

We Pride Ourselves

- *MCC’s physical facilities are accessible, safe, and clean, creating a positive learning environment for students.*
- *MCC dedicates significant funds, time, and personnel to the continuous improvement of its electronic communication system.*
- *MCC campuses have state-of-the-art technology infrastructures and multifunctional classrooms that support a variety of learning and teaching styles.*

We Challenge Ourselves

- *To make the current facility master planning process inclusive, relevant, and proactive.*
- *To provide better facilities information on room and station utilization.*

Chapter 6 Criterion 2–Physical Resources

Introduction

MCC is committed to providing safe, accessible, inviting, and well-maintained facilities for students and staff. Facilities are comprised of three campuses, three centers, and several independent locations throughout its four-county area. These facilities provide positive learning environments with quality resources and equipment.

As evidence in support of fulfilling Criterion 2, this chapter reviews the college’s campuses and centers; addresses MCC’s leased agreement sites and external facility utilization; and presents evidence addressing academic resources and equipment, facilities and ground maintenance, and facilities planning.

Campuses

MCC has three campus sites strategically placed throughout the Omaha metropolitan area: the Fort Omaha Campus (north Omaha); the South Omaha Campus (southeast Omaha); and the Elkhorn Valley Campus (west of the metropolitan area). MCC’s campuses consist of 36 buildings with a total of 673,425 square feet used for classrooms, offices, residences, and service facilities. Collectively, the campus sites make up 164 acres of land. A total of 2,850 parking spaces serve students, staff, and visitors.

Table 6.1 Physical Campus Demographics

Campus	Acres	Buildings	Square Feet	Parking Spaces
Fort Omaha	73	32	377,701	996
South Omaha	40	2	178,781	1,249
Elkhorn Valley	51	1	116,943	635
Total	164	36	673,425	2,850

Fort Omaha Campus

Located at 30th and Fort streets in Omaha, the Fort Omaha Campus (FOC) is the oldest campus of the college system. Obtained from the federal government in 1975, the campus serves as the second highest attendance site for students.

It contains administrative buildings, a campus library, MCC's maintenance headquarters, living accommodations for some staff, a food service operation, greenhouses, and classroom buildings.



Building 8

The majority of administrative and maintenance staff provide areawide services from this location. FOC sits on 73 acres of land and contains 32 buildings. The buildings encompass 377,701 square feet of space. Parking is available for 996 vehicles, with 34 dedicated for handicap access and seven for authorized college vehicles only. See the Resource Room for the Fort Omaha Campus map.

FOC is maintained in the original 19th Century architectural theme, yet the classrooms and offices are upgraded to accommodate new technology and educational needs of the 21st Century. This balance is why some students, staff, faculty, and the community describe it as MCC's "most beautiful campus."



Building 10

The campus's main classrooms, student services, computer labs, culinary arts, career network and counseling centers are located in Building 10, which is handicap accessible.

Visual arts classrooms and labs are located in Building 6. The first level of Building 8 houses the Fort Omaha library. Additional computer classrooms and labs are located on the second level.

Building 21 supports construction technology classrooms and multiuse overflow classroom areas. Building 20 supports classroom and lab space for the auto body program.

The horticulture programs are located in Buildings 27 and 29, combining classroom, labs, a greenhouse, and outdoor gardening spaces. Continuing Education uses parts of Building 9 for allied health classes and Building 26 for a welding classroom and lab. The campus has approximately 54,667 square feet of classroom space and approximately 22,511 square feet of lab space.

South Omaha Campus

The South Omaha Campus (SOC), established in 1978, is located on 40 acres in the heart of south Omaha at 27th and Q streets. The campus consists of two main buildings—the Eugene Mahoney building and the Industrial Training Center (ITC). An additional facility located at 28th and Q streets contains 2,746 square feet and is used as storage. All classrooms at SOC are handicap accessible and meet the Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.



Mahoney Building

Classrooms, student services, computer labs, a library, a career network and counseling center are located in the Mahoney building. The Mahoney building also contains two adjoining rooms, identified as the Learning Center, which are dedicated as computer labs and accessible to MCC students during all open hours. In addition, Mahoney contains seven computer lab/classrooms used by faculty in various programs for classroom instruction. See the Resource Room for Mahoney's floor plan.

