

HOW KBOCC MEETS HLC'S FOUR CRITERIA FOR ACCREDITATION

2026 Assurance Argument Snapshot

1 MISSION. The institution's mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution's operations.

WE...	BECAUSE...
Center mission in decisions	The Board refreshed the mission in 2024, and the Board-approved RISE Strategic Plan begins with mission, values, and cultural responsibility.
Make culture part of all learning	All associate degrees include Anishinaabe Awareness, and cultural integration across the curriculum is an institutional expectation.
Serve learners across generations	In AY2025–26, about 30% of learners were dual enrolled high school students, 51% were age 25 or older, and around 100 learners enrolled in noncredit & community programming across all age categories. A combined 44 early learners were served through OELC and Migiziinsag.
Advance the public good	Academic, workforce, early learning, Land Grant, and community programs strengthen education, cultural vitality, health, and regional capacity.
Prepare students for community life	College Learning Goals, general education, and cocurricular learning cultivate culture, community-mindedness, adaptability, ethics, and well-being.

TAKEAWAY: KBOCC's mission is operational; it shapes programs, enrollment pathways, community service, and stewardship for future generations.

2 INTEGRITY: ETHICAL & RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT. In fulfilling the mission, the institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

WE...	BECAUSE...
Ground conduct in shared values	The Seven Grandfather Teachings and written policies establish expectations for honesty, respect, accountability, confidentiality, and responsible authority.
Communicate accurately and openly	The Catalog, website, consumer disclosures, student systems, and strengthened communications capacity support informed student and public decisions.
Govern with independent judgment	An eight-member Board exercises fiduciary authority within KBOCC's Tribal charter, documented policies, conflict-of-interest safeguards, and formal deliberation.
Protect inquiry and expression	Faculty authority, academic freedom, student expression, grievance and appeal processes, and shared governance support respectful intellectual exploration.
Steward knowledge responsibly	Academic-integrity expectations, information literacy, AI guidance, IRB oversight, and respect for Indigenous knowledge guide ethical inquiry and application.

TAKEAWAY: KBOCC sustains trust through relational accountability, transparent practice, independent governance, and responsible knowledge stewardship.

3

TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS. The institution is responsible for educational quality and support services, evaluates effectiveness, and maintains consistent rigor across modalities and locations.

WE...

Deliver rigorous, coherent programs

Teach students to inquire and apply

Employ and support qualified educators

Surround learners with support

Use evidence to improve

BECAUSE...

Faculty-approved outcomes, sequenced curricula, credit-hour standards, and consistent expectations apply across campus, online, hybrid, and dual-enrollment learning.

Research, fieldwork, clinical learning, internships, capstones, and culturally grounded inquiry develop adaptable academic and professional skills.

Credential and proven experience review, evaluation, professional development, and the most recently reported 8:1 student-to-faculty ratio support instructional capacity.

Advising, coaching, tutoring, counseling, transportation, childcare, technology, cultural and wellness resources, and early alerts address rural and Tribal learner needs.

Course and cocurricular assessment, four-year program review, the Course Readiness Review pilot, and the new SEM Plan provide evidence and next steps for improvement.

TAKEAWAY: KBOCC combines academic quality and holistic support with assessment, program review, and student success measures; several newer cycles are still being implemented.

4

SUSTAINABILITY: INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS, RESOURCES, AND PLANNING. The institution's resources, structures, policies, procedures, and planning enable mission fulfillment, quality improvement, and responsiveness to future challenges and opportunities.

WE...

Coordinate leadership and governance

Sustain operations responsibly

Invest in people, places, and systems

Plan with evidence

Turn findings into improvement

BECAUSE...

The 2026 four-division structure, Executive Team, Faculty Council, and cross-functional committees strengthen clarity, collaboration, and accountability.

A clean FY2025 audit, balanced FY2026–27 general-fund budget, diversified grants, and CFI growth from 3.04 to 6.79 demonstrate greater resilience.

Faculty growth, employee development, laboratory renovations, Canvas, one-to-one laptops, managed IT support, and facilities planning expand capacity.

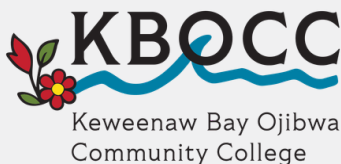
RISE and SEM were approved September 14, 2026; the Facilities Master Plan remains a draft, and the Institutional Effectiveness Framework is being finalized for annual review and action.

Program restructuring, gateway-course redesign, student-support investments, and expanded data infrastructure show evidence moving into institutional action.

TAKEAWAY: KBOCC has strengthened resources and planning capacity. The next test is sustained implementation, aligned budget choices, and evidence of results over time.

MISSION

As a Tribal land grant institution, KBOCC supports and uplifts all learners to achieve their goals through holistic education, while promoting Anishinaabe culture, language, and lifeways.

**VISION**

KBOCC aspires to be an intergenerational center of educational excellence and innovation grounded in Anishinaabe values for community advancement and well-being