

HLC Criterion 1 – Mission: One-Page Briefing

Kalamazoo Valley Community College demonstrates strong, institution-wide alignment with its mission: **“Kalamazoo Valley Community College creates innovative and equitable opportunities that empower all to learn, grow, and thrive.”**

Kalamazoo Valley operationalizes its mission through integrated planning, equitable supports, community partnerships, and civic engagement—expanding access, strengthening economic mobility, and preparing students for success in a diverse and globally connected society.

Mission Alignment (1.A)

1. Mission adopted in June 2022 following inclusive stakeholder engagement.
2. Mission integrated across the website, classrooms, signage, orientations, and the 2023–2027 Strategic Plan.
3. Educational portfolio spans transfer & guided pathways, workforce training, lifelong learning, and museum-based learning.
4. Enrollment of ~9,135 annually; student diversity exceeds county averages.
5. Equity supports: Kalamazoo Valley Accelerated Associate Program (KVAAP), Valley Advantage, Learning Center, Student Access Office, and technology loaners.
6. Planning & budgeting anchored in mission (e.g., Student-Centered Scheduling KPI; Ad Astra implementation).

Commitment to the Public Good (1.B)

1. Workforce-aligned programs guided by employer advisory boards and Perkins CLNA.
2. Neighborhood-based training with the Northside Association for Community Development expands access for underserved communities.
3. Robust K–12 pipelines: dual enrollment, early/middle college, and alternative high school engagement.
4. Four campuses serve distinct community purposes: academic core; urban cultural hub; health & sustainability campus; workforce training site.
5. Cultural & civic enrichment via museum programs, public lectures, and regional art competitions.
6. Student basic-needs supports: the Kalamazoo Valley Circle Center and Valley Food Share.

Civic Engagement & Diversity (1.C)

1. DEI Strategic Plan 2023–2027 guides inclusive practice; Chosen Name policy illustrates equity-centered improvement.
2. Applied learning across programs: internships, clinicals, apprenticeships, fieldwork; employer feedback validates readiness.
3. Student leadership & service through clubs, PTK projects, blood drives, food walks, and outreach.
4. Global & multicultural engagement (International Education Week, Hispanic/LatinX panels, museum programs).