

**FEDERAL COMPLIANCE
MATERIAL PACKET**

College of DuPage
Quality Checkup Site Visit
April 25 to 27, 2007

1. Student Loan Default Rate:

College of DuPage participates in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) including both the Stafford Loan Program for students and the PLUS Loan Program for parents. Each year the U.S. Department of Education calculates a cohort default rate for loans made to students who have received student loans while attending C.O.D. The cohort default rates for the past five years are as follows:

COD DEFAULT RATE HISTORY

<u>FY2001</u>	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005(draft)</u>
9.5%	13.1%	17.4%	16.7%	12.4%

An FFELP default rate can affect an institution's eligibility to participate in the federal financial aid programs. Participation is impacted if the default rate exceeds 25% for three consecutive years. The College of DuPage default rate is of concern and hopefully the downward trend will continue as the college bolsters its default prevention efforts. Loan counseling and financial education are of primary focus and are beginning to show their impact.

Several efforts are currently underway to address default prevention:

- New student orientation provides information on the process of applying as well as the impact and obligation of various types of aid.
- Active confirmation is required for students being offered loans as part of their aid package.
- Counseling students to understand their rights and responsibilities prior to and once they become borrowers.
- Continued reminders of loan obligations and estimated repayment requirements. As students progress academically and begin to reach borrowing limits, a Debt Management statement is sent as an alert which requires the student to meet with a Counselor/Advisor for educational planning.
- Restrict the amount students can borrow each semester to one half the amount of their annual loan limit.
- An optional course offered by the college for credit (EDUC1115) is being reviewed for possible inclusion of information on financial planning and debt management.
- As students complete exit counseling they are provided loan repayment and deferment information to insure their familiarity of next steps.
- In conjunction with Student Government, the state guarantor, and lenders, information sessions on financial planning and debt management are being planned. These sessions will be offered throughout the academic year.

2. Commission Policy 1.C.7, Credits, Program Length and Tuition

Credits

The college standards for offering college credit are based on regulations set forth by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB).

C.O.D.'s Fall and Spring semester courses are offered in a 15 week format with a 16th week exam period. Classes are 50 minutes of instruction per credit for 15 weeks equaling 750 minutes plus a 2 hour exam.

Program Length

C.O.D. offers Associate Degree and Certificate Programs. C.O.D. offers seven (7) Associate Degree's:

- Associate in Arts (AA)
- Associate in Fine Arts – Art (AFA)
- Associate in Fine Arts – Music (AFA)
- Associate in General Studies (AGS)
- Associate in Science (AS)
- Associate in Engineering Science (AES)
- Associate in Applied Science (AAS)

The college is regulated by the Illinois Community College Board and follows all ICCB guidelines. C.O.D. follows a statewide practice of requiring a minimum of 64 academic credits for an associate degree.

To be awarded an associate's degree at C.O.D., students must:

1. Complete 64 credits of course work.
2. Complete 20 credits of course work at C.O.D.
3. Have earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 in all course work.
4. Meet the "Constitution" requirement by presenting credit in History or Political Science earned at College of DuPage, or a satisfactory score on a test on the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Illinois, or present a transcript from an Illinois high school specifically stating that the Constitution requirement has been met. (The distribution of credits in Natural Science, Social Science, and Humanities varies based on degree granted AA, AFA, AGS, AS, AES, AAS.)

For a complete description of graduation requirements please see pg. 69 of the 2005/07 College of DuPage Catalog or visit the college's web site: www.cod.edu.

Certificate Programs

Certificate programs are generally 30 to 32 credits and are often found in their counterpart Associate of Arts and Science degree programs.

Tuition

Tuition at C.O.D. is calculated based on course credit hours.

