

**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE**  
**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**POSITION PAPER #1 - OCTOBER 27, 2003**

**TITLE: REVIEW OF THE COLLEGE'S MISSION STATEMENT**

**INTRODUCTION**

The 2004 Standard I for Accreditation deals with Institutional Mission and Effectiveness. Standard IA.3 states "using the institution's governance and decision-making processes, the institution reviews its mission statement on a regular basis and revises it as necessary". The purpose of this position paper is to provide guidance for the regular review and revision as necessary of the San Diego Mesa College Mission and Goals. The review of the mission statement has been assigned to the Academic Affairs Committee by the President's Cabinet.

**PROCESS**

The process for review of the San Diego Mesa College Mission Statement will be guided by the following criteria:

1. The mission statement will be reviewed every two years (starting spring 2003) unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
2. A subcommittee of Academic Affairs and at least one (1) representative from each of the participatory governance bodies will be responsible for this review. This subcommittee should also include the Self-Study Chair of the standard responsible for the mission statement in an accreditation year.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE REVIEWING COMMITTEE**

1. The committee will develop criteria for regular review of the mission statement, and circumstances that would prompt changes to the mission statement.
2. Using these criteria, the committee will evaluate the current mission statement.
3. At the conclusion of its review, the committee will present its report to the Academic Affairs Committee.
4. The Academic Affairs Committee will present its recommendations for approval to the Academic Senate and then to the President's Cabinet.
5. Once approved, the results of the review of the mission statement will be published.
6. If the mission statement is revised, the established procedure for approval by the governing board will be followed.

**DEVELOPING THE CRITERIA FOR REVIEW OF THE MISSION STATEMENT**

When developing the criteria for the regular review of the mission statement, the following items should be considered:

1. The mission statement follows the parameters established by the State and District mission statements and the requirements of accreditation standards.
2. The mission statement defines Mesa College's broad educational purposes.
3. The mission statement indicates Mesa College's intended student population.
4. The mission statement describes Mesa College's commitment to achieving student learning.
5. The mission statement supports Mesa College's planning and decision-making processes.

# SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

## MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

Revision 5/5/03

San Diego Mesa College, as part of the California Community College system and the San Diego Community College District, has a vital role in higher education with a commitment to provide excellent educational programs and services to its students and the community.

San Diego Mesa College cultivates relationships with the total community, offering programs for the benefit of college students of all backgrounds and ages, including those wishing to re-enter the educational process. The College is committed to providing education and services that promote access, retention, and student success. Through participatory governance, all segments of the college promote excellence in college programs and governance, engage in on-going dialogue about quality, assess how well learning is occurring, and implement institutional changes to improve student success.

The primary mission of San Diego Mesa College is to provide:

- Programs which lead to an Associate Degree or Certificate,
- Lower division curricula in arts and sciences with an emphasis on courses which transfer to baccalaureate institutions,
- Programs in career and technical education, and
- Programs that promote regional economic development.

To further this mission, educational programs and services offered by San Diego Mesa College include:

General Education, Associate Degree Majors, and Transfer Education: Courses and programs which contribute to the broad education of career, technical and transfer students. Included are critical thinking, writing, and oral communication skills; the ability to use and understand quantitative analysis; awareness of the arts and humanities; understanding of diversity, personal and civic responsibility, and of the physical, social and behavioral sciences as they affect one's participation in the diverse local and global community.

Basic Skills: Courses and programs which prepare students, including native and non-native speakers of English, for college level reading, writing, speaking, and mathematics, as well as other programs designed to enable those with special learning needs to reach their educational goals.

Student Services: Admission, orientation, assessment, counseling, tutorial, and other services which assist students in the matriculation process; including helping students select programs and courses that help satisfy their transfer and/or career goals and offering services that promote access, retention and student success.

Co-curricular Activities: Courses, programs and activities that further the students' learning experience through the practical implementation of curriculum-based methods, theories, and concepts resulting in the enrichment of both students' development and campus life.

Economic and Career Development: Courses and degree and certificate programs that advance California's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous work force improvement.

Approved by Pres. Cab. 5/6/03

Approved by Bd of Trustees 5/21/03