

CHAPTER 2

GENERAL INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE COLLEGE

VISION STATEMENT

East Central Community College is committed to providing educational opportunities and services to assist individuals in meeting their goals for life and work.

MISSION STATEMENT

The College, located in east central Mississippi, is a public, open door, comprehensive, two-year institution of higher education that values and demonstrates accessibility, affordability, excellence and integrity in teaching and learning by providing university transfer education, career-technical programs, workforce development services, and basic skills offerings to meet the life-long learning needs of its diverse students and community.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

1. To develop and sustain partnerships with community, business, and industry in order to promote economic development of the community and to facilitate the educational and career goals of the student.
2. To provide quality instructional programs that prepare students to continue their education, enter the workforce, or update skills.
3. To enhance and nurture diverse student populations by providing cultural, educational, and recreational experiences for students and communities.
4. To improve community life by offering programs and activities for personal and professions development.
5. To provide accessible instruction through a variety of instructional methods including distance learning, E-learning, and the traditional classroom.
6. To promote accountability for establishing standards for students, instructors, staff, and administrators.
7. To provide a diverse academic experience by offering instruction that meets the needs of all levels of learners.
8. To provide and maintain a clean, safe, functional environment for working and learning.
9. To provide guidance, counseling, and other student services to aid students in the attainment of personal, educational, and occupational goals.
10. To provide and maintain administrative procedures that supports and maintains the teaching and learning environment of the College.

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

In 1928 the Legislature of the State of Mississippi adopted the first basic laws for the organization and operation of Mississippi public junior colleges.

East Central Community College opened its doors to a freshman class of twenty students for the first regular session in September of 1928.

The college occupied buildings that were a part of the Newton County Agricultural High School, which had been organized in 1914. The Agricultural High School was located on property belonging to the Decatur Municipal School District, which had been created in 1912. The upper high school grades that comprised the Newton County Agricultural High

School were a part of the college until 1958 when they moved to the Decatur Attendance Center.

In March of 1939, East Central Junior College was accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It has been reaffirmed each decade since. Today the College holds membership in the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, The Mississippi Association of Colleges, and The Mississippi Community and Junior Colleges Association.

Originally the institution was supported by three counties – Newton, Neshoba and Scott. Later they were joined by Leake and Winston.

From the two members of the original faculty of East Central Community College, Mrs. W.W. Newsome and Mr. Robert Marshall, the number of full and part-time personnel has increased to over 240 for the current year. Since its founding, seven presidents have served the institution.

COLLEGE PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Through the cooperative efforts of the district and the state legislature, the College has experienced growth in buildings and facilities during the past several years. The College plant consists of approximately 150 acres with buildings and facilities now valued at over ten and one-half million dollars. There are twenty-six main brick buildings. All residence halls, classrooms and offices are air-conditioned. In addition to facilities sufficient to sustain the general education program, laboratories are provided for art, engineering drawing, audio visual education, applied music, dramatics, reading, athletic and recreation activities, and scientific and vocational education.

WALTER ARNO VINCENT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Occupied at the beginning of the 1978-79 school year, the administration building houses the offices of the president, vice president for instruction, vice president for business operations, vice president for foundation and alumni relations, dean of adult and continuing education, director for technology management, and the Board of Trustees' room. Proper vault facilities for the business office and adequate storage for all offices are provided in the building. The 7,995 square foot facility was built in 1962 as the library for the College but was renovated for administrative use when the Burton Library was occupied. It is modern, spacious, and comfortable and is located on the front of the campus adjacent to Huff Auditorium.

ERMA LEE BARBER HALL

With over 26,500 square feet, this dormitory houses approximately 128 women. This welcome addition to the campus was opened in the fall of 1999. The building is both aesthetically pleasing and very functional in design. It is equipped with all modern conveniences and meets all standards for fire safety and energy conservation.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING/CHILDCARE BUILDING

Containing over 20,000 square feet of floor space, this facility opened in 1996 and houses the associate degree and practical nursing and child care programs. This modern facility contains classrooms, lecture rooms, computer labs, and laboratories.

BRACKEEN-WOOD PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING

This building was constructed in 1970 and is located near the football stadium. Offices for football, baseball, basketball, soccer, and softball are housed in this facility in addition to dressing facilities, the varsity basketball court, and the weight room.