Info on BSU’s Continuing Accreditation Process

This is the fourth of five newsletters, each highlighting one of the criteria.

Digging Deeper into the Self-Study: Criterion 4

Criterion 4 focuses on lifelong learning for faculty, staff, administration, and students. HLC is interested in how an institution fosters and supports inquiry, creativity, practice, and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission. The first strategy in the University Plan directly addresses this criterion. In addition, Bemidji State promotes lifelong learning through the:

- Creative and scholarly achievements of the faculty and staff
- Student Scholarship and Creative Achievement Conference
- Office of Student Development and Enrollment
- Master Academic Plan

**HOT TOPIC!!**

A Master Data Site Deep Dive

Liberal Education. A discussion of Liberal Education is also found in Criterion 4. Besides the Liberal Education feature story (p. 11) and the Identity Challenge profile (pp. 41-43) in the Self-Study, we have collected significant documentation on Liberal Education in the Master Data Site.

See http://www.bemidjistate.edu/hlc/liberal_education

Process Recaps

*Self-Study Process Started in 2008.* Over 50 students, staff, administrators and faculty have contributed to the self-study process since it began in spring 2008.

*Self-Study Document Completed.* The self-study document was completed and sent to HLC and the consultant evaluators on January 25, 2010.

*Site Visit Set for March 22-24.* During the visit, the campus community will have one or more opportunities to meet with the consultant evaluators. Watch for the site visit schedule.

*Criterion 1 Components Met.* BSU clearly and consistently states, articulates, and lives its mission and vision.

*Criterion 2 Components Met.* BSU’s planning process demonstrates its capacity to improve education while responding to challenges and opportunities.

*Criterion 3 Components Met.* BSU demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission by providing evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness.
General Findings

Bemidji State University is unequivocal in its commitment to the acquisition, discovery, and application of knowledge as evidenced in its primary and foundational mission documents and in its actions, which are mission motivated. The university promotes lifelong learning for all of its constituents, internal and external; promotes and models the values of an educated life; supports, through its actions, an informed and active citizenry; and assesses its programs for usefulness to students.

Core Component 4a

The organization demonstrates, through the actions of its board, administrators, students, faculty, and staff, that it values a life of learning.

Bemidji State promotes and supports higher education excellence through its University Plan. Master Plans, such as the MAP and J-Plan, and the visions and missions of restructured colleges promote the university’s mission and highlight commitment to learning and development. Continued realignment of the university’s budget and allocations provides ongoing support for knowledge acquisition, discovery, and application. Faculty and staff model lifelong learning through professional development.

Core Component 4b

The organization demonstrates that acquisition of a breadth of knowledge and skills and the exercise of intellectual inquiry are integral to its educational programs.

Bemidji State’s Liberal Education program promotes diversity of study, and the university has demonstrated commitment toward its continued evaluation and improvement. Student programming reaches beyond the classroom, embraces diverse backgrounds and needs, and provides support to develop lifelong learning skills. Commitment to information technology, software excellence, and cross-platform coordination among programs helps assure that students enter the workforce with competitive skills and knowledge. Celebration of student scholarship and creative accomplishments promote continued success. The five-year planning, review, and assessment cycles for academic programs incorporate the Dimensions of Student Learning to promote intellectual development, understanding of self and relationships to others, and participation in an emerging global society.

Core Component 4c

The organization assesses the usefulness of its curricula to students who will live and work in a global, diverse, and technological society.

Bemidji State prepares students for living in a global, multicultural, and diverse society. The university seeks and acts on commentary/feedback in multiple forms to ensure responsive-ness to the larger world. The Office of Student Development & Enrollment promotes students’ academic journeys and provides opportunities for co-curricular experiences and development. Students are encouraged to explore learning, creativity, innovation, and knowledge beyond their majors and related programs.

Core Component 4d

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

In its policies and procedures, BSU both promotes and models values and behaviors that address integrity in behavior and actions. The university protects individuals’ rights through the Affirmative Action Plan, state and federal right-to-know policies, policies and procedures for using human subjects in research, and MnSCU system intellectual property rights policies and procedures. Students’ rights are ensured through the Student Code of Conduct, internet privacy policies, and registration policies. Bemidji State employees participate in MnSCU Code of Conduct training. Students attend a Responsible Men, Responsible Women program that promotes a safe and civil campus community.

Criterion 4: Strengths and Priorities for Improvement

STRENGTHS

• Future-oriented; learning-focused (Self-Study p. 6)
• Student Development & Enrollment (Self-Study p. 12)

PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

• Civic Engagement (Self-Study p. 109)
• Graduate Studies (Self-Study p. 110)

More information on Criterion 4 can be found at: http://www.bemidjistate.edu/hlc