

HLC Criterion 2 – Integrity: One-Page Briefing

Kalamazoo Valley ensures ethical and responsible conduct through integrated governance, transparency, academic freedom protections, compliance systems, and structured academic integrity and research practices. These efforts demonstrate systematic, mission-aligned integrity across all institutional functions.

Ethical Governance & Institutional Integrity (2.A)

1. Integrity grounded in Board Policy 402 defining institutional values including Integrity, Excellence, and Stewardship.
2. Board authority established through governance, Board-Staff relationship, and Executive Limitation policies; trustees elected in accordance with Michigan law.
3. Structured onboarding, annual ethics and conflict-of-interest disclosures reinforce fiduciary duty and accountability.
4. Shared governance committees and collective bargaining agreements ensure transparent decision-making and employee rights.
5. Strong financial controls: GAAP/GASB-aligned reporting, independent audits, purchasing procedures, and monthly/quarterly fiscal monitoring.
6. Campus safety compliance includes Clery Act reporting, MCOLES-certified Public Safety staff, emergency preparedness training, and DAAPP compliance.

Transparency & Public Accountability (2.B)

1. Website serves as primary official source; overseen by IT, Marketing, and content experts to ensure accuracy.
2. Web Accessibility Policy ensures ADA-compliant online materials and inclusive digital communication.
3. Academic information maintained through annual Viewbook, 'Get Started' pathways, and semester-updated Course Catalog.
4. Student Handbook provides clear conduct expectations, policies, and support resources.
5. Marketing and communications governed by CMOP procedures, brand standards, and centralized review for accurate messaging.
6. Public reporting includes student outcomes, enrollment trends, Program Accreditation listings, and Board agendas/minutes.

Board Governance & Independence (2.C)

1. Board operates independently, free from undue influence; meetings comply with Michigan Open Meetings Act.
2. Delegation of authority clearly defined; President accountable through structured Board Ends monitoring and annual evaluation.
3. Audit/Governance Committee strengthens fiduciary oversight through advance review of financial and compliance materials.
4. Annual conflict-of-interest and ethics statements reinforce trustee responsibility and independence.

Academic Freedom & Responsible Expression (2.D)

1. Academic freedom protected in full-time and part-time faculty contracts using AAUP-aligned language.
2. Faculty free to design courses, assessments, and learning experiences consistent with professional judgment.
3. Students supported in independent thinking through research, creative work, and public exhibitions/performances.
4. Campus events (Visiting Writers Series, art shows, Museum programs) promote open exchange of ideas.

Responsible Knowledge Acquisition (2.E)

1. Academic integrity reinforced through Student Handbook policies, orientation modules, and documented violation procedures.
2. Academic Integrity Workgroup guides reflection-focused, student-centered integrity practices including guidance for generative AI.
3. Institutional Review Board oversees human-subjects research to ensure ethical compliance.
4. Library instruction supports responsible research, source evaluation, information literacy, and citation practices.