

# AQIP Systems Portfolio

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## *Institutional Overview*



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Midstate College is a for-profit, family-owned institution granting diploma, associate and bachelor degrees. The College maintains operations as a single, non-residential campus in Peoria, Illinois, since being founded in 1888. The College is led by a Board of Directors, the President and a team of administrators. Midstate College was first accredited in 1982 by the Higher Learning Commission and moved from PEAQ to the AQIP pathway in 2005.

Midstate College offers 18 programs both on-campus and online, with many being available 100 percent online. The College's key program areas include accounting, allied health, business administration, health information, information systems and technology, legal studies, and realtime reporting. The average age of the student body is 34, with over 85 percent of the student body being 25 and older. The average class size is eight students. The College maintains articulation agreements with local community colleges and participates in the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) to help ease transferability for its significant group of transfer students. Midstate College serves on average a non-duplicated headcount of 761 students per year. The College has 20 full-time faculty, 31 part-time faculty, and 24 full-time administrative staff members. [See 411 for the Vision of Midstate College]

### Mission

The Mission of Midstate College is to provide educational opportunities that emphasize skills and knowledge that will allow the student to adjust through a lifetime of social and technological change. We recognize that education is vital in developing skills needed for a productive society and essential in promoting the individual's sense of worth, values, and high ethical standards. The College is committed to offering quality education that meets the needs of its students assisting them in clarifying and pursuing their professional and educational goals.

### Code of Ethics

- We value responsible, accountable, ethical behavior in an atmosphere of honest, open communication with mutual respect and caring for each other.
- We value creative and enthusiastic pursuit of ideas.
- We value continuous improvement of our programs, services, and processes through employee empowerment and professional development in a team-based culture.
- We value commitment to student success and satisfaction by responding to customer needs.
- We value an educational environment that attracts, nurtures, and supports a diverse student and staff community.

### Institutional Objectives

In fulfilling the mission of Midstate College, the institution sets forth the following objectives which reflect the overall goals of the College:

1. To provide a varied selection of academic curricula in business and specialized areas enriched with instruction in general education.
2. To provide the students with a background of job skills which will enhance their employability.
3. To provide the students with basic skills which contribute to success in their careers and in their private lives.
4. To lead the student in the self-discovery process of clarifying and raising the individual's goals and achievements commensurate with the student's potential.
5. To provide a framework and atmosphere of learning which will enhance the student's capability to demonstrate ethical and moral values in professional, personal, and business situations.

6. To strive for and maintain excellence in business, specialized, and general education by systematically reviewing classroom facilities, equipment, curricula, faculty, and staff.
7. To make available to our students activities and experiences which foster personal growth and leadership qualities that will assist students in their social, vocational, and academic pursuits.
8. To provide placement assistance for graduates and students through individual counseling.
9. To maintain a process of communication with the community of employers to assure relevant curricula to meet the developing needs of the economic community.

### Quality Improvement Experiences Since 2011

The College is moving into the third AQIP accreditation cycle since joining the AQIP pathway in 2005. Each time the institution passes through the accreditation cycle, growth can be seen through improvements to processes and results. The College President is at the forefront of working to create and maintain a culture where continuous quality improvement is ongoing.

In the past few years, the College has encountered challenges regarding increased competition and enrollment trend changes. There is more local and state-wide competition since the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement was approved in Illinois. Additionally, there is also increased local competition with new programs and institutions opening satellite campuses in central Illinois. A major employer in central Illinois has downsized and limited tuition-reimbursement for existing employees. Due to the State of Illinois budget challenges, the availability of the State of Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant has been uncertain. The budget challenges have reduced the number of students eligible for the grant in addition to reducing amounts awarded. All of these outside factors have contributed to declining enrollment trends for the College's degree programs. Although the College has faced these declining enrollments over the past few years, by careful budgeting and management of resources, the College continues to maintain profitability and governmental compliance.

The College continues to have many improvements to celebrate. We have moved from reacting to systematically using data and information through the efforts of the Institutional Effectiveness Committee and Executive Finance Committee. In 2014, Midstate College established Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which act as a dashboard of established metrics that are considered crucial toward achieving the Mission of the College. In 2016, as a result of the Improving and Refining Retention Strategies action project, the College established weekly Retention and Enrollment meetings which bring together faculty and staff to discuss student retention and enrollment challenges with the goal to establish a formalized college-wide retention plan. Since 2011, the College has refined the budget process so it is more fully aligned to the Mission, strategic plan, and departmental goals. The refined budget process has also allowed the College to be more responsive to changing needs and priorities.

In addition, the College has improved safety and security services. Annual trainings and documentation in both areas have been updated to reflect changing requirements. In another action project, the College established a more structured outreach plan, including a baseline of community partners derived from a five-year cohort of partnership information targeted to better identify and improve relationships while serving our key partners.

We recognize the current climate in higher education and understand financial barriers facing the adult learner population that we serve. Therefore, we have elected to freeze our tuition for the last three academic years.

As stated throughout our Systems Portfolio, our commitment to a culture of quality improvement is evident through our many processes, results and improvements regarding institutional effectiveness.