and Accountability

Quality education is the guiding principle in all our actions; consequently, we hold ourselves and each other accountable for our results through a culture of inquiry and evidence.

Leadership

We lead by innovation in meeting the changing needs of our constituencies.

Independence

We recognize that academic freedom, used responsibly, fosters the innovation and initiative which make COTO unique.

Environment

We provide an accessible, safe, clean, and attractive collegiate environment for learning and working.

Community

We are an integral contributor to our community and to its economic development.

The Individual

We know that the commitment and contributions of all employees and students will determine our success. Each employee and student has the opportunity to participate fully, to grow professionally, and to develop to his or her highest potential.

Diversity

We value diversity and the learning opportunities that it creates.

Mission Statement and Purposes

College of the Ouachitas is a public, two-year institution of higher education that continually identifies and addresses the changing learning needs of the communities it serves through:

- Developmental courses and services that promote collegiate-level success;
- Associate-degree programs and courses that prepare learners to transfer and to succeed at universities;
- Associate degree, certificate, and continuing professional education programs and courses that prepare learners to succeed in the workforce;
- Services and resources that meet the needs of students in order to support successful learning;
- Specialized training courses and services that meet the needs of business and individuals;
- Partnerships with K-12 schools, other colleges and universities, businesses, industries, public agencies, and civic groups that support learning and promote the economic development of Arkansas;
- Non-credit, lifelong learning programs and opportunities that meet community needs;
- Continuous improvement through a system of inquiry, evidence, and accountability.

Strategic Priorities:

Strategic Action Area One: Student Access, Engagement, Learning, and Success

Goal One: Provide educational programming, resources, services, financial aid and environment to improve student learning as indicated by increased academic success, persistence, retention, program completion, and transfer.

Goal Two: Promote increased access and student learning to a diverse population.

Goal Three: Create optimal conditions to increase student engagement in curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities.

Strategic Action Area Two: Community-College Engagement

Goal One: Collaborate and partner with other educational entities (schools, higher education institutions, state agencies, foundations) to support and enhance concurrent, transfer, and other educational success.

Goal Two: Promote innovation and collaboration to fulfill the workforce development needs of business, industry, and other sectors.

Goal Three: Increase public awareness of and earn support for the College and its educational, social, and economic impact.

Strategic Action Area Three: Developing and Managing Effective Resources

Goal One: Promote a financial, physical, and human resource base to support the College's mission, to sustain organizational improvement, and to enhance teaching and learning.

Goal Two: Strengthen and sustain a high-quality information technology infrastructure to support the College's mission.

Goal Three: Empower employees through an environment that encourages professional development, leadership, creativity, and accountability.

Goal Four: Promote increased student access and success by securing increased federal, state, and private support.

Strategic Action Area Four: Continuous Improvement and Accountability

Goal One: Promote and improve institutional effectiveness through an organized system of planning, assessment, and budgeting.

Goal Two: Demonstrate a culture of inquiry, evidence, and accountability through data-driven decision-making.

AUTHENTICATION (Signature):		COPP
_____	07/26/11	
President	(Date)	1.00