April 26, 2022

The following information is provided from the Associate Degree Board of Commissioners accreditation decisions from the April 25-26, 2022 virtual meeting.

Business programs identify opportunities for improvement, along with ACBSP, to help them plan to move to higher levels of academic excellence. ACBSP’s Core Value of Continuous Improvement and Organizational Learning, that "Business schools and programs should pursue regular cycles of planning, execution and evaluation of every process and system. Ongoing improvement of these processes and systems leads to ever higher quality and student/stakeholder satisfaction.” The institution and ACBSP identified these standards as having some opportunities for improvement.

INITIAL ACCREDITATIONS FOR SPRING 2022

Southeast Technical College (Sioux Falls, SD, USA)

Basis for the Decision:

Criterion 1.1
The Business Unit offers BUS 180 for community outreach. The students have a chance to highlight their strengths and learn more about themselves. This benefits the students academically, personally, and socially.
Categories: Results
Verified: This Strength was verified on site.
Criterion 1.2
110 new business students attended Jumpstart prior to the start of the fall semester. Jumpstart is an event to prepare students for classes by downloading necessary software, training on using the LMS (learning management system), email, time management, and printing on campus. Online sessions were attended by the online students.
Categories: Results
Verified: This Strength was verified on site.
Criterion 3.3
The Institution is part of the HLC Assessment Academy and are using the experience to further identify and establish assessment goals and review and modify existing assessment rubrics and program level outcomes.
Categories: Approach, Deployment, Results
Verified: This Strength was verified on site.
Criterion 3.4
The Institution and Business Teams have processes in place to promote continuous improvement. There are assessment teams in place to review and establish assessment goals, design assessment tools, submit to curriculum committee for review/approval and provide rubric workshops to train faculty and needed staff.
Categories: Approach, Deployment
Verified: This Strength was verified on site.
Criterion 4.1
The business faculty attended assessment training and centered their approach on program learning outcomes. The Advisory Board, approval by the Associate Dean of Curriculum and Instruction and the curriculum committee also provided approval which has been published in the program catalog.
There was specific/unique learning outcomes for Accounting (Acct 1, Payroll Assessment/Analysis, Team presentation in Cost Accounting ), Business (Bus130 Business Communication, Bus217 Customer Service, Bus220 Supervisory Management) and Marketing (Mkt130 InDesign Essentials, Mkt270 Marketing Management was identified twice for data on Problem solving and Professionalism). 

There is detailed training and mentoring in place for new hires and continuous professional development in place for full-time and adjunct faculty. ACBSP can be utilized in the recruitment strategy process.

Criterion 5.3 reporting indicated several opportunities for improvement based on accreditation application process with Table 5.3 with the following:
1. 100% of full-time business faculty will attend at least one conference each year
2. Full-time faculty will mentor and/or meet with assigned adjunct each semester
Team has addressed a plan to improve moving forward.

The Business Team identified areas of improvement for Standard 5 and have provided a plan to address with leadership, Dean of Curriculum & Instruction.
Areas include improved communication with adjunct faculty, improved planning for conferences with a $50,000 budget, and improved feedback on student course surveys.

The Business Unit faculty and program leads actively work with Advisory Board members and industry and community stakeholders to evaluate existing academic programs, identify new opportunities and curriculum enhancements which will increase student retention and long-term career and academic success.

The Institution and Business Unit's faculty members are extremely engaged and open to new opportunities to build programming and support the needs of both their student body and community. This has been demonstrated via the Institution's participation with the South Dakota's Access and Workforce Initiative and Classroom to Career Programs.
In addition, Business Unit faculty work to help mentor and support student completion of program outcomes and career/transfer exploration.

The Institution and Business Unit gathers and reports on their website program and student success data. This data is used to market their programs while increasing student awareness of academic resources and career and student support services.
The Institution and Business Unit offer a robust array of campus and student support events designed to onboard students and prepare them to meet college and program requirements. Programming is also available to build job skills and prepare students for the workplace and career exploration.

REAFFIRMATIONS FOR SPRING 2022

Owens Community College (Toledo, OH, USA)

Basis for the Decision:

Standard 1 - Leadership

Discussions with the students revealed considerable efforts have been placed on making sure each student graduates with the essential tools needed to go directly into the workforce or transfer to a four-year institution.

The Career Center prepares each student during the first semester (BUS 102, OAD 293, etc.) for employment, job fairs, mock interviews, assistance with LinkedIn accounts, job placements, etc. Both the Business Unit and Career Center work as a team.

