



## CATEGORY 2

### ACCOMPLISHING OTHER DISTINCTIVE OBJECTIVES

#### 2C1 Explicit Distinctive Objectives

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The college's Mission and Vision Statements and its Statement of Goals and Directions commit Southwestern to the following objectives in addition to helping students learn:

- **Church Relations.** The college continually fosters a vibrant and mutually beneficial relationship with the United Methodist Church, the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church, and churches throughout the college's service area.
- **Service.** The college provides its alumni and friends multiple opportunities to serve the college through financial support of students and programs; consultation with faculty and staff; internships, mentoring, and career development assistance for current students; recruitment of new students; and service on college boards and committees. In turn, the college's students, faculty, and staff are committed to leadership and service in the community and the region.
- **Enrichment.** Committed to lifelong learning, Southwestern College provides its many constituents opportunities for personal growth and development through academic course work, performing arts presentations, public lectures and seminars, and other offerings.

#### 2C2 Alignment With Mission and Vision

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These distinctive objectives are stated in the college's annually updated Statement of Goals and Directions for Southwestern College (Appendix A). The goals and directions are approved annually by the college's Board of Trustees and are reviewed annually for alignment and congruence with the college's mission.

#### 2C3 Helping Students Learn

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**Church Relations.** The college's church relations commitment provides students opportunities to explore and express their faith through involvement in local church activities, activities of the Kansas West Conference, and in the national and international United Methodist Church. Students interested in careers in ministry, whether in lay or clergy roles, are provided opportunities to explore these roles while serving the church.

**Service.** Through its service learning programs – Leadership Southwestern, Discipleship Southwestern, and Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) – the college helps students learn by intentionally connecting the class curriculum to service in the community. Through knowledge acquisition, practice in the field, and reflection on the experience, students are provided the rich combination of scholarship and practice. Service learning does not elevate scholarship over practice or practice over scholarship but allows the student the opportunity to integrate learning in a way that builds confidence for life beyond the academy. The college's service learning programs allow students and college employees to work side by side to serve the needs of others in the college's region.



**Enrichment.** The college offers many programs of cultural enrichment for the community and for its students. In addition, the college supports community programs that benefit students. For instance, the college provides support for the South Kansas Symphony. Because of this supportive relationship, music majors at the college enjoy excellent opportunities to perform in the symphony alongside accomplished adult and high school players. College students who are not performers have the opportunity to attend fine concerts.

## 2P1 Deeply Engrained Commitments

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The college's commitments in the realms of church relations, service, and enrichment are of long standing and are deeply engrained in the life and culture of the college. These commitments are affirmed annually in the college's planning process, which involves faculty, administrators, and members of the Board of Trustees.

## 2P2 Setting Standards

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The college's church relations programs are led by two individuals who have direct reporting relationships to the college president. Expectations are mutually agreed upon and are then communicated to employees who have implementation responsibility.

Service learning expectations are established by relevant program directors in conjunction with the academic vice president and dean of the faculty. They agree upon recruitment and participation goals and continually review the programs for effective links to classroom activities.

Enrichment activities are undertaken by many departments and programs of the college. At present, these activities are not coordinated or subject to a comprehensive statement of expectations or objectives.

## 2P3 Faculty and Staff Needs

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Staffing levels, resource needs, etc., are annually reviewed as part of the college's budget planning process. Participants include the academic division chairs, the college's finance committee, the Administrative Council, and the president. For the coming fiscal year, the college is increasing its level of staffing for church relations work through the addition of two graduate assistants. In its service learning program, the college has committed to a cost-sharing agreement that will allow employment of a VISTA volunteer to assist the community service work of Leadership Southwestern. These additional resources are being provided in response to the identified needs of the relevant programs.

## 2P4 Assessment of Distinctive Objectives

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Because these objectives are deeply engrained in the mission and culture of the college their value and importance are assumed. There has been little assessment of the objectives or the college's success in pursuing them. In a similar vein, the college has not actively sought feedback that would adjust the objectives or the manner in which they are pursued.



## 2P5 Measurement of Distinctive Objectives

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In the realm of church relations, the college gathers data on student involvement in church internships, student preparing for seminary or other church leadership roles, and student participation in outreach teams. The college monitors gifts and grants received from churches and other religious organizations.

Leadership Southwestern documents the number of hours of service performed by participating students each year. It also documents community service projects completed by students on Freshman Work Day.

Little is done to document or analyze accomplishments in the college's enrichment programs for external audiences.

## 2R1 Results of Distinctive Objectives

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Internships: 23 (2006/07)

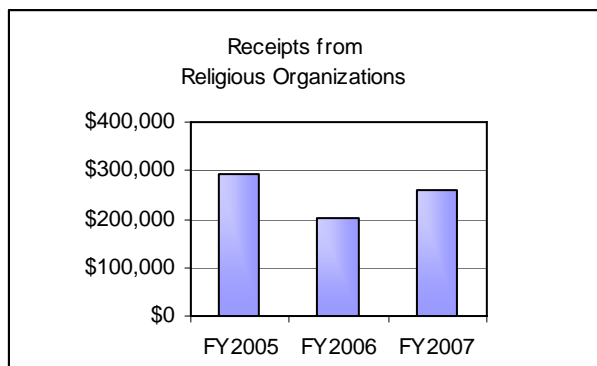
Pre-ministerial students: 25

Students on outreach teams: 30

Number of churches served: 45

Volunteer hours through Leadership Southwestern and Discipleship Southwestern: 8,792

Church giving: 2005 - \$291,292; 2006 - \$202,890; 2007- \$258,396



## 2R3 Strengthening the Institution

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The college's work in accomplishing other distinctive objectives connects us with key feeders of prospective students (churches) and with individuals and organizations that provide financial and other support. The college's service and enrichment programs create friendship, good will, and mutually supportive relationships between the college and the region we serve.

## 2I1 – Improving Processes

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Our intention in the next year is to state clearly the college's objectives in church relations, service, and enrichment, develop appropriate measures of performance, and begin to evaluate the efficacy of the college's efforts.