Continuing Education and many of the credit and noncredit vocational-technical programs are located in the ITC building, along with a gym, a student commons area, classrooms, and a kitchen area. See the Resource Room for ITC's floor plan.



Industrial Training Center

SOC's combined classroom space for the two main buildings is 41,986 net square feet. Combined laboratory space is 44,132 net square feet. The campus has 1,249 parking spaces, with 21 dedicated for handicap access and 10 for authorized college vehicles only. Parking is adequate to support the staff and student population.

SOC is a full-service educational campus, offering classes, laboratory space, counseling, student academic and financial assistance, library holdings, public safety, and academic and technical support to students and staff. The two buildings are utilized seven days per week, providing for a variety of day, evening, and weekend classes. As the top attendance campus site for students, the SOC facility is becoming increasingly crowded.

Elkhorn Valley Campus

The Elkhorn Valley Campus (EVC), 22 miles west of the Fort Omaha and South Omaha campuses, is located at Highways 6 and 31, north of West Dodge Street on the western outskirts of metropolitan Omaha, near Elkhorn, Nebraska. EVC provides educational experiences for western Douglas County and portions of Dodge and Washington counties.



Elkhorn Valley Campus

One building on a 51-acre site, EVC is a full-service facility offering classrooms, four computer and visual arts labs, library services, instruction, public safety, counseling, student services, a career network center, and technical support to staff and students. EVC also offers a Learning Center, which is dedicated as a computer lab and is accessible during all open hours to MCC students. All classrooms at EVC are handicap accessible and meet the ADA requirements.

MCC's visual graphics program, which uses state-of-the-art technology, is located at EVC. The campus is the central distribution site for all video production. EVC has classroom space of 35,073 square feet and laboratory space of 9,202 square feet. The campus has 635 parking spaces, with 15 dedicated for handicap access and eight for authorized college vehicles. Parking is adequate to support the daily staff and student population. The campus also has a one-mile walking trail through a prairie-like environment. See the Resource Room for EVC's floor plan.



Sarpy Center

EVC is effective in providing quality education to students despite the fact that it is not served by public transportation, and no major industries or employers are located near the site. However, EVC is well positioned to serve community needs in the coming decades as the metropolitan area continues its western growth.

Leased Agreement Sites

MCC cooperates with a number of other entities by leasing or sharing space.

Sarpy Center

Beginning in 1993, the college provided educational services to Sarpy County residents in a leased 10,000 square foot mini-educational

center, located in a strip mall, with major emphasis on business, microcomputer, and general education support classes.

In April 1995, MCC partnered in a cooperative agreement for a joint-use facility that combined the LaVista city library and MCC instructional space into one building, called the LaVista Public Library/Metropolitan Community College Sarpy Center. MCC's space and LaVista's library were completed in November 1999, with a community-wide dedication and grand opening held in January 2000.

The college and the City of LaVista share in joint ownership and use of the Sarpy facility, with each entity owning its own portion of the complex yet sharing common space and some equipment. The college and LaVista created a nonprofit organization known as the LaVista/Metropolitan Community College Condominium Owners Association to address routine administrative and maintenance issues pertaining to joint-use aspects of the complex. Refer to the Resource Room for documentation.

The LaVista library occupies 25,700 square feet. Public meeting spaces that are shared by MCC and the LaVista library comprise approximately 8,300 square feet. The total square footage for the entire building is approximately 68,000 square feet. Four hundred parking spaces are provided at this site. Additional information addressing MCC's partnership with the LaVista library is addressed in Chapter 12, Criterion 5-Integrity.

The new Sarpy Center is located on a 20-acre site in the City of LaVista at 9110 Giles Road. Of the shared space, MCC occupies approximately 34,000 square feet, with 15,311 square feet of classroom space. This space is divided into 16 general-purpose classrooms, three computer lab classrooms, and one distance education classroom. In addition, the center has faculty office space, administrative office space, and mechanical and building support areas. See the Resource Room for SRP's floor plan.



Fremont Center

Fremont Center

The Fremont Center is located in the Eastville Shopping Plaza in Fremont, a community of 25,174, 30 miles northwest of Omaha. It primarily serves Dodge and Washington counties, which are part of MCC's four-county service area.

