# The Higher Learning Commission Action Project Directory

## Kaskaskia College

### Project Details

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Accrediting Online Degrees and Certificates (Phase Two of Online Learning Action Project)</th>
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<td>Status</td>
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<td>Category</td>
<td>1-Helping Students Learn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline</td>
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<td>08-31-2012</td>
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### 1: Project Goal

A: Continue to evaluate the quality of online course offerings and improve the quality and consistency of the online learning experience at KC. Improve infrastructure and support for the increased needs of an accredited online certificate and degree program. Enhance existing web-based student services by adding an online admissions component, online counseling and advising. Identify degrees and certificate programs to be accredited. Prepare the Request for Change Application to accredit online Associate in Arts (AA), Associate in Applied Science (AAS), Associate in General Studies (AGS), Associate in Science (AS), and certificate programs.

### 2: Reasons For Project

A: Enrollments have increased significantly in online courses; the growth in this sector represents a student demand that must be met. The College has had a 45% increase in online student enrollment in the last five years (FY 05 - FY 10) and a 64% increase in the number of online courses in that same five-year period. This project supports actions in the Five-Year Institutional Plan at KC: "Refine process for development of new online course offerings," and "Prepare the HLC Request for Change Application to accredit online associate degree programs.” A committee-based review of online courses has started under the previous action plan and will be fully implemented under this proposed plan in an effort to secure accreditation for online degree and certificate programs.

### 3: Organizational Areas Affected

A: KC Departments: Arts and Sciences, Career and Technical Education, Student Services, Information Services/Information Technology, Institutional Research, Learning Resource Center, as well as Distance Learning and Technology Support.

### 4: Key Organizational Process(es)

A: We plan to improve the online student admissions process, degree audit implementation in advising online students, and improved class scheduling sequence for online degrees and certificates. The College will have the ability to market accredited online degree and certificate programs. Online student services, online courses and curriculum development, online program review and training for faculty and students.

### 5: Project Time Frame Rationale

A: The scope of the project is within a 22-month timeframe.

- **2010-2011 Academic Year**
  - Spring 2011
  - Continue the ongoing faculty training in both technological and pedagogical skills for enhanced online instruction.
  - Conduct committee reviews of new and existing online courses. Committee members will use the rubric to improve the quality of online courses.
### 2011-2012 Academic Year

#### Fall 2011
- Prepare the Request for Change application to accredit online associate degree and certificate programs.
- Continue efforts to enhance support for online students. Improve access to advising and student services, improve textbook access, and enhance existing online library services.

#### Spring 2012
- Submit application for first online degree programs. Plan for HLC accreditation site visit for online degree and document institutionalization of this project.

### 6: Project Success Monitoring

**A:** Use data collected in preceding project to monitor changes in the number of online courses offered, student retention, student satisfaction, etc. Updates on AQIP projects are discussed with faculty, staff and administrators at regularly scheduled Distance Learning meetings and minutes are posted on a public website. Progress and successes will be documented in the next Systems Portfolio and the departmental annual reports. Presentations will be made periodically to the College Council, President’s Cabinet and the Board of Trustees.

### 7: Project Outcome Measures

**A:** The main indication that this project was successful will be the accreditation of our new online degree and certificate programs.