

Key Terms and Definitions

Critical Thinking

“Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action. In its exemplary form, it is based on universal intellectual values that transcend subject matter divisions: clarity, accuracy, precision, consistency, relevance, sound evidence, good reasons, depth, breadth, and fairness” (Critical Thinking Community).

Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)

According to the Center for Community College Student Engagement, the CCSSE is “a product and service of the Center for Community College Student Engagement [. . .] is a well-established tool that helps institutions focus on good educational practice and identify areas in which they can improve their programs and services for students. Administered during the spring to mostly returning students, CCSSE asks about institutional practices and student behaviors that are highly correlated with student learning and retention.”

ETS Proficiency Profile

The ETS Proficiency Profile is used by Motlow College as the general education assessment of graduating sophomores. The ETS Proficiency Profile is a test based on college-level skills in reading, writing, critical thinking, and mathematics, designed to measure the academic skills developed through general education courses. It is recommended that students complete the test during the last semester prior to graduation, and the test is available on each of MSCC’s four campuses.

ePortfolio

Each student taking the MSCC FYE course is required to compose an electronic portfolio. Eynon and Gambino (2017) define ePortfolio as, “the platform that provides a mechanism to gather, save, and use artifacts of student work (p.129).

First Year Experience Course

This course is a class “designed to empower students with the essential skill set necessary to reach their educational and career goals.

Students will become familiar with college resources, policies, and procedures, while also improving their time management, study, research, and technology skills.

Collaborative learning opportunities are designed to improve critical thinking, problem solving, and reading comprehension skills and abilities” (MSCC Catalog).

Learning Support

The Tennessee Board of Regents defines Learning Support (remedial/developmental education) “as academic support needed by a student to be successful in college level general education courses and/or to meet minimum reading, writing, and mathematic competencies as required by faculty in programs that do not require general education courses in reading, writing and/or mathematics. The purpose is to enhance academic success in college level courses and increase the likelihood of program completion that will prepare students for career success in their chosen field of study.”

For further information on Motlow State’s Quality Enhancement Plan, please contact: Meagan McManus, QEP Committee Chair, mmcmanus@mscc.edu or Dr. Scott Cook, Vice President of Quality Assurance and Performance Funding, scook@mscc.edu