The Fremont Center consists of 7,763 square feet with 3,390 square feet for classroom space and 573 square feet of open computer lab. The center has five general-purpose classrooms, one distance education classroom, two computer labs/classrooms, a computer lab, two administrative offices, one faculty office, storage, and mechanical and restroom facilities.

The Fremont Center offers continuing education classes, English-as-a-second language classes, and ABE/GED coursework for the Fremont and Dodge County areas. The distance education offerings allow the center to provide more classes for its students, and the computer labs bring technology to students who would not otherwise have access to college courses.

In the spring 2001, a 3,000 square foot facility approximately one mile west of the Fremont Center was added. This facility is currently one large area used for lab and classroom instruction. Both facilities are leased. See the Resource Room for the Fremont Center floor plans.

External Facility Utilization

To complement its facilities, the college utilizes external facilities to deliver certain programs and services.

Offutt Center

The Offutt Center, located at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, consists of 2,370 square feet with 2,070 square feet of dedicated classroom space containing two general-purpose classrooms and one computer lab/classroom, besides an administrative office. The center is contained within the base's education complex, which MCC shares with several other postsecondary institutions. MCC uses the base's facilities under a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Air Force. Air Force parking space is used for students.

Nebraska Correction Education Connection

The Nebraska State Department of Corrections (NCEC) contracts with MCC to provide educational programming at nine correctional sites throughout the state. While this is a legal contractual agreement to provide services, a more appropriate description is a solid partnership aimed at supporting inmates throughout the state pursuing educational goals.

Educational services include programming for ABE/GED, ESL, basic life skills, and credit offerings. In addition, courses are offered via the college's interactive TV/distance education system.

In the spring 2002, many state entities were faced with severe budget cuts which included the Department of Corrections. Consequently, the funding for MCC's programs was also cut. The college was able to follow the directives of the state in cutting the budget while at the same time preserving much of the programming. The vocational labs were deleted but other classroom space was kept intact.

The corrections contract is administered through the coordinator of NCEC, who is housed at the Fort Omaha campus but travels to the sites throughout the state. In addition, each site has an NCEC facilitator who supervises staff and manages operations at their locations. The facilities and equipment used in the educational programming are funded and owned by the Nebraska State Department of Corrections.

MCC provides educational services at the following state correctional facilities. For security reasons, maps, room configurations, and other data are not provided.

- **Omaha**
Omaha Correctional Center
Community Corrections Center
Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility
- **Lincoln**
Nebraska State Penitentiary
Community Corrections Center
Lincoln Corrections Center
- **McCook**
Work Ethic Camp
- **Tecumseh**
Tecumseh State Correctional Institution
- **York**
Nebraska Correctional Center for Women

Opportunities/Jobs/Careers

Opportunities/Jobs/Careers (OJC), a business education partnership designed to support the career development of today's students and tomorrow's workforce, offers programs at multiple sites in and around the four-county service area, maximizing interaction between education and business communities. The OJC program is administered from Building 5 at the Fort Omaha campus. See the Resource Room for a list of external facilities used for the OJC program.

Workforce Development Institute™

Workforce Development Institute™ (WDI), which provides customized credit and non-credit programming to business, industry, government, and community organizations, is administered from Building 4 on the Fort Omaha campus and utilizes other facilities in the community to offer services. WDI maintains a computer lab at the Sarpy Center and at the Fort Omaha campus. In addition, the Sarpy Center has a dedicated classroom for WDI needs. Refer to the Resource Room for a list of onsite services companies.

Continuing Education

The Continuing Education department mails over 270,000 noncredit class schedules per quarter to all residents in the metropolitan area. Continuing Education not only offers noncredit courses at the various MCC campuses and centers but also at approximately 100 sites throughout the four-county service area. Refer to the Resource Room for a list of Continuing Education class sites during the 2001-2002 academic year.

Academic Resources, Technology, and Institutional Equipment

MCC's state-of-the-art academic resources and equipment, including its support systems, are demonstrations of the college's commitment to providing students a quality learning environment.

