

Criterion One. Mission

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

Assurance Evidence

Colorado State University is one of three public institutions of higher education governed by the Colorado State University System Board of Governors (Board). The Board has adopted the following mission:

"The Colorado State University System exists to support, enhance, and protect the unique missions of its constituent institutions and to encourage collaboration that benefits students and Colorado."

CSU is the public, land-grant university of the State. Its mission is clearly articulated in Colorado statutes as follows:

"a comprehensive graduate research university with selective admission standards offering a comprehensive array of baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree programs. Consistent with the tradition of land grant universities, Colorado state university has exclusive authority to offer graduate and undergraduate programs in agriculture, forestry, natural resources, and veterinary medicine." (Colorado Revised Statutes sec. 23-31-101).

In addition, there are four agencies of the State assigned to CSU in the State statutes: Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station, CSU Extension, Colorado State Forest Service, and the Colorado Water Institute. These agencies broaden CSU's mission and commitment to the public good with additional areas of specific focus.

CSU's mission and vision are regularly reviewed, both internally and externally, to distinguish it from other universities in the State, to refine stated purposes consistent with the mission, and to establish short-term goals and budget priorities. In April 2005, the Board adopted the following strategic mission statement for the University:

"Inspired by its land-grant heritage, Colorado State University is committed to excellence, setting the standard for public research universities in teaching, research, service and extension for the benefit of the citizens of Colorado, the United States, and the world."