

# Kirkwood Community College

## Learning Services

Visioning

3-10-05

**Mission: Provide learning opportunities for students and faculty to help achieve education and career goals to become life long learners.**

**Shared Vision:** The Learning Services department provides the most comprehensive array of developmental education and learning support of any college in Iowa. It is the vision of the department to become a nationally recognized exemplary program and provide leadership to other colleges and individuals.

**Description:** The Learning Services department is a diverse group of skilled people who provide a variety of services to learners (students, faculty, and staff). Those services include credit classes and non-credit support and learning opportunities. The department assesses student learning directly and works with other college personnel to learn and explore student learning. The department teaches people how to access quality education, how to develop basic skills, and how to become independent learners.

### Major Initiatives:

Provide a system of assessing student strengths and needs.

- Skill Center
- CEO
- Test Center
- Classroom Assessment
- VITAL
- Disability Services
- CCSSE

Provide a system of instruction to prepare students with the skills needed to succeed in college courses and in the real world work place.

- Basic Science Principles
- College Reading
- Basic Writing
- How to Be Successful in College
- Pre-algebra
- Basic Math
- Intro to Math
- Metrology
- Workplace Communication
- Oral Communications in the Workplace
- College Survival Skills
- College Prep
- Basic Essay Writing
- Academic Prep for: Health; Culinary Arts; Construction Tech; Architectural Drafting; Carpentry
- SI (Supplemental Instruction based on the University of Missouri Kansas City model)

Provide a system of assessing and certifying skills and knowledge.

- NADE certification (National Association of Developmental Education)
- Test Center
- ACT Test Center
- REAP
- Alternative Testing
- Skill Center
- Teacher Proficiency Test Preparation

Provide a comprehensive support system for students and staff.

- Student Support Services program
- PA Writing
- PA Math
- Disability Services
- Transition Services
- Tutoring
- Counseling
- Writing Lab
- Computer Lab
- Perkins Support System
- Assistive Technology
- Books on CD digital system
- Sign Language interpreting services
- VITAL

Provide faculty development services in the area of assessment, disabilities, accessibility, learning, and support services.

- NADE Certification
- Perception Users Group
- New Faculty Orientation
- KQIP initiatives
- Working with Faculty on specific issues
- Addressing classes
- CASTLE
- eLumen
- CAT
- Teaching Circles

### **Capacity:**

The department philosophy of informed risk taking results in a very real can do attitude. The department is not only process oriented but also results oriented. The department embraces the idea of adjusting curriculum and services to meet changing needs and new challenges. The department continuously looks to adapt technology that supports learning. There is open communication among department members and staff are free to discuss ideas. There is the prevalent notion that we can disagree without being disagreeable. The personnel of the department is the greatest asset.

In order to accomplish the vision and mission of the department, the department will need to increase capacity in several areas and will need to incorporate functional accessibility. The VITAL program continues to grow and will need additional classroom space. The test center continues to grow and will need expanded space for test services and alternative testing. Additional WebCT access in the test center will be needed, as well as a dedicated T1 line for secure and effective delivery of on-line tests. Space expansion should work closely with security requirements for high stakes testing by ACT, College Board, Prometric, and other certification companies. Additional staff will be needed as well as infrastructure. Expansion of tutoring services will occur and the assistive technology and digital texts will rapidly expand to meet the needs of students. Assistive technology specialist, learning disability specialist, and autism specialist will be needed. Additional courses in science, writing, math, and success courses will be developed and additional faculty will be needed to teach courses. The assistive technology lab will need to expand in order to more effectively make use of Dragon Naturally Speaking, JAWS, Kurzweil, Open Book, Wynn Reader, Zoom Text, TTY, high speed scanners, Semantic Web, and digital recorders.

### **Ownership and Support:**

The entire department has had input into this visioning process and supports the process and the goals.

### **Dashboard Indicators:**

- Number of students served by each service
- Success in subsequent coursework
- Student satisfaction and referrals
- Successful course completion rate
- Students finding gainful employment
- Satisfaction of and referrals from teachers assisted
- Number of community based referrals
- Retention rate of students served
- Participation in faculty/professional development activities