Administrative Computing Services

The Management Information Services (MIS) department is responsible for the administration of all computing services. MIS serves MCC's students, faculty, and staff through Datatel's Colleague administrative system, utilizing the student, financial, and human resources modules within Colleague. The Colleague system resides on a Hewlett-Packard N4000 server located in Building 2 at the Fort Omaha campus. This entire system has 100% electrical back-up power capabilities. MCC also maintains a Hewlett Packard (HP) K570 business continuity server at the South Omaha Campus as a backup to the Fort Omaha system.

One of MIS's priorities is to deliver services via the Web. The MIS department has launched a number of Web projects in the last few years. Online grading was initiated in November 2000, and Web registration was implemented in January 2001. A process for Web transcript requests was implemented in April 2002, with credit card Web payments for courses initiated in June 2002.

MIS also supports the Advance Library System (GEAC) as well as the Raisers Edge Fundraising software for the Foundation office.

Telephony

MCC uses the Iwatsu Private Branch Exchange telephone system, which provides a high level of features and support for faculty, students, and staff.

Each campus has a telephone switch with a direct outside connection to local and long distance carriers as well as a connection to MCC's internal phone network. The system provides seven-digit dialing directly to an individual or office. Additionally, any phone is accessible within the system through four-digit dialing. The Iwatsu PBX allows internal transfers, call coverage for up to 24 extensions, call forwarding, speed dialing, caller identification, last number redial, conference calls, and voice mail notification.

The system also has a voice mail capability 24-hours per day. It allows on- and off-campus message retrieval as well as the capability to store messages up to 90 days, which is a critical contact path for adjunct faculty and students.

WAN

The college's wide-area network (WAN) uses standards-based ATM technology to deliver voice, video, and data to the Fort Omaha, Elkhorn Valley and South Omaha campuses as well as to the Sarpy Center. The Fremont Center is connected with multiple T1's for voice, video, and data. Video links to the Omaha Correctional Center and a video and data link to the University of Nebraska-Omaha also use the ATM circuits.

Network

MCC has a campus network that consists of several campus locations within a four-county area in and around Omaha and includes Cisco routers, HP hubs, HP switches, Nortel Centillion switches, Nortel Baystack switches, Nortel Baystack routers, and Nortel Accelar/Passport switches. The college also utilizes equipment from General Data Comm (GDC) for connectivity to multiple ATM circuits with various levels of total bandwidth. The MCC computer network consists of 83 servers, 12 routers, dozens of Ethernet hubs, and dozens of Ethernet switches.

Computers

MCC has approximately 2,500 computers and 53 laptops distributed across all campus and site locations. Approximately two-thirds of these computers are targeted for student and faculty use in areas such as libraries, computer and program area labs, technology classrooms, and learning centers. Approximately one-third of the computers are distributed for office use for staff and faculty. Laptops and projectors are available for checkout for college-related presentations locally or out of state. These presentation stations, for use by staff and faculty, are located in the libraries.

MCC's ITS staff maintains the computers and ensures they are available to staff and students. Based on the winter quarter 2001-02 survey of cost center managers, the average annual computer downtime was .3% within the last year.

Computer Labs

MCC has fully staffed and equipped computer labs at its three campuses and two centers. The labs, open to currently enrolled students, offer access to the latest computer hardware and software in support of MCC's computer technology programs.

On weekdays, 1-2 full-time supervisors staff each campus lab from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Weekend hours are slightly abbreviated, but are staffed whenever a class is scheduled for its use. Lab usage varies by the day of the week, campus location and time of year. Heaviest usage is Monday through Thursday. On average, the three campus labs serve approximately 90 students per day; the Sarpy Center services approximately 150-200 students each day. The Fremont Center and Offutt serve less than 20 students daily.

Technology Classrooms

The college has 67 technology classrooms located college-wide to support faculty presentations of multimedia and Web-based curricula. Technology classroom equipment includes a custom-designed instructor podium, document camera, VCR, a computer with CD-ROM or DVD-ROM drives and network connectivity, a telephone, and a ceiling-mounted LCD projector. Orientations for users are provided as part of the staff development training plan and can be arranged by appointment. The help desk provides immediate troubleshooting assistance through a telephone located in each classroom.

In addition, the college has LCD projectors located in 26 classrooms used by the Computer and Office Technologies programs to enhance and support the delivery of course content.

