Standard One
Institutional Mission

The institution has a statement of mission that defines the institution, its educational purposes, its students, and its place in the higher education community.
1.1 The institution has a statement of mission, adopted by the governing board, which identifies the broad-based educational purposes it seeks to achieve.

Description

The College's Mission Statement was approved by the Board of Trustees in 1989 and appears in the College Catalog and in the Schedule of Classes that are published each semester (see Documents 1-1, 1-2). The statement also appears in the Adjunct Instructors Handbook for adjunct faculty (Document 1-3).

San Joaquin Delta College is committed to excellence in the provision of postsecondary education throughout the College district. This commitment is reflected in our comprehensive instructional programs, services to students and the public, professionalism of faculty and staff, and campus beauty and utility.

Delta College's Mission Statement outlines the following College commitments:

- We declare that the primary mission of Delta College is to provide rigorous, high quality degree and certificate curricula in lower division arts and sciences and in vocational, technical, and occupational fields. Our commitment is to prepare our students with the knowledge, skills, and competencies they will need to excel in their educational, professional and personal endeavors. We are equally committed to providing students a general education, which will provide a cultural context for their knowledge and expand their intellectual horizons.

- We believe that it is essential and important to our role as a community college to provide opportunities for success in postsecondary education to adults of all ages, genders, and ethnic backgrounds. The opportunity for student success extends beyond open admission to provision of effective student services and instructional support. Essential elements of this support are remedial instruction, instruction in English as a Second Language, and support services.

- We identify as essential and important the provision of adult non-credit educational curriculum in areas defined as being in the state's interest.

- We endorse the concept of the community college as an institution that serves in various and dynamic ways the educational, cultural, and economic needs of the community, where such activities are compatible with our primary mission.

Our student and community diversity is reflected in the faculty, staff, programs, and services of the College. While Delta College is focused locally, we respond as an integral part of state, national and international communities. Our institutional effectiveness is advanced by linkages with local secondary schools and with other institutions of higher education, business, industry, and local government.
We encourage and recognize excellence in:

   learning as the principal pursuit of our students;
   teaching as the principal pursuit of our faculty; and,
   serving as the principal pursuit of our administration and staff.

Our commitment to quality is sustained by continuous self-renewal which enables us to be innovative, efficient and effective leaders among our peer institutions and in our community.

San Joaquin Delta College exemplifies excellence, service, innovation, and leadership.

**Analysis**

The Mission Statement identifies the goal of providing high quality degree and certificate curricula that represents the community. The Statement demonstrates that the College recognizes the importance of working closely with community businesses and peer institutions. The Mission Statement was revised in 1999 when College governance groups were developing a Master Plan for the College. At that time, the Statement was revised to include a reference to the "economic needs of the community."

While the Mission Statement is featured in the *College Catalog* and other print media, it is not prominently displayed on the College’s Web site. The College webmaster may want to add the Mission Statement when the Information Services team completes the revised Web site format.

**Plans**

1. Incorporate the Mission Statement on the Delta College Web site.

   **1.2 The Mission Statement defines the students the institution intends to serve as well as the parameters under which programs can be offered and resources allocated.**

**Description**

The Mission Statement for the College identifies its commitments to serve adults of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds. The College provides a wide variety of certificate programs, degrees and other academic programs as well as support services that meet the needs of its multiple constituencies.

**Analysis**

The Mission Statement is descriptive of the diverse student, faculty and staff population that it serves. This is exemplified by the diverse range of programs the College offers. The Statement establishes parameters of service that extend beyond classroom instruction.
to include support services and instructional support that assist student learning. The wide range of programs offered by the College suggest it has been successful in setting parameters and meeting the diverse needs of its population.

While the Mission Statement discusses the dynamic ways the College serves its diverse student population, it could be more clear in emphasizing the ways the College serves students in remote geographic locations of the District. While not explicitly referenced in the Mission Statement, distance education issues are extensively addressed in the College's Annual Distance Education Report to the Chancellor's Office (Document 1-4).

**Plans**

1. Continue to ensure that regional education opportunities offered by the College are in line with the values expressed in the College's Mission Statement.

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**1.3 The Mission Statement guides institutional planning and decision making.**

**Description**

The College's Mission Statement is designed to serve as a guide for institutional planning. Decisions about course offerings and programs are examined in light of their centrality to core purposes outlined in the Mission Statement. The College's Master Plan was developed to outline key decisions for the future of the College and to orient them to the mission of the College. An analysis of the Mission Statement was a central part of the early development of the Master Plan for the College.

**Analysis**

The College revised its Mission Statement in 1999 in the midst of the Master Planning process. That planning process initiated a slight change that added "economic needs of the community" as one of the values that is important to the College. The Master Plan for the College discusses the Mission Statement in some detail (see Document 1-5, page 65). The planning process that produced the Master Plan also led the College leadership to draft a Vision Statement in the spring of 1999 (1-5, page 65). The Vision Statement for the College is included below:

> The innovative spirit of Delta College will continue to guide us as an exemplary teaching and learning community, providing affordable access to high quality instruction, student friendly services, and advanced technology to meet the needs of our diverse and changing communities. Our commitment to students and learning is central to our organization being a valued resource and leader in academic quality, cultural enrichment, and economic development. We will measure ourselves by our students' success, satisfying the goals of our Mission Statement and making Delta College a beautiful, safe, and caring environment for all members of our learning community.
As evidence that the College's Mission Statement guides institutional planning, the College operates a Small Business Development Center (SBDC) that assists entrepreneurs who seek to establish small businesses in the Stockton and San Joaquin County community. This SBDC clearly reflects the Mission Statement's interest in serving the economic needs of the community. Recent efforts to establish a CalWORKS Assessment Center in the same building as state and county-operated job programs also reflect this element of mission driven planning. Instructional leaders and representatives of the Academic Senate bear the responsibility of ensuring that courses and academic programs meet the needs of the College's Mission Statement.

However, as with many colleges, some members of the campus community may believe that the Mission Statement is often not "front and center" in the minds of campus constituent groups when day-to-day decisions are made.

**Plans**

No action is planned.

1.4 The institution evaluates and revises its Mission Statement on a regular basis.

**Description**

As indicated earlier, the College revised its Mission Statement in 1999 during the course of the Master Planning process. Board Policy suggests that it is a duty of the Board of Trustees to "adopt policies and procedures" and to "review them periodically" (Document 1-6).

**Analysis**

The College had not revised its Mission Statement for ten years prior to the 1999 review. The fact that it produced only a slight change suggests the need for another focused look at the Mission Statement. The College's Master Plan document indicates that the Planning and Budget Committee will review the Mission Statement every two years (Document 1-5, page 70).

**Plans**

1. Members of the Planning and Budget Committee will initiate a review of the Mission Statement in the spring of 2002.
Standard One: Supporting Documents

1-1 San Joaquin Delta College 2000-2001 Catalog
1-2 San Joaquin Delta College Schedule of Classes Spring 2001
1-3 San Joaquin Delta College Adjunct Faculty Handbook
1-4 San Joaquin Delta College Distance Education Report, 2000-2001
1-5 Educational and Student Services Master Plan
1-6 Policy 1040, Duties and Responsibilities of the Board of Trustees