Chapter 1
Introduction and Background

The College

Moorpark College is a public community college located on150 acres of sloping hillside land in the eastern region of Ventura County.   Undeveloped land circles the majority of the campus; two housing developments complete the perimeter.

The college currently serves approximately 15,000 students by offering lower division university-parallel associate degree courses and programs and a variety of career technical education programs and basic skills instruction.

The college was established in 1963 by the Governing Board of the Ventura County Community College District and the first phase of construction began in 1965 financed by an $8 million bond. On September 11, 1967, the second community college in the Ventura County Community College District opened its doors to 1,400 students and 50 faculty with seven buildings in place: Administration, Library, Science, Technology, Campus Center, Gymnasium and Maintenance. The college facilities expanded over the subsequent decades and in 2002 a second bond was approved by the taxpayers providing $104 million to the college for new construction and renovations.

The college is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

The District

Ventura County Community College District, a public community college district serving residents in Ventura County, serves over 36,000 students through three colleges: Moorpark College, Oxnard College, and Ventura College. All three colleges are comprehensive and provide a wide range of programs and services to students. The district office is located in the city of Ventura, approximately 40 miles from the Moorpark College campus. A locally elected five-member Board of Trustees governs the district.

Purpose of *Educational Master Plan 2009-2019*

This educational master plan defines the academic direction of the college and makes general recommendations to address current and foreseeable challenges. These recommendations create a framework for organizational growth and change.

This master plan is the foundation for all other institutional planning and decision-making. The plan is grounded in an analysis of both internal realities and external influences. The internal realities include summaries of who is currently being served by which academic programs and support services followed by projections for growth and change in each program and service. The external influences include feedback from economic forecast reports and community and state reports. This mix of quantitative and qualitative information is filtered through the college mission and vision to provide a logical structure for growth and change.

The *Moorpark College Educational Master Plan 2009-2019* has been developed to guide planning and long term program and service development, provide a direction for the college under changing conditions, inform the public, and demonstrate compliance with accreditation standards.

Integrated Planning

In an integrated planning process, all college planning is part of a functional system unified by a set of assumptions and well-defined procedures, and is dedicated to supporting continuous quality improvement.

The integrated district-wide planning model is initiated by the Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees communicating its mission and vision through Board imperatives and objectives.

The Chancellor translates the District Mission and Board directives into a District Strategic Plan that provides guidance to each of the three constituent colleges in their campus planning process. Strategic Objectives are identified therein.

College planning is anchored in the District Strategic Plan and its Mission, which articulates the intended student population and the services the college provides to the community.

Planning is informed by data. The college external environment data is collected, analyzed and summarized in an annual *Institutional Effectiveness Report*, and incorporated into the planning dialogue at an Annual Planning Retreat.

Data on the internal environment is reviewed as each program and service completes an annual Program Plan that includes the following elements:

1. Program health and productivity data analysis;
2. Program-specific environmental scans including advisory committee reports and future projections of workforce training needs;
3. Resource needs in connection with program-specific plan; and
4. The assessment of student learning outcomes and the resulting strategies for program improvement.
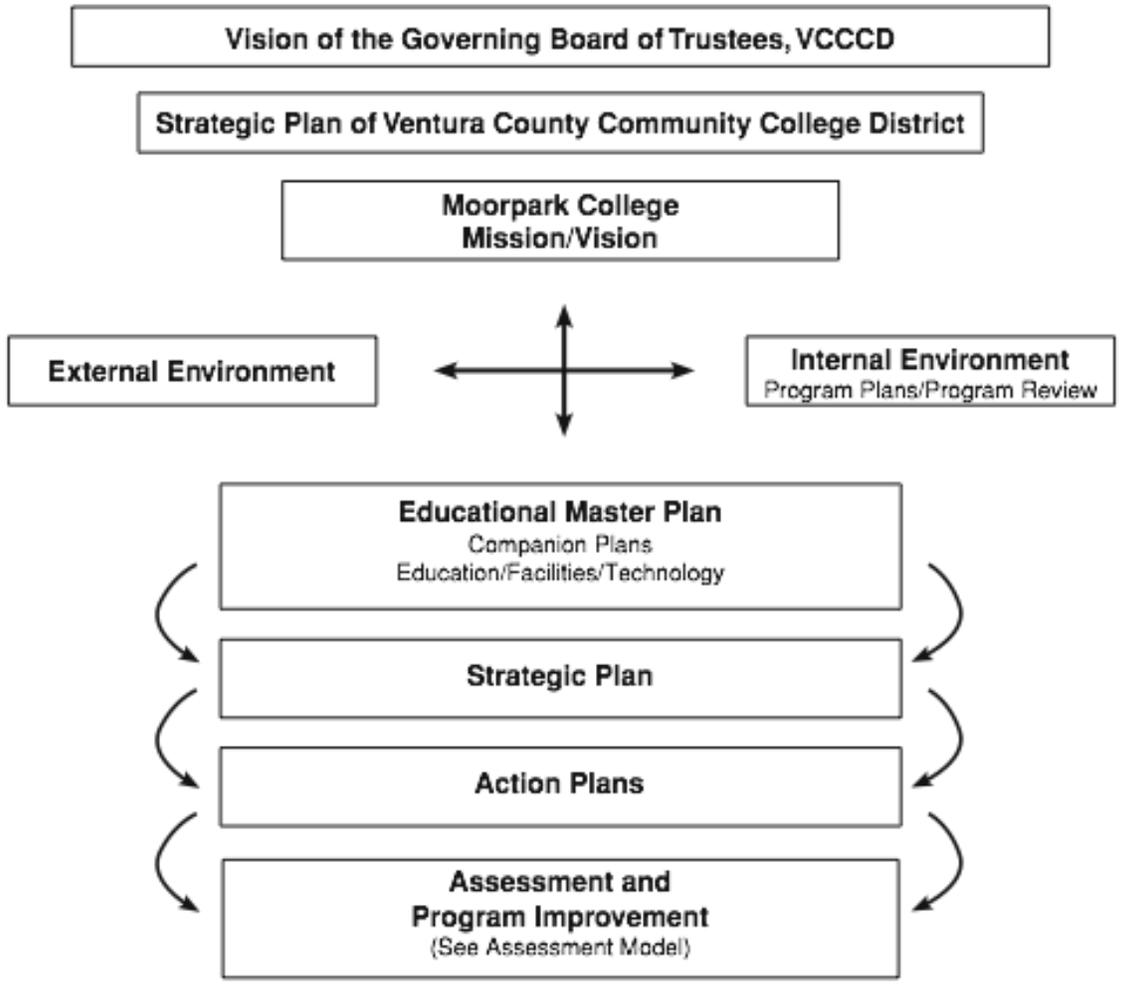
These Program Plans are evaluated and provide one primary link to the budget allocation process. The annual Program Plans complement college-wide long-term and short-term plans.

