

Criterion 1. Mission: The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

The K-State mission statement describes the broad mission of K-State as a land-grant university, focusing on teaching, research and outreach. The mission defines K-State's commitment to serving the people of Kansas, the nation, and the world. Within the overarching K-State 2025 visionary plan, the university developed specific strategic action plans for: Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity, and Discovery; Undergraduate Educational Experience; Graduate Scholarly Experience; Engagement, Outreach, Extension, and Service; Faculty and Staff; Facilities and Infrastructure; and Athletics. It is through these seven broad areas that the university undertakes its day-to-day work.

The nature and scope of disciplines at K-State range from the original land-grant areas to other programs that support a "highly skilled and educated citizenry." K-State's research programs are focused on advancing knowledge and the betterment of society. Outreach through extension programs, a full range of online programs and other engagement activities serves the people of Kansas and beyond. K-State's student support services and enrollment profile also reflect its mission. A variety of services are available to incoming and current students whether they are studying in an in-person, blended or online format. Communication about the university mission, vision and programs is managed by the division of communications and marketing in collaboration with colleges and campuses. University leaders address periodic letters to the university community and affiliated agencies such as the K-State Alumni Association and K-State Foundation, also communicate with donors, alumni and friends of the university.

K-State operates within the system of the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) and actions are overseen by KBOR, as required by the Kansas Constitution. K-State provides many public service and engagement programs, especially as delivered by K-State Research and Extension. As a state supported university, there are no financial returns nor any investors other than the state of Kansas. The university utilizes structures such as advisory boards to communicate with external constituencies and communities of interest.

The university embeds elements of diversity in the curriculum and a variety of cocurricular activities. As one of the five university-wide student learning outcomes, diversity must be included in the curriculum of all academic programs. Co-curricular activities are institutionally guided by the university Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer as well as the office of Diversity and Multicultural Student Affairs. Efforts to raise the university's consciousness on diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are also dispersed at college and department levels throughout the university. University-wide strategy has also been guided by the development of an action plan for a more inclusive K-State.