

# **Southwest Technical College**

## **2025 COE Self-Study Report**

---

### **Standard 1: Institutional Mission**

---

# Standard 1: Institutional Mission

## Introduction

The mission of Southwest Technical College empowering individuals through innovative, hands-on technical education to build careers and strengthen communities. Southwest Tech continues to expand its offerings to meet service region employment needs. The College awards certificates of completion once students have met all program requirements.

## Analysis

1. **The primary mission of the institution is to instruct students to such competency levels that they are qualified for initial employment and/or career advancement.**

The primary mission of Southwest Technical College is to empowering individuals through innovative, hands-on technical education to build careers and strengthen communities. This mission aligns with the College's Board of Trustees representing industry and educational partners in the service region. The implementation of this mission is delivered through our educational programs. These educational programs are reviewed by local industry representation and include the competencies and skills necessary for initial employment and/or career advancement, as evidenced by a completion rate of [], a placement rate of [] and a licensure rate of [] during the most recently reported academic year (i.e., 2023-24).

The mission of the College aligns with that of our parent organization, the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE). The mission of USHE is to "operate[] cohesively across the state's 16 public colleges and universities to provide valuable education that meets workforce needs and enhances the wellbeing and prosperity of all Utahns." According to USHE policy, "A technical college's role is to offer technical certificates that meet the needs of Utah's economy and employers while preparing students to enter the workforce...[and to] contribute to the community's and region's quality of life and economic development" (USHE Policy R312).

**The institution's mission is:**

2. **Clearly and concisely stated in written form.**

The mission statement is clearly and concisely stated in written form and represents the official statement of the College. The mission statement is posted throughout Southwest Technical College facilities. The mission statement can also be found in materials and publications such as the website and strategic plan.

3. **Published in hard copy and/or online.**

The mission statement appears on the College's website ([www.stech.edu](http://www.stech.edu)). The website includes a list of programs offered by the College.

**4. Publicly available.**

Southwest Technical College's mission statement is publicly available on the College's website. The mission statement is displayed in the main hallway and outside of the boardroom at the main campus and at each instructional service center. Other brochures and marketing materials announce the mission statement of the College.

**5. Used consistently in publications.**

Southwest Technical College's mission statement is used consistently in publications. The mission statement is displayed in the main hallway and outside of the boardroom at the main campus and at each instructional service center. Other brochures and marketing materials announce the mission statement of the College

**6. The institution has an organized and functional institutional advisory committee.**

Southwest Technical College is governed by a local Board of Trustees as established in Utah Code 53B-2a-108–109. The Board meets five times a year at regular intervals. The board of trustees serves in the capacity of institutional advisory committee for the College. The composition and duties of the board are specified in Utah Code §53B-2a-108 (Technical college boards of trustees – membership – appointments).

**The institution advisory committee meets the following requirements:**

**7. Is composed of no less than three persons, all of whom are external to the institution. (Committees larger than three members must maintain a majority of external members).**

Southwest Technical College Board of Trustees consists of one member from each of the four local school boards in the technical college service area, appointed by the local school board to which the member belongs. It also consists of one individual who is a member of Southern Utah University board of trustees, appointed by the board of trustees. Lastly, there are eight members appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. All board members are external to the college and provide a balanced blend of members from our educational partners as well as business and industry.

**8. Has at least three external members who meet these criteria present at each meeting (with at least two members physically present and one virtually present).**

Southwest Technical College Board of Trustees consists of one member from each of the four local school boards in the technical college service area, appointed by the local school board to which the member belongs. It also consists of one individual who is a member of Southern Utah University board of trustees, appointed by the board of trustees. Lastly, there are eight members appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. All board members are external to the college and provide a balanced blend of members from our educational partners as well as

business and industry. In order for a quorum to be present, there must be at least 7 members present. [check if this is 7]

**9. Meets at least once annually.**

The board of trustees meet five to six times annually. On rare occasions there will be an additional meeting as circumstances require. Meeting minutes are taken, distributed, and archived for each board of trustee's meeting.

**10. Keeps typed minutes to document its activities, recommendations, and meeting attendance.**

Meeting minutes are taken, distributed, and archived for each board of trustee's meeting. Meeting minutes include a record of activities, recommendations, and meeting attendance.

**11. Is used to provide community involvement in maintaining a relevant mission for the institution.**

Southwest Technical College Board of Trustees ensures that the College continues to drive education and workforce development in the four-county service region and ensures compliance with its mission and policies. Specific powers and duties of the College Board are outlined in Utah Code §53B-2a-110 (Technical College Board of Trustees' Powers and Duties).

## **Challenges and Solutions**

Our previous mission statement presented challenges primarily due to its length and complexity. It was not easily understood or retained by our stakeholders, leading to inconsistencies in how it was interpreted and communicated. To address this, we recently revised the mission statement to make it more concise, clear, and aligned with our organizational goals. This change aims to ensure broader comprehension and more effective implementation across all levels.

In an effort to communicate the updates to our mission statement, we will continue to educate the public regarding our mission in as many publications, public events, community organizations, and professional associations as possible. We will also continue to promote our mission and services with education, industry, and community partners.

## **Summary**

Southwest Technical College has an established mission statement that is valued by its governing board, administration, faculty, and staff. The mission statement is published on the College's website and throughout its facilities. Publications incorporating this mission statement are available to a variety of stakeholders including current and potential students, education and industry partners, and community members within the Southwest Region.

An active board of trustees oversees the operation and policies of Southwest Technical College. The College maintains an ongoing effort to publish information about its mission and the programs it offers.