

## ADDENDUM TO 2018-2019 CATALOG

### VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

#### VISION

**South Mountain Community College educates minds, transforms lives, touches hearts, and builds community.**

#### MISSION

South Mountain Community College provides quality higher education for our diverse community. We create a caring teaching and learning environment that fosters student development and supports productive citizenship in an increasingly global and technological society.

Our purpose is to meet these needs by offering:

- General education courses
- Transfer programs
- Occupational education and career development
- Continuing education
- Developmental studies and English as a second language
- Cultural, civic, and social events
- Academic support and student services

#### OUR VALUES

We are inspired and guided by our core values:

**Collaboration:** We are inclusive in our relationships with colleagues, departments and community and respectful of their ideas.

**Community:** We serve our community by recognizing our inter-dependence, celebrating our history, honoring our diverse cultures, and building our future.

**Excellence:** We model exemplary teaching, learning, service and leadership through continuous improvement, creativity and innovation.

**Integrity:** We are accountable to the communities we serve and are truthful, sincere, transparent and responsible for our actions.

**Wellbeing:** We are a college community that encourages and develops social, physical, career, community and financial wellbeing.

#### ACCREDITATION

South Mountain Community College and the Maricopa Community College District Board reserve the right to change or withdraw, without notice, any of the materials, information, requirements, and regulations stated in this catalog.

South Mountain Community College is a member of the Maricopa County Community College District and is recognized by the Arizona State Community College Board.

South Mountain Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

#### The Higher Learning Commission

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Chicago, Illinois 60604

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Telephone (800) 621.7440

Website: [www.ncahic.org](http://www.ncahic.org)

#### ACCREDITATION

South Mountain Community College is an active participant in the **HLC Open Pathways process** for Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2019-20, having received full reaffirmation by the Higher Learning Commission in 2009. The Open Pathways model is focused on two processes:

Each year we participate in the Assurance Review process by uploading a variety of materials relevant to its processes that serve as appropriate evidence that South Mountain is pursuing and achieving the five Criteria for Accreditation and the Core Components as determined by the HLC. In 2019-20, we will provide a comprehensive report that references this evidence. The evaluation process concludes with a visit from a panel of peer reviewers.

The second process is Quality Initiative project that, in our time line, is proposed, approved, conducted and reported between Fall 2014 and Spring 2019. This project is a major improvement effort that "should suit the institution's present concerns or aspirations."

## **WHAT ARE THE ASSURANCE REVIEW CRITERIA?**

### **CRITERION ONE – MISSION**

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

### **CRITERION TWO – INTEGRITY: Ethical and Responsible Conduct**

The institution acts with integrity: its conduct is ethical and responsible

### **CRITERION THREE – TEACHING AND LEARNING: Quality, Resources, and Support**

The institution provides high quality education, wherever and however its offerings are delivered.

### **CRITERION FOUR – TEACHING AND LEARNING: Evaluation and Improvement**

The institution demonstrates responsibility for the quality of its educational programs, learning environments, and support services, and it evaluates their effectiveness for student learning through processes designed to promote continuous improvement.

### **CRITERION FIVE – Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness**

The institution's resources, structures, and processes are sufficient to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational offerings, and respond to future challenges and opportunities. The institution plans for the future.

Further details including the Core Components of each Criterion are available

at <http://www.ncahlc.org/Information-for-Institutions/criteria-and-core-components.html>.