Permanent pedestals containing a VCR and large screen monitors are located in 17 classrooms college-wide.

Library Facilities

Library facilities are located at the three campuses. A full-time library supervisor and at least one full-time library assistant as well as a number of part-time library assistants staff each library. Temporary library assistants, a library clerk, and work-study students also staff the libraries, with a total of 19.75 staff for the three libraries. Library staff are available during library hours to assist students and staff in accessing information. All three campus libraries are open 85.5 hours per week when classes are in session, and 42.5 hours per week when classes are not in session.

Table 6.2 Library Hours

Days of the Week	When Classes are in Session	When Classes are not in Session
Monday–Friday	7:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Closed
Sunday	1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Closed

Learning Centers

Learning centers are located at the three campuses and available to all students. Each center is open approximately 80 hours per week and is staffed with a full-time coordinator and a team of part-time instructional assistants. As academic support, MCC's learning centers provide students with a variety of services and access to computer technologies. The centers are further addressed in Chapter 8: Criterion 3–Instructional Services.



Safety

MCC is committed to providing a safe, secure, and healthy environment for all students and employees. Students consider MCC a safe place to attend college. Of the 1,205 student responses in the 2001 student information/student satisfaction survey, 95% (1,144) “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the statement, “I feel safe when I am on any of Metro’s campuses.” Most employees recognize MCC’s commitment to safety. Of the 558 employees who responded in the 2001 employee climate survey, 70% (391) “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that MCC thinks the safety and health of employees are important.

One of the ways MCC demonstrates its commitment to safety is the number of professional development classes it offers that address safety. See the Resource Room for a complete list of all 2001-02 professional development classes pertaining to safety.

Public Safety Department

Another demonstration of MCC's commitment to safety for students and employees is through its Public Safety (PS) department, a model division in providing services to enhance MCC's safe and healthy environment. Because of the PS department's accomplishments, MCC has been the recipient of the Award of Honor with Merit from the Greater Omaha Safety and Health Council for the last six consecutive years.

Crime statistics at MCC are below national averages and have held flat or declined in some areas, indicating sufficient coverage by the department. A recent addition of automated external defibrillators at the three campuses and two centers also demonstrates the department's commitment to the safety and welfare of others. Refer to the Resource Room for supporting documentation.

MCC's public safety officers, certified in first aid and CPR, offer a variety of services such as responding to campus emergencies, escorting staff and students on campus when necessary, providing directions and information, and administering first aid for minor medical incidents. PS also designs and implements college-wide safety programs and conducts yearly training in standard first aid and safety training.

The college's Public Safety department is exemplary in its operations, personnel, and dedication to safety. However, the area would benefit from a formal needs assessment. In light of September 11 and the potential threat to any large institution, the college would benefit from this additional proactive approach to safety.

Emergency Planning

Security and sabotage/terrorism avoidance initiatives are currently being developed and will be implemented through the Facility Management and the Public Safety departments. An Emergency Management Group has been established to enhance the college's ability to recover from an incident. Emergency management courses are offered through professional development to all college employees.

Facilities and Grounds Maintenance

MCC's commitment to facilities and ground maintenance demonstrates its pride in the institution and is one of the college's many strengths. Maintaining 164 acres of land and 36 buildings at multiple sites is a complex endeavor. Its dedicated personnel create an inviting atmosphere to students, faculty, staff, and the community.

The director of Facilities and Grounds Management reports to the executive college business officer. An assistant director, who reports to the director, is in charge of operational duties. An operations coordinator, who reports to the assistant director, is responsible for daily campus/center operations.

Four buildings and grounds managers, one for each campus and the Sarpy Center, are responsible for the custodial, grounds, and maintenance staff at each location. They report to the operations coordinator.

The five areawide trades supervisors, who report to the assistant director, are responsible for the electrical, plumbing, mechanical, carpentry, and painting trades people. A college mechanic who maintains all college vehicles and motorized equipment also reports to the assistant director.

Two project coordinators report to the director. One project coordinator is responsible for internal planning and design; the other project coordinator is responsible for external planning as well as projects and facilities technology.

The department employs 66 people, with part-time temporary staff employed as needed to supplement priorities and workload.

