

PROPOSED CHANGE/POLICY

Illinois Central College is requesting the Higher Learning Commission approve a change in its educational offerings. This request is in compliance with the Commission's Policy I.C.2b which states, "Commission approval is required to extend accreditation to include degree programs offered through distance delivery methods." In accordance with this policy, Illinois Central College requests the approval to offer online degree and certificate programs.

COLLEGE MISSION

The development and the offering of online courses plus certificate and degree programs at Illinois Central College are consistent with the College's mission statement which states: "ICC's purpose is to enable students to reach their educational potential, and to serve as a resource for the educational and cultural needs of the community."

To fulfill its philosophy and mission, the College:

- Promotes student access through both admission policies and reasonable student costs that encourage enrollment of those who can benefit from the instruction and services offered.
- Enhances the academic and personal development of all students through a full range of support services.
- Provides a broad general education curriculum for students in all programs as a basis for further study and specialization.
- Offers the requirements and prerequisites in preparation for successful transfer to a four-year institution to complete a baccalaureate degree.
- Provides a variety of occupational and technical programs in preparation for successful employment.
- Provides developmental and remedial level studies for students with academic deficiencies.
- Provides opportunities for students to appreciate and benefit from the diversity of people in a global community.
- Offers continuing education opportunities for students interested in meeting personal goals or updating employment skills and pursuing cultural and leisure interests.

- Cooperates with other educational, business, and governmental entities to address educational needs related to the economic health of the residents of the District.
- Provides special cultural, recreational, and general interest events which enrich the life of the community.

Online degree and certificate programs allow the College to better fulfill its mission by serving the needs of students who might not otherwise be able to access the College's programs. Online classes, degrees, and certificates take the College beyond its "institutional boundaries," e.g., students to be served, geographic service area, and focus of instruction.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The College's comprehensive plan, the "*Blueprint for the Future*," further supports offering online classes and degrees. All of the following eight priorities of the *Blueprint* relate to online offerings, but Priorities I, II, and VI drive them.

- I. Provide high quality programs and services.
- II. Develop a responsive educational service delivery system.
- III. Collaborate with K-12 to enhance quality of education.
- IV. Play a more aggressive role in economic and workforce development.
- V. Build a new image and increase community awareness of programs and services offered through ICC.
- VI. Reach out to, attract, and retain a diverse student body and employee group and play a leadership role in community diversification initiatives.
- VII. Collaborate with four-year universities to promote efficient and effective transfer of students through the educational system.
- VIII. Enhance the organization's capacity to address its priorities.