

**281—21.10(260C) Accreditation.**

**21.10(1) Purpose.** The purpose of accreditation of Iowa's community colleges is to confirm that each college is offering quality programs and services consistent with state standards.

**21.10(2) Scope.** Each community college is subject to accreditation by the state board of education, as provided in Iowa Code section 260C.47. The state board of education shall grant accreditation if a community college meets the standards established in this chapter.

**21.10(3) Accreditation components.** In order to be accredited by the state board of education and maintain accreditation status, a community college must be accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and meet the additional requirements stated for each component, as follows:

- a. *Mission and governance.*
  - (1) Have a mission statement which reflects community needs.
  - (2) Have an organizational structure which reflects the mission of the institution.
  - (3) Provide broad involvement and participation in the governance of the institution.
    1. Provide a current board policy manual, as set forth in subrule 21.2(1).
    2. Document that policies are in place, communicated and implemented, as set forth in subrule 21.2(1).
  - (4) Have policies and procedures which are accessible, revised periodically, are communicated on a regular basis, reflect the needs of the constituencies, and serve as a basis for college operations.
  - (5) Ensure efforts to make education and services available to all learners, as outlined in Iowa Code subsection 260C.48(3).
  - (6) Demonstrate awareness and understanding of diverse cultures.
- b. *Instruction and curriculum.*
  - (1) Utilize criteria for awarding certificates, diplomas, and degrees which include a general education component in degree and diploma programs, as set forth in subrule 21.2(10).
  - (2) Meet, to the greatest extent possible, educational opportunities and services, when applicable, but not be limited to:
    1. The first two years of college work including preprofessional education.
    2. Vocational and technical training.
    3. Programs for in-service training and retraining of workers.
    4. Programs for high school completion for students of post-high school age.
    5. Programs for all students of high school age, who may best serve themselves by enrolling for vocational and technical training, while also enrolled in a local high school, public or private.
    6. Programs for students of high school age to provide advanced college placement courses not taught at a student's high school while the student is also enrolled in the high school.
    7. Student personnel services.
    8. Community services.
    9. Vocational education for persons who have academic, socioeconomic, or other disabilities which prevent succeeding in regular vocational education programs.
    10. Training, retraining, and all necessary preparation for productive employment of all citizens.
    11. Vocational and technical training for persons who are not enrolled in a high school and who have not completed high school.
    12. Developmental education for persons who are academically or personally underprepared to succeed in their program of study, as set forth in Iowa Code section 260C.1.
  - (3) Provide learning resource services which support the instructional and informational needs of the students, staff, college, and community, as set forth in rule 21.5(260C).
  - (4) Provide educational services which are responsive to the needs of individuals, business, industry, labor, and community.
  - (5) Have an articulation process with secondary and postsecondary educational institutions.
- c. *Student support systems and services.*
  - (1) Provide a catalog which shall be the official publication of the community college, as set forth in subrule 21.2(7).

(2) Follow a defined process for developing and maintaining educational programs, including assessing student academic achievement.

(3) Maintain accurate, confidential, and accessible student records, as set forth in subrule 21.2(11).

(4) Provide services which address recruitment, admissions, assessment/placement, advisement, orientation, financial assistance, counseling, records retention, and student activities which are responsive to the needs and expectations of students.

(5) Provide a student-centered environment.

(6) Provide curricular support services through counseling, academic advisement, and placement transition assistance based on identified student needs.

*d. Administration and human resources.*

(1) Demonstrate ethical practices in both internal and external relationships.

(2) Utilize a comprehensive, ongoing strategic planning process in which staff analyze and evaluate data and information for continued institutional effectiveness.

(3) Demonstrate effective internal and external communications.

(4) Employ qualified and appropriately licensed personnel, as set forth in rule 21.3(260C).

(5) Identify needs and provide opportunities for staff development.

*e. Finances and facilities.*

(1) Organize financial resources to support its offerings and services.

(2) Provide physical resources and appropriate technologies to support its offerings and services, as set forth in rule 21.6(260C).