



Higher Learning Commission Criterion 2.

Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

Core Components

2.A. The institution operates with integrity in its financial, academic, personnel, and auxiliary functions; it establishes and follows fair and ethical policies and processes for its governing board, administration, faculty, and staff.

Subcomponent key terms: University committee restructuring; external audit of financial statements; purchasing policies; regular review of University policies; annual disclosure of conflicts of interest; Student Academic Honesty Policy; annual compliance notice; HR and Title IX policies; reporting options; IT security policies.

2.B. The institution presents itself clearly and completely to its students and to the public with regard to its programs, requirements, faculty and staff, costs to students, control, and accreditation relationships.

Subcomponent key terms: University publications and online sources on academic programs; faculty and staff directories; tuition fees and Student Consumer Information for students; accreditation information

2.C. The governing board of the institution is sufficiently autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution and to assure its integrity.

Subcomponent key terms: Code of Regulations governs board actions; resolutions and minutes; annual conflict of interest disclosures; committee structure; UCCG review process.

2.D. The institution is committed to freedom of expression and the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning.

Subcomponent key terms: mission statement; VMCVSI statement; University learning goals & Core Curriculum; Academic Freedom & Responsibility statement (Faculty Handbook); Center for Teaching & Learning; endowed chairs & professorships; Sponsored Research; Celebration of Scholarship; signature programs; service-learning courses; extracurricular activities and organizations.

2.E. The institution ensures that faculty, students, and staff acquire, discover, and apply knowledge responsibly.

Subcomponent key terms: enforcement of policies on academic honesty and integrity; designated offices to provide guidance and support regarding ethical and responsible research

Work To Date

The team has written a draft of the narrative for Criterion 2 and now is pulling together the sources of evidence cited in the draft.

Possible Evidence: Audit information; business policies; Bulletins; student cost information; reporting options; conflict policies; board governance documents; mission statements; academic freedom statement; student conduct policies; code of conduct.

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