Public Perception and Facility Location

In the 2001 public perception telephone survey, a sampling of 502 residents in the four-county service area was asked if they were aware that MCC offered classes at its different sites. The percentage and the number responding “yes” to each site follow.

Table 6.3 Public Perception Survey and Facilities

Question: Are you aware that MCC offers classes at the _____ ?

Campus/Center	Respondents	Percentage
Elkhorn Valley Campus	390	77.8
Fort Omaha Campus	431	85.8
South Omaha Campus	424	84.6
Fremont Center	224	44.6
Offutt Center	195	38.8
Sarpy Center	232	46.2
Classes in Public Schools	201	40.1
Local Businesses	131	26.0

Survey participants were more aware of classes offered at MCC campuses and centers if those locations were located in or near their county of residence. The further away the campuses/centers from the respondents, the lower their awareness of the facilities and courses offered at a site. Complete survey results are located in the Resource Room.

1995 Master Facility Planning

In 1993, MCC hired Zenon Beringer Mabrey/Partners Inc. to create an updated master facility planning study, which was completed in 1995. Because of the 1995 study, several physical space changes occurred. A summary of these facility modifications and a copy of the 1995 master facility plan are located in the Resource Room.

Although a number of facility changes resulted from the 1995 study, the focus was primarily on remodeling or renovation. During the last 10 years, most of the facility emphasis has been on improvements and reconfiguration of spaces to serve the needs of the college.

With implementation of the 1995 master facility plan, the Facilities Planning Advisory Group (FPAG) was formed. The group, composed of representatives from all vice president and dean areas, facilitates the management of facility priorities from a college-wide perspective, including major renovations and budget requests for renovation by college staff. The FPAG is also responsible for making sure that budgetary requests for equipment coincide with approved facilities renovations.

2003 Master Facility Planning

MCC is undergoing a comprehensive master planning effort with Sasaki Associates, Inc. for the following reasons:

- The master plan interprets and reinforces MCC's identity.
- It provides a physical plan to reinforce the college's mission and gives physical reality to educational and community goals.
- It identifies space needs and explores what the possibilities and limits are for growth at each campus.
- It suggests a sequence that will define and invigorate each campus and helps to ensure that new buildings contribute to the quality and character of each campus.
- It helps to define the college's relationship with its neighbors and with the broader Omaha community.
- It provides a tool to assist with fundraising efforts, voter support for bond issues, and opportunities for public and private partnerships.

The success of the master plan requires that it respond to the needs, values, and aspirations of all members of the MCC community. Consulting with the college's students, faculty, staff, residents of neighborhoods surrounding each campus, and others who have an interest in the college is imperative. The process has been structured to encourage and facilitate input by incorporating individual interviews, campus forums, and work sessions. During the first phase, the planning team held extensive interviews with members of the college community, and campus forums were held to encourage broad input. The interviews and forums will be followed-up with additional sessions during subsequent phases. Initial activity has revealed specific gaps in room and station utilization information that will be addressed as the planning process evolves.

Future Development

The master facility planning process will provide a framework to guide institutional decision-making as future opportunities are considered and prioritized. MCC has taken actions to create numerous opportunities for future growth.

The college has:

- Finalized a transaction with the City of Omaha for land purchase at the South Omaha campus;
- Purchased 10 acres of land in Fremont through an inter-local agreement with the City of Fremont and the Fremont Public Schools and is exploring various options regarding the building of an educational center on the land;
- Purchased an option on 3.9 acres of land in Bellevue with the Bellevue Public Schools and is considering various options regarding MCC's presence at any facility that may be built there; and
- Purchased 3.25 acres at the south end of the Fort Omaha Campus and is exploring options for development of the land.

The college has positioned itself well for future growth opportunities. This topic is further addressed in Chapter 11: Criterion 4–Organizational Stability and Planning.

Conclusion

This chapter addressing MCC's physical resources demonstrates the college's commitment in providing a safe, accessible, and inviting environment for learning. The college provides quality facilities for students. Some would consider the college's academic resources and equipment, along with its support systems, on the cutting-edge of instructional design and delivery.

MCC's sound facilities planning is one reason for the college's success in providing quality resources. The future challenge for MCC will be to maintain this level of success and move the institution forward without any loss in momentum.