This Educational Master Plan and its companion documents -- the Facilities Master Plan and the Technology Master Plan -- are the foundation for Moorpark College's strategic plan. The flow from master planning to strategic planning keeps the college on a consistent course guided by the needs of the college's future students.

Resources are allocated based on college-wide short-term strategic plans and unit-level program plans, thereby ensuring the college's forward movement on the college's strategic objectives that were drawn from the recommendation in the Educational Master Plan and articulated in the strategic planning process.

The Strategic Plan, developed in for a 3-year cycle, includes specific action plans and timelines along with the identification of the party/group responsible for completing/overseeing that action step. Following the allocation of resources, the college mobilizes its resources to implement its plans.

The College Planning Model: A Schematic

Vision of the Governing Board of Trustees, VCCCD

Strategic Plan of Ventura County Community College District

Moorpark College
Mission/Vision

External Environment   ←→   **Internal Environment**
                                              Program Plans/Program Review

Educational Master Plan
Companion Plans
Education/Facilities/Technology

Strategic Plan

Action Plans

Assessment and
Program Improvement
(See Assessment Model)

For a complete description of the college's integrated planning model, refer to *Making Decisions at Moorpark College 2008-2010*.

Core Competencies

Moorpark College developed five instructional core competencies and three student services core competencies with student learning outcomes derived from the college mission. These core competencies are supported by each program's purposes and each course's student learning outcomes.

Instruction

Language and Information Literacy
Students will be able to:

- Engage in academic inquiry (e.g., research, thesis, learning needs) and apply successful learning strategies;
- Utilize critical thinking skills through reading, writing and oral/productive communication;
- Access, evaluate, and incorporate information effectively;
- Analyze cultural and artistic productions and respond to them with informed appreciation;
- Communicate effectively, using all modalities of language.

Quantitative Literacy
Students will be able to:
- Utilize analytical skills and logical, deductive reasoning;
- Critically think and communicate in both a natural and formal language.

Scientific Literacy
Students will be able to:
- Describe or apply the process of scientific inquiry;
- Apply scientific reasoning and analysis to solve discipline specific problems;
- Apply scientific thinking by critically evaluating real world problems/scenarios;
- Utilize scientific terminology in communicating results and evidence gathered through scientific literature, observations, and experimentation.

Multicultural Literacy and Civic Engagement

Students will be able to:

- Develop awareness and understanding of the historical and present context of how various identities impact the individual and social system at large;
- Develop knowledge of the interaction between beliefs, experiences, and perceptions;
- Analyze cross-cultural patterns and styles of communication that help us support and understand our global society;
- Identify and discuss differences and conflicts to promote multi-cultural literacy and civic engagement;
- Develop strategies to influence attitudes and public policy;
- Critically analyze the political, psychological, social, economic, and intellectual patterns of behavior.

Literacy in the Arts

Students will be able to:

- Explore a variety of mediums and develop an appreciation of artistic human expression through critical analysis, creativity, and/or the application of learned skills.

Student Services

Enrollment Services

Students will be able to:

- successfully transition from pre-enrollment through post Moorpark College.

Instructional Support Services

Students will be able to:

- use integrated instructional, research, and academic support services to become self-reliant learners.

Student Life

Students will be able to:

- develop holistically in social, emotional, physical, and intellectual domains.