

# Illinois Valley Community College

## Academic Plan 2017-2020

### Background

Illinois Valley Community College has served the educational and workforce needs of the Illinois Valley since it was founded in 1924 as LPO Junior College. Offering Associate's degrees in Arts and Sciences for transfer and Applied Associate's degrees and certificates in a variety of technical and career-related fields, IVCC remains committed to providing excellent education and career preparation to those who come through its doors.

The development of this academic plan began during the fall 2016 semester at the annual in-service. Faculty collaborated in the development of an academic mission and vision. These drafts were vetted by the Teaching and Learning Committee and additional feedback was sought from each academic division. Final statements were approved by the Teaching and Learning Committee during the spring 2017 semester. During the spring 2017 in-service, faculty were brought back together to provide input into the development of academic goals. This input was used by academic leadership to draft goals and objectives. These drafts were reviewed and revised by the Teaching and Learning Committee and sent to academic divisions for further review during the fall 2017 semester. The academic goals and objectives were approved by the Teaching and Learning Committee and the Strategic Leadership Planning Council during the fall 2017 semester.

### Institutional Priorities

Illinois Valley Community College exists to meet the learning needs of its community. In order to do so, the institution has the following priorities:

- Provide excellent and accessible higher education to the students of the Illinois Valley;
- Serve as the premier choice for life-long learning opportunities in the Illinois Valley;
- Contribute to the economic and workforce development of the Illinois Valley; and
- Serve as a center for arts and humanities and cultural offerings to the Illinois Valley.

### Academic Priorities

Academic priorities for Illinois Valley Community College are reflected in the goals and objectives outlined in the academic plan. These include:

- Provide excellent academic and career preparation through a variety of instructional delivery methods that meet the needs of all students;
- Develop high performing instructors with instructional design skills that meet a variety of student learning needs; and
- Provide quality instructional and technological resources that facilitate learning and prepare students for the workforce.

### Academic Mission

Illinois Valley Community College empowers students to become lifelong learners, pursue their passions, and achieve their goals.

### Academic Vision

Illinois Valley Community College integrates creative, analytical, and ethical thinkers into the community by empowering them through excellent and innovative instruction so that they may sustain and enrich our world.

### Academic Goals and Objectives

1. Provide high-quality instructional programs in recognized and emerging fields of study that lead to successful completion of degrees, certificates, employment, and transfer.
  - 1.1 Develop defined, efficient avenues to completion.
  - 1.2 Increase IVCC's online footprint.
  - 1.3 Develop new programs to meet student and community need.
2. Support excellence in teaching and learning through high-quality professional development, effective program review and assessment of student learning outcomes, and strategic selection and application of technological support.
  - 2.1 Provide professional development designed to develop instructors' knowledge, skills, and abilities as professional educators.
  - 2.2 Improve the consistency of the program review process.
  - 2.3 Create a campus culture of assessment.
3. Promote student persistence, retention, and completion by integrating academic support into the overall student experience.
  - 3.1 Align academic support services with instructor and student needs.
  - 3.2 Continue to deliver effective academic support services.
  - 3.3 Use data-informed decisions to drive enrollment and retention efforts.
4. Strengthen the campus culture of planning and informed decision-making by maximizing the use of research and increasing the transparency of the academic decision-making process.
  - 4.1 Align program review with the budget process.
  - 4.2 Align program review with assessment of student learning outcomes.
  - 4.3 Foster open-dialogue and collaboration across academic units.

5. Connect the classroom to the community through collaboration and partnerships with business, industry, education, government, cultural, and service organizations.
  - 5.1 Continue relationships with district high schools designed to improve college preparedness, including meeting the requirements of the appropriate state and/or federal regulations or legislation.
  - 5.2 Develop mechanisms to award credit for experiential learning, including credit for business training and continuing education.
  - 5.3 Continue promotion of strong program advisory boards, including recruitment, development, and retention of industry-related members.
  - 5.4 Provide a community portal to the arts.
  
6. Model the values of diversity and inclusion in the classroom and across campus.
  - 6.1 Foster a learning community in which the values, goals, and learning styles of all students are recognized and supported.
  - 6.2 Address the issues of underrepresented student populations.
  - 6.3 Infuse the curriculum with multicultural and global perspectives.

**Evaluation**

The success of the institution in implementing this academic plan can be monitored institutionally through several measures that are documented by the institution’s key performance indicators: Student Academic Success, Success After IVCC, Support for Students, Support for Employees, District Population Served, and Resource Management. The key performance indicators include national and state normed benchmarks where available to indicate the institution’s progress in these six key areas. The institution sets targets for each measure and monitors its progress in relation to meeting these institutional goals. Updated regularly, the key performance indicators may be viewed at <http://www.ivcc.edu/kpi/>.

<b><u>Academic Goal</u></b>	<b><u>Key Performance Indicator(s)</u></b>
Goal 1: Provide high quality instructional programs...	KPI 1.1 Student Success KPI 2 Success after IVCC
Goal 2: Support excellence in teaching and learning...	KPI 1.3 General Education Attainment KPI 4.3 Support for Professional Development
Goal 3: Promote student persistence, retention, and completion...	KPI 1.1 Student Success KPI 3 Support for Students
Goal 4: Strengthen the campus culture of planning and informed decision-making...	KPI 6 Resource Management
Goal 5: Connect the classroom to the community...	KPI 5 District Population Served
Goal 6: Model the values of diversity and inclusion...	KPI 4.5 Perceptions of Diversity Fairness

## Conclusion

This academic plan provides guidance for prioritizing the activities that Academic Affairs will pursue over the course of the next three years. These activities will shape the foundation of instruction at Illinois Valley Community College into the next decade. In a time of dwindling resources and shrinking enrollments, such a foundation will be invaluable in maintaining excellence of instruction, ensuring students graduate with meaningful credentials, developing programs to meet community needs, and contributing to the workforce of the Illinois Valley.

Furthermore, this academic plan ensures that Illinois Valley Community College maintains its commitment to the life-long learning needs of its community. Program instruction, in conjunction with the work of the Adult Education and Continuing Education and Business Services departments, fulfills a variety of education and training needs that arise during the course of a lifetime. These needs are informed through the institution's outreach efforts to its educational and industry partners, efforts designed to engage the community in the work of the institution.

Finally, this academic plan places student learning at the center of the institution's vision for its future and that of the Illinois Valley. As students complete their learning, they will take their knowledge and creativity to their homes, workplaces, and community organizations, thus affecting their families, co-workers, and fellow citizens and influencing the life of the Illinois Valley for generations to come.