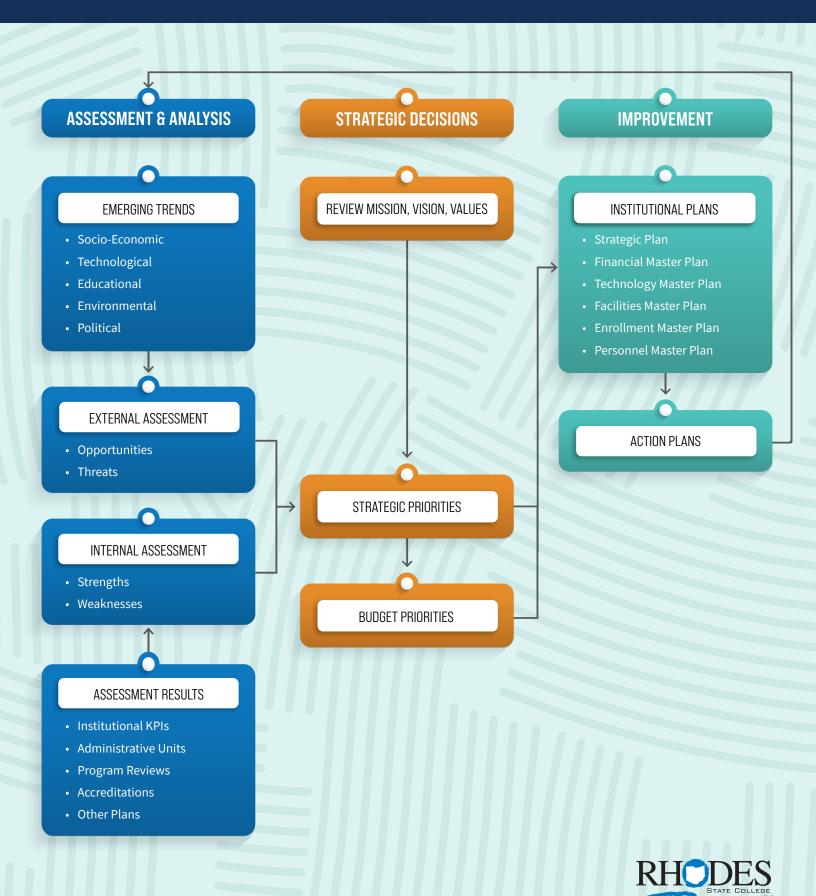
# STRATEGIC AND INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS PLANNING SYSTEM MAP



## **ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS**

Administrative Unit refers to a department or division within the College, not directly involved with teaching, but instead supports the College's operations and specific functions which support the mission and day-to-day activities of the institution (e.g., student affairs, registrar, business office, career services, etc.).

Administrative Unit Effectiveness refers to the degree to which a department or division successfully achieves its intended goals, supports the mission, and operates efficiently. It involves assessing performance to ensure that the unit is functioning optimally, meeting stakeholders' needs, and aligning with institutional priorities.

**Assessment** is the systematic process of gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information to evaluate the performance, effectiveness, or outcomes of the institution, its programs, courses, administrative units, activities and/or initiatives.

**Emerging Trend** refers to a gradual or new unexpected social, technological, economic, environmental and political pattern of behavior or shift in a particular field or industry that can have a long-term impact on the College and influence strategic decisions.

**External Assessment** is conducted by stakeholders external to the institution, where feedback and/or insights related to performance are provided.

**Institutional Effectiveness** is the ability of an institution to match its performance to the purposes established in its mission and vision statements and to the needs and expectations of its stakeholders.

**Institutional Key Performance Indicator** is a regularly produced measure, compared to a standard or benchmark, tracked over time, and describes a specific condition or result that is central to the achievement of the College's mission and to meeting the needs and interests of key stakeholders.

**Institutional Learning Outcome (ILO)** refers to the broad, overarching competency or body of knowledge that all students are expected to achieve prior to leaving the institution. ILOs reflect the essential skills and abilities that the College aims to instill in all graduates, regardless of their degree or major. **Internal Assessments** is conducted by institutional stakeholders to evaluate internal processes, performance, and operations to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. The purpose is to evaluate measurable outcomes for continuous improvement and ensure operational efficiencies and productivity.

**Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** are regularly produced measures that describe a specific condition or result that is central to the achievement of the College's mission and to meeting the needs and interests of key stakeholders. Standards of comparison or a benchmark are established for each KPI, against which progress can be measured.

#### **STRATEGIC DECISIONS**

**Benchmark** refers to an internal or external standards or specific outcomes against which actual results are compared. By comparing College outcomes with established benchmarks, methods or processes can be improved, with the intent to progress toward the expected standards of achievement. The results serve as a foundation for evaluating, and improving institutional KPIs as part of the continuous improvement process.

**Budget Priorities** refer to the allocation of resources toward specific programs, projects, or areas that are critical to the institution's mission, growth, or improvement. They help determine where funding should be directed, ensuring that limited resources are used efficiently for optimization of College-wide initiatives or needs.

**Budget Framework** is a structured approach used by the College to manage financial resources. It outlines the limitations and resource controls for budgeting activities, ensuring that the allocation, tracking, and management of funds align with institutional priorities, operational compliance, and financial policies.

**Budget Performance** refers to the process of comparing the actual financial results of the College, or unit of the College, with budgeted expectations.

# **STRATEGIC DECISIONS**

**Goals** are observable and measurable results that provide clear direction and focus, enabling progress to be tracked and evaluated over time.

**Initiatives** refer to specific actions, projects, or programs that represent a strategic effort to address institutional priorities.

Institutional Priorities refer to the critical areas of focus necessary for advancing institutional progress and achieving mission-driven key performance indicators (KPIs). Institutional priorities are a result of an analysis of emerging trends (socio-economic, technological, educational, environmental, political); external and internal SWOT analysis; and institutional assessment results. These priorities guide decision-making for budget priorities ensuring that all efforts align with the College's overarching strategic goals and compliance.

**Milestone** a significant point or event within an initiative that marks the completion of key tasks or phases necessary to achieve broader goals.

**Targets** are specific, measurable benchmarks established to achieve a goal. They provide concrete reference points for assessing progress.

**Task** refers to a single specific activity or step that needs to be completed to achieve a particular outcome or goal. It is a concrete, actionable item that can be assigned, tracked, and executed within a project or process.

### **IMPROVEMENT**

Action Plan is a detailed, outline that specifies the steps required to achieve a particular goal or initiative and serves as a roadmap for implementation, ensuring that tasks are organized and responsibilities are clearly defined.

**Institutional Plans** are core foundational documents confined to articulating and shaping the purpose, direction, and future growth and development of the institution.

Master Plans are long-term planning documents that layout a conceptual guide for the planned development, maintenance, enhancement, and management of key institutional resources, infrastructure, and enrollments. College master plans include Enrollment, Facilities, Financial, Personnel, and Technology.

**Strategic Plan** is a comprehensive document that outlines the College's mission, vision, goals, and plan of action for goal achievement. It serves as a framework for guiding decision-making, resource allocation, improvement and growth over an established period of time. Other plans (i.e., completion, enrollment) feed into the SIEPS Assessment & Analysis phase. The strategic plan supports the achievement of institutional effectiveness.



MEASURING OUR



Rhodes State College's commitment to a greater purpose of existence is pronounced in its Mission.

The Mission is foundational to the Strategic Plan and for attaining the highest level of institutional effectiveness.

# MISSION

Rhodes State College changes lives, builds futures and improves communities through life-long learning.

