

3.4.2

Educational Programs: All:Continuing education/service programs

The institution's continuing education, outreach, and service programs are consistent with the institution's mission.

Judgment

Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance Not Applicable

Narrative

The continuing education and service programs provided by Tennessee Technological University (TTU) are consistent with the mission of the University. Specifically, the mission addresses "serving students from the Upper Cumberland," and "the state." The mission statement also emphasizes "high-quality instruction; engagement in scholarly activity," and "public service with special emphasis on community and economic development."

Outreach and Service Programs

Engaging the off-campus community with continuing education, outreach, and service programs is one of the main goals of the College of Interdisciplinary Studies, Department of Extended Programs and Regional Development, and the University Service Center. All these entities strive to reach beyond the TTU campus by promoting educational, social, economic, civic, and cultural development.

The overall mission of the College of Interdisciplinary Studies and Department of Extended Programs and Regional Development is to provide innovative, high quality educational opportunities in response to the changing needs of a diverse population within TTU's service area and beyond [1]. The College of Interdisciplinary Studies and Department of Extended Programs and Regional Development aspire to be the partner of choice in expanding access to a broad array of high-quality educational alternatives, thus impacting the cultural, economic, and social growth for citizens in TTU's service area with expansion into the global economy. The strong academic success of the College of Interdisciplinary Studies aligns a customized relationship with the student to his or her career goals, personal interests, and abilities.

The College of Interdisciplinary Studies and Department of Extended Programs and Regional Development offer a wide array of courses and special events to fulfill the University's commitment to provide lifelong learning opportunities for citizens in the Upper Cumberland [1]. A good example of this commitment to TTU's mission of lifelong learning and community outreach is the REDI for Action conference, which brings together experts from across the state to enrich the knowledge of city, county, and governmental leaders.

Service Learning

In relation to the mission of the University, service learning has become institutionalized, resulting in the establishment of a centralized office to coordinate service efforts across campus and provide the most updated resources to faculty engaging students in service [2] as well as to organizations and departments that engage in regular service activities outside the classroom [3]. The University Service Center opened in the spring of 2008, under the guidance of the Service Learning Committee, originally led by the Vice President of Extended Programs and Regional Development and currently led by the Vice President of Student Affairs. It provides all undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to participate in service learning and also encourages faculty to offer courses with service components (example syllabi attached) [4] [5] [6]. Since this establishment, the College of Interdisciplinary Studies has offered a service learning course, providing opportunities for students to gain experience within their field, develop interdisciplinary insight on nonprofit agencies, and think critically in developing

strategies to improve nonprofit agencies' functioning (example syllabus attached) [7].

In addition to the University Service Center's institutionalized efforts, campus-wide service and outreach initiatives support the TTU mission. According to the campus-wide data for the President's Honor Roll for Community Engagement and Carnegie Classification for 2012/2013, student teachers from TTU recorded 370,795 community engagement hours, and scholarship students logged approximately 2,550 hours. Service learning courses facilitated 374,445 service hours as well. This campus-wide engagement was accomplished through the efforts of Athletics, Honors, Alumni Relations, Residential Life, and numerous academic programs. Data for 2013/2014 will be available in 2015. However, the data for 2012/2013 is available and documented in the table below.

Table 1. Annual Community Engagement Data.

Annual Community Engagement Data Collection Items:	Numbers:
Number of academic service learning students (course-affiliated)	2,705
Number of community service students (not course-affiliated)	4,342
TOTAL (all students involved in community engagement)	7,047
Number of students who engaged in 20+ hours of service	3,247
Number of students whose service was supported by CNCS - AmeriCorps VISTA Member, Kaitlin Salyer, stationed in the University Service Center	1
Number of academic courses with service learning component	149
Number of service hours facilitated through service learning courses	375,445
Number of scholarship students (Alumni, UAS, HPEO, etc.)	1,150
Number of community engagement hours by scholarship students	72,550
Percentage of Federal Work Study students assigned to community	18%
Athletics - Number of community engagement hours	3,075
Greek Life - Number of community engagement hours	1,400
Student Organizations/Res Life - Number of community engagement hours	8,795
Student Teaching/Etc. - Number of community engagement hours	370,795

(Data were collected and assessed Spring 2014; data for 2013/2014 were collected and assessed Spring 2015.)

Other entities of the University that assist in strengthening the University's commitment to continuing

education, outreach, and service include three interdisciplinary Centers of Excellence in Electric Power, Manufacturing, and Water Resources, respectively; two Chairs of Excellence in Business Administration; the Business Media Center (now known as the iCUBE); the Appalachian Center for Craft; and arts programs housed in the College of Arts and Sciences and in the College of Education. Also, grant programs held throughout the University support this commitment, including the Child and Family grants and laboratories housed in the College of Education and the School of Human Ecology.

Conclusion

The University's continuing education and service programs are consistent with the institution's mission. The ongoing assessment and improvement of the continuing education and service programs of the institution beyond the classroom and campus in support of the institutional mission demonstrate that the University is in compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.4.2

Sources

-  [1] Extended Programs
-  [2] Faculty Toolkit
-  [3] Help First TN
-  [4] SOC 1010 Syllabus
-  [5] SOC 2840 Syllabus
-  [6] SOC 4090 Syllabus
-  [7] LIST 2093 Syllabus