### **BALL STATE UNIVERSITY Self-Study Report for Continuing Accreditation 2013 DRAFT**

Prepared for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

# Criterion Two—Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

# **Core Component 2.B.**

The institution presents itself clearly and completely to its students and to the public with regard to its programs, requirements, faculty and staff, costs to students, control, and accreditation relationships.

Ball State University's website is the most clear and comprehensive resource for presenting institutional information to students and the public. Details about the university's programs, requirements, faculty and staff, costs to students, institutional control, and accreditation relationships may be obtained from numerous starting points. From the Ball State home page, specific audiences can find a collection of links to information tailored to them:

- Alumni
- Business Partners
- Current Students
- Faculty and Staff
- Parents

Information about the university can also be easily accessed from the home page via content type:

- About Ball State
- Academics
- Admissions
- Athletics
- Calendar
- Campus Life
- News
- Giving

Specific information can also be found using the site's Google search engine, site map, and searchable directory of faculty, staff, and students, while the contact page links people to relevant areas of the website based on a set of described scenarios:

- A–Z Index
- Contact Us
- Directory

A number of other areas within the Ball State website illustrate how the university presents various information clearly and completely to students and the public. Below are some excellent examples.

# **BALL STATE UNIVERSITY Self-Study Report for Continuing Accreditation 2013 DRAFT**

Prepared for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

### **Academic Programs and Requirements**

- Undergraduate Course Catalog
- Undergraduate Majors
- Undergraduate Minors
- Graduate Catalog 2012–2014
- Graduate Programs of Study
- Department of Modern Languages and Classics
- Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
- Department of Social Work

### **Faculty and Staff**

- · Department of English
- Department of Biology
- University College
- Faculty and Professional Personnel Handbook
- Payroll and Employee Benefits
- Payroll and Employee Benefits—FAQs
- Scholarships and Financial Aid–Fee Remission

#### **Costs to Students**

- Bursar's Office
- Bursar FAQs
- Estimated Tuition and Fees for Undergraduate Students
- Graduate Tuition for Online and Distance Education Students
- Net Price Calculator
- Scholarships and Financial Aid
- Learning Center Free Resources

#### **Institutional Control**

- University Leadership
- Board of Trustees
- Office of the President

### **Accreditation Relationships**

- Institutional Accreditation
- Department of Architecture
- Department of Art
- Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
- Department of Landscape Architecture
- Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology

# **BALL STATE UNIVERSITY Self-Study Report for Continuing Accreditation 2013 DRAFT**

Prepared for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

- Department of Urban Planning
- Miller College of Business
- · School of Nursing

To facilitate access to information on Ball State's website, the university has created and promotes many marketing URLs that are simpler and more user friendly than the actual addresses of the site's pages. For example, the Net Price Calculator for estimating student costs and financial aid can be accessed by entering only <a href="mailto:bsu.edu/finaid/calculator">bsu.edu/finaid/calculator</a> rather than <a href="http://cms.bsu.edu/AdmissionsLanding/ScholarshipsandFinancialAid/NetPriceCalculator.aspx">http://cms.bsu.edu/AdmissionsLanding/ScholarshipsandFinancialAid/NetPriceCalculator.aspx</a>. The university's website is also accessible to individuals with disabilities and provides a list of text telephone (TTY) numbers and information about adaptive technology resources.

While the Ball State website is the most comprehensive resource of information presented to students and the public, printed materials are also provided for certain uses, including admission and orientation information for new and prospective students.

### **Core Component Summary**

Ball State's website is the most comprehensive source of institutional information for students and the public. The majority of information on the website is clear and complete, but not all of it is routinely updated. It is recommended that each unit (department, office, service) that provides and uploads content to the website implement a systematic process of annual/biannual review to ensure the information remains current, clear, and complete.