

Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct: The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

The K-State current mission was approved by the KBOR in 2008. The university's financial statements are audited at the state level for all KBOR institutions. Budgeting processes are internally governed by a multi-tiered structure with the Core Executive Team being the decision-making body. Policy manuals provide guidance and procedures for all aspects of academic activity, including the length of the academic calendar, the structure of the university and duties of administrators, faculty positions and hiring of personnel, all aspects of evaluations and promotions, expectations for classroom teaching, student behavior, the appropriate and ethical use of information technology, and many others. K-State operates at a high level of integrity through shared governance by faculty, students and administration. Complaints and grievances filed by students, faculty, and staff, are handled effectively through various procedures and proactively addressed through the work of units like the Office of Institutional Equity, Human Capital Services and the Honor Council. Campus climate is intentionally assessed through survey administration, discussion and action planning.

Websites for various campus offices provide a transparent view of K-State for students, parents and the public. Websites are updated when changes emerge to maintain accuracy and clarity for the wider K-State community, including current and prospective students. To enhance transparency, the university launched a comprehensive review and redesign of the tuition and fees structure. K-State has several websites devoted to providing data and support for any claims it makes regarding its contributions to the public and state of Kansas across many areas. These include data/information sites for the level, amount, and impact of its research. K-State also promotes its programs and local impact on communities through K-State Research and Extension.

Members of the KBOR are appointed by the governor, serve a three-year term, are provided with a statewide orientation with KBOR staff, and gather for annual retreats with university presidents and chancellors. KBOR has a strategic plan, Building a Future, which prioritizes the needs of families, businesses and the Kansas economy. The broad mission of the KBOR and the range of universities and colleges under their purview requires that, at times, they develop policies that pertain to all. Regents visit each institution every two years providing them with a clearer and more detailed understanding of each institution. KBOR members are to work in the interests of the Board and the institutions that comprise the system. They may disclose potential conflicts of interest. The K-State president's responsibilities, compensation, and annual assessment of performance are detailed in KBOR policy.

The university policy on and commitment to academic freedom is found in the K-State Handbook. KBOR also strongly supports the principle of academic freedom.

The K-State Handbook details the policy on integrity in research and scholarly activity. The University Research Compliance Office and other specific university committees provide oversight of research activities. Faculty, staff, and students involved in research activities are required to be educated and trained in the responsible conduct of research. The Honor and Integrity System and information technology usage policies help guide students and the campus community in the ethical use of information resources. The university requires all students to take and abide by the honor pledge. The university follows established investigation and adjudication procedures to enforce the Honor and Integrity system.