Categories: Deployment

Verified: This Strength was verified on site.

Criterion 1.1

The overall leadership develops an open door, transparent communication process. Interviews with various internal and external stakeholders as faculty, the President, administration, and other staff provided evidence that the College and the Business Unit are fully engaged in all phases of strategy development and implementation consistent with the college mission and vision.

Categories: Deployment

Verified: This Strength was verified on site.

Criterion 3.3

Outside of all Owens services that assist students, the Business Unit informs all veteran students of the Veteran Services Program. The programs and/or opportunities provided to students depend on their situation. For example, the Business Unit’s equity, diversity, social justice, and inclusion sub-strategy partnership with EPIC Toledo is for students between the ages of 20 – 40 years old to join events.

Categories: Deployment

Verified: This Strength was verified on site.

The Business Unit uses a pedagogical practice to integrate voice and choice for students within class work and assignments. For example, a 19 year-old student and a 45 year-old student in a class are allowed to focus on their individual interest areas, experiences, or career plans and a faculty member is able to tailor a project to fit their individual needs--same outcomes, but a more flexible path to get there.

Categories: Deployment

Verified: This Strength was verified on site.

Criterion 3.4

A Teaching Enhancement topic has been added to the agenda for the Business Unit’s meetings. This allows for faculty members to share information that has shown to improve a course. Technology changes are addressed and training is proposed. Colleagues from areas across the college can speak to updates/changes that impact the learning process for students. These discussions have led to curriculum changes in introductory courses.

Categories: Improvements

Verified: This Strength was verified on site.

Standard 5 - Faculty Focus
The Business Unit has a systematic process to foster teaching excellence by providing professional development opportunities both on and off campus for all faculty.

Categories: Approach
Verified: This Strength was verified on site.

Criterion 5.4
Some of the Business Unit faculty participated in a pilot program for Apporto, which provides a remote desktop for students to virtually log into an Owens computer. Apporto allows students to gain access to any necessary software to complete coursework. The pilot program was successful and Apporto is now being used in sections of certain courses.

**Pellissippi State Community College (Knoxville, TN, USA)**

**Basis for the Decision:**

**Criterion 1.4**
The Business Unit pays close attention to the deployment of its approaches to ensure continuous improvement in all areas of operation to serve students and the community in which it operates. The College and the Business Unit have demonstrated extreme agility to maintain a high level of service to support students’ learning despite cyber attacks on the state-wide system.

Categories: Results
Verified: This Strength was verified on site.

**Criterion 3.1**
The Business Unit is proud to be the pilot department for embedded academic advisors. Two specific advisors are assigned to meet with all incoming A.A.S. students. These advisers are specially trained in the requirements of each Business Unit degree. They partner with academic advisors to guide students early to such services as prior learning assessment, credit for military service, internships, graduation requirements, with almost instant access to the department dean to address any special student circumstances.

Categories: Approach
Verified: This Strength was verified on site.

**Criterion 3.3**
The College's Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Assessment and Planning has developed an interactive Fact Book which reports information regarding Enrollment, FTE/Credit Hours, High School, Admissions, Campus Locations, Program/Major, Financial Aid, Graduation, Retention, Veterans, Faculty Staff, and Credit Hours Generated by selections located under the content management option. While data is limited to two semesters currently, the College received national recognition for adding this publicly available tool to their website.

Categories: Results, Improvements
Verified: This Strength was verified on site.

**Standard 4 - Student Learning Assessment**

**Criterion 4.1**
Advisory Board reviews assessment instruments and offers ways to improve them, creating opportunities to meet the required learning outcomes compatible with the business practices to ensure graduates’ employment.

Categories: Approach, Deployment
Verified: This Strength was verified on site.

**Criterion 5.2**
A review of faculty data demonstrate that the Business Unit has a diverse faculty with a variety of skills, expertise, and experiences.
Categories: Deployment
Verified: This Strength was verified on site.

**Criterion 5.3**
The College encourages faculty to pursue academic interests and to build on the skills already present via certifications, training, and conferences. There is adequate funding available for faculty conference attendance.
Categories: Deployment, Results
Verified: This Strength was verified on site.

**Criterion 7.1**
The Site Visit team confirmed the College and the Business Unit have educational processes to support the students' success even when under cyberattack.

**Deferral**

City Colleges of Chicago Harold Washington College (Chicago, IL, USA)
Reaffirmation for City Colleges of Chicago Harold Washington College (Chicago, IL, USA) be deferred.