

CRITERIA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

1. Presentation of Application

An application must be presented which proposes development of a feasible community college, which will meet all of the minimum criteria established by the Board of Higher Education under applicable laws. The application must contain the elements of an application described in "Application for a New Community College" and any other State Board of Higher Education actions.

2. Number of Students

There shall be a minimum of 300 full-time student equivalents projected for the fall enrollment of the third year by one of the following techniques:

- a. Twenty-five per cent of the total current enrollment in grades 10, 11, and 12 of the school systems in the district
- b. Twenty-five per cent of the total current enrollment in grades 10, 11, and 12 of the Arkansas school systems located closer to the proposed community college than to any other college, but no more than 50 miles from the proposed community college
- c. A proposed college near the lower limit by whatever technique is used should also demonstrate a history and an anticipation of continued population growth

3. Site

A desirable site should be at least 40 acres for each 100 full-time equivalent students projected five years in advance. The minimum site size will vary from proposed district to proposed district depending upon the programs to be offered, the terrain, the campus design, and site availability. In addition, the site should be the best possible combination of the following factors: Accessibility to main arteries of traffic, closeness to greatest population concentration, closeness to center of district, accessibility to public and private transportation, visibility to general public, desirable topography for construction and aesthetics, cost, compact shape, desirable zoning, and availability of utilities, fire and police protection.

4. Facilities

The college shall be provided an initial facility adequate for the projected enrollment in the third year, and it shall be demonstrated that adequate facilities can be provided for the projected enrollment in the fifth year. Either adequate facilities for the projected third year enrollment shall be available or funding shall be available, permanent facilities under development, and temporary facilities utilized when the college opens.

For a community college of less than 1,000 students, 105 gross square feet per full-time student of projected third year enrollment can be used for planning. The square footage needed will vary with the college curriculum and several other factors. More space than the 105 gross square foot planning factor is desirable, and less might be minimally adequate. The necessary square footage per student decreases slightly with greater enrollments.

The quality of facilities is also important, even though it is more difficult to specify minimum quality requirements. Great care should be taken, especially when existing facilities designed for another purpose are proposed as permanent when existing facilities, that the facilities are of proper proportions in the various areas, aesthetically pleasing, comfortably heated and air-conditioned where necessary, properly equipped for laboratories, shops and offices, insulated for sound and otherwise appropriate for permanent use. The quality of permanent and temporary facilities will be considered in determining an adequacy of facilities.

5. Local Income

The anticipated local income for capital outlay must be sufficient to provide the site and campus required under the previous two criteria for at least the first five years that instruction is offered by the district. There should be millage or continuing local income which is sufficient to insure the district's financial soundness and justify desirable rates of interest on bonds.

6. Comprehensiveness of Curricula

The community college educational program must be comprehensive enough to serve the postsecondary educational needs of its district and the state through occupational programs of varying types and levels of difficulty, courses transferable toward a bachelor's degree, community service offerings, student guidance and counseling services, and other needed post-secondary educational services. The community college may enter into cooperative relationships for programs to be offered through other institutions or through cooperative relationships with other institutions.

7. Meeting Community Needs

The community college proposal must meet the appropriate educational needs of its service area. Identification of educational needs and development of programs to serve them must evidence adequate reliance upon available data, and, where necessary, on surveys to secure data otherwise unavailable, as well as upon the involvement of citizens representing all geographic, economic and social segments of the proposed college district. Public understanding of and support for the community college must be developed through the involvement of the Steering Committee in the developmental of the proposal. The Steering Committee is very important in this respect, and great care should be taken to insure that its membership is representative of the proposed district so that the college will reflect the district's educational needs and so that the college can be interpreted to the citizenry through this committee.

8. Size of District

The size of the district shall be such that all students within the district are within commuting distance of the college. Commuting distance is defined as one hour's driving time under normal conditions or 50 miles, whichever is greater.

9. Efficient Use of State Resources

The efficient use of state funds will be considered in evaluating the need for any proposed district by the State Board of Higher Education.