

CROWDER COLLEGE PROFILE

Crowder College Mission: Building a civil, serving, literate, learning community of responsible citizens.

Crowder College is a comprehensive community college situated in the beautiful Ozark region of Southwest Missouri. The College was founded in 1963 by a vote of district citizens in five contiguous school districts in McDonald and Newton Counties, which composes the formal college district. The College is also assigned a nine-county service region which extends up the Oklahoma and Kansas state lines to just north of Nevada. Crowder is well respected in the community, state, and nation. In 2011, it was named as one of the “Great Colleges to Work For” by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Attendance Centers: In addition to the main campus in Neosho, the College operates four major attendance centers, in Nevada, Cassville, Webb City, and McDonald County (Jane). There are also classes offered at various other sites within the nine counties.

Leadership Philosophy: The college adheres in both philosophy and practice to a Servant Leadership approach to institutional governance. Basic to this philosophy is the belief that a leader’s primary duty is to be principal servant to all touched by the organization. In an educational setting, this means service to students, faculty, staff, board and members of the greater community. Crowder is a horizontal, highly integrated organization based upon the concept that each employee shares a portion of institutional power and that the best decisions are made when decision-making is a collaborative endeavor.

Financial Position: The College has maintained a strong fiscal position through careful budgeting and conservative spending. The original local tax levy for Crowder was 40¢ and remains close to that today. There has not been a debt service levy for many years, but the college has been able to expand in both enrollment and facilities through generous private giving, and conservative fiscal management. The current budget is \$56 million.

Program Offerings: Crowder offers two-year Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Applied Science degrees in arts and sciences and vocational-technical programs, one-year certificates in several specialized technologies, a short-term Transport Training program, and community and adult education programs. Programs with the highest enrollment include General Studies, Nursing, Business Administration, and Elementary Education. The most active technical degree programs include Computer Networking Technology, Nursing, and Agri-Business. The college also offers programs in green construction, solar and wind energy, and biofuels through its MARET (Missouri Alternative and Renewable Energy Technology) Center.

Student Body: Enrollment for fall 2012 was 5,590 in credit programs, and Crowder has been one of the fastest growing colleges in the state (and nation) for the last several years. The college also serves several thousand through customized training programs for business and industry, and provides Adult Education and Family Literacy services for a large portion of the Southwest Missouri area. The majority of students come from the in-district and service areas, but out-of-state and international student enrollment continues to grow.

Facilities: The main campus in Neosho has a quad that is surrounded by academic and administrative buildings, a gymnasium, and a community center. The newest building houses the science and health technology programs, the core of which is a FEMA shelter. Crowder also has student housing on campus. Plans are in place to add an additional building there due to demand. A new building is under construction at the McDonald County site, and a major addition to the Webb City site, including a FEMA shelter, is under way. The Neosho YMCA is also housed on campus land. In total, the campus covers over 600 acres, including the college farm and a truck driver training range.

Faculty and Staff: As of fall 2012, Crowder had 259 full-time employees and 414 part-time employees, plus an ever-changing number of work-study and other student workers. Of the full-time staff, 101 were faculty, 68 were professional staff, 65 were classified (hourly) staff, and 25 were administrators/directors. Faculty is

divided almost evenly between male and female, while professional and classified staff are more heavily female. Of the administrative/director staff, 15 are female and many have been promoted from within. The current interim president is Dr. Kent Farnsworth, who served as president from 1985 – 2004.

The College has no organized bargaining units, although each of the employee categories (faculty, professional and classified) has an association to represent their interests. The college does not have a tenure system for faculty, and does not utilize a faculty ranking system. Institutional decisions have been made with broad personnel involvement, based upon an enduring philosophy that employees are all part of “The Crowder Family.”

Accreditation: The College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, which means that all coursework meets quality standards and is transferable to other colleges and universities. Crowder was the first college in the state using the Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP) for accreditation. This program utilizes a model similar to the Baldrige Quality Improvement model to plan, organize and monitor improvement strategies based upon quantifiable measures of performance and a culture of evidence.

Athletics: Crowder is a member of the NJCAA and offers women’s softball, men’s baseball, women’s basketball, and men’s soccer. The Lady ‘Riders basketball team made it to the national tournament this year. All the teams do well competitively and athletes are expected to do well academically to be eligible to play.

Unique Programs: The College is especially known for its work in Alternative Energy Technology, in both transportation and housing. It built the first solar-powered vehicle to cross the U.S. in 1983, has successfully participated in several national and international solar vehicle competitions, and has a solar-powered house on campus that was built for the national Solar Decathlon competition in Washington, D.C. where it received the technical innovation and People’s Choice Awards. It has been the only community college to participate in these competitions and has made good standings in all of them. The college is designated by the state as the Missouri Alternative and Renewable Energy Technology (MARET) Center and a new building to house it was completed on the campus in 2011. It offers certification and transfer degrees encompassing green construction, solar thermal energy, solar electricity, wind, and biofuels. It also assists in new product development and other business support services in renewable energy.

The college has one of the largest Upward Bound and UB Math/Science Programs in the U.S., serving high school students with assistance in preparing for college. It also has a College Assistance Migrant Program and High School Equivalency Program (HEP) to serve the large migrant population of the region, and has Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Center, and Talent Search TRIO grants that have been sustained for many years.