



HLC Criterion 1: Mission

The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

Criterion 1.A: Mission Alignment

The institution's educational programs, enrollment profile and scope of operations align with its publicly articulated mission.

What Evidence Exists?

One key example is the JALC College Catalog. It publicly articulates the mission and outlines academic programs, policies, and student services that reflect the college's commitment to accessibility and quality education.

How Is the Evidence Used in College Operations?

The College Catalog is used to:

- Communicate the mission to students, faculty, and the public
- Align academic offerings with mission-driven goals
- Guide curriculum development and program review processes
- Support advising and student services consistent with mission values

How Do We Know It's Effective?

Effectiveness of the College Catalog is demonstrated by:

- Consistent updates to the Catalog reflecting strategic priorities
- Positive feedback from students and faculty on clarity and usefulness
- Alignment between Catalog content and outcomes from program reviews
- Recognition by HLC reviewers that the mission is operationally embedded
- Measurable via website "clicks" and views, time on page, etc.

Criterion 1.B: Mission and Public Good

The institution's operation of the academic enterprise demonstrates its commitment to serving the public good.

What Evidence Exists?

The Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP) is a workforce development initiative that provides free training to prepare individuals for careers in the construction trades. It is designed to increase the number of minorities, women, and disadvantaged individuals working on Illinois Department of Transportation highway construction projects.



How Is the Evidence Used in College Operations?

The HCCTP:

- Operationalizes JALC's mission by offering accessible, high-quality training
- Integrated into the college's Continuing Workforce Education division
- Aligns with strategic goals related to equity, workforce readiness, and public service
- Supports partnerships with local unions and employers, reinforcing JALC's role as a community anchor

How Do We Know It's Effective?

Effectiveness of the HCCTP is demonstrated by:

- Participant outcomes include job placements, union apprenticeships, and certifications
- Enrollment demographics, completion rates, and employment data are tracked
- Positive feedback from community partners
- Recognized as a model for inclusive workforce development

Criterion 1.C: Mission and Diversity of Society

The institution provides opportunities for civic engagement in a diverse, multicultural society and globally connected world, as appropriate within its mission and the constituencies it serves.

What Evidence Exists?

JALC's annual Juneteenth Celebration is a public event that honors African American history and culture. It includes music, food, speakers, and educational resources, and is open to students, employees, and the community. The event is coordinated by Human Resources and the Office of Professional Development & Organizational Culture, with support from volunteers across campus.

How is the Evidence Used in College Operations?

The Juneteenth Celebration:

- Promotes awareness of cultural history and social justice
- Supports professional development and inclusive practices
- Engages departments such as Human Resources, Diversity & Inclusion, and Student Services
- Reinforces the mission through public programming and outreach

How Do We Know It's Effective?

Effectiveness of the Juneteenth Celebration is demonstrated by:

- Strong attendance and volunteer participation from across campus
- Positive feedback from students, staff, and community partners
- Integration into HR and DEI planning documents
- Alignment with strategic goals for equity and inclusion