C.O.D. Tuition and Fees Rates for Fall 2006:

- Resident \$ 96.00 per credit hour
- Non-Resident \$ 142.00 per credit hour
- Out of State \$ 202.00 per credit hour

Other community colleges within the immediate area are priced at:

- Harper College \$95.00 per contact hour plus \$21.00 student activity fee and \$15.00 registration fee per semester
- Oakton Community College \$94.60 per credit hour plus \$15.00 per semester registration fee

3. Commission Policy III.A.1, *Professional Accreditation*, and III.A.3, *Requirements of Organizations Holding Dual Institutional Accreditation*

III.A.1., *Professional Accreditation*

C.O.D. has program accreditation in several programs:

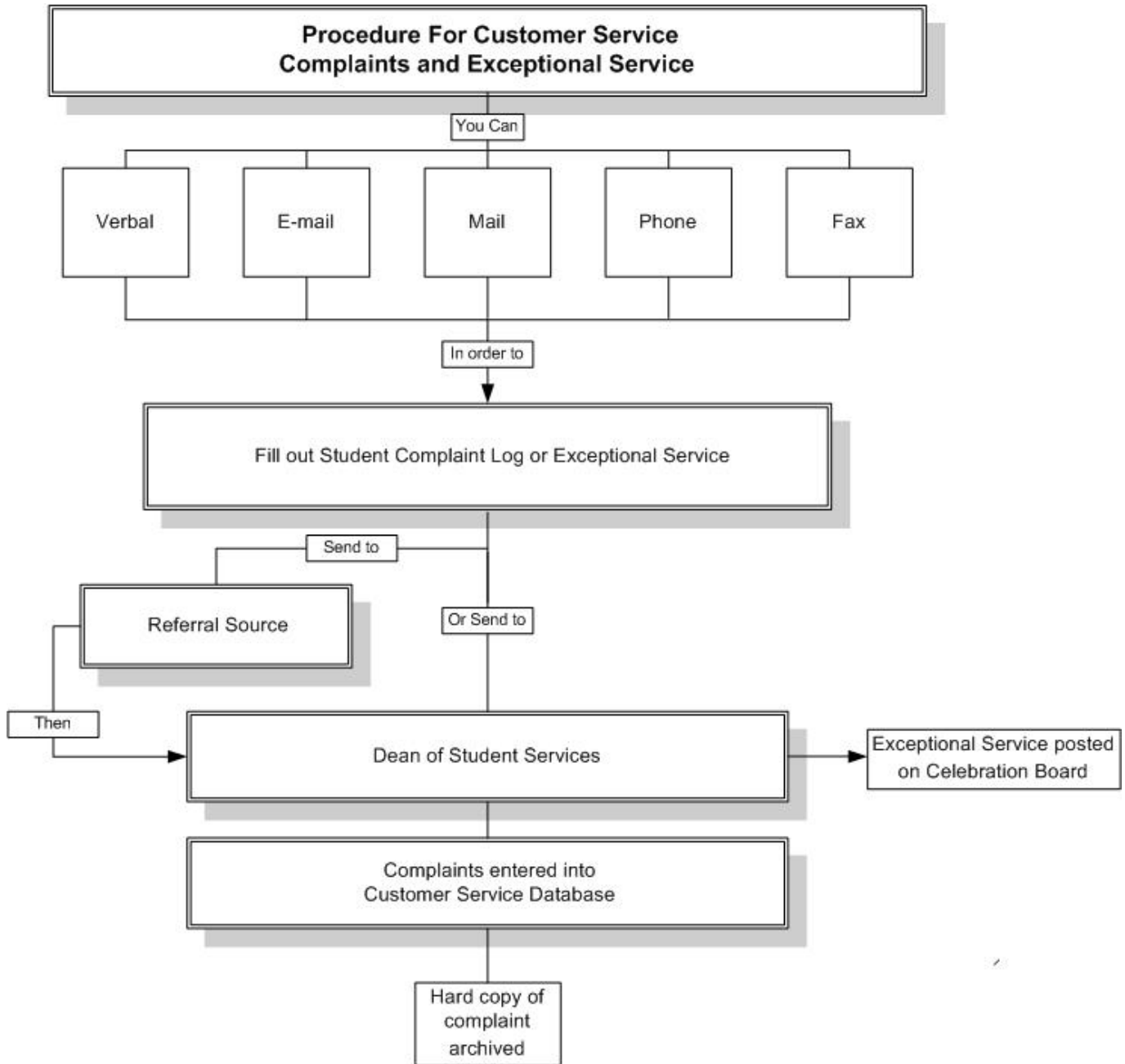
- Automotive Technology—National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF)
- Diagnostic Medical Imaging Nuclear Medicine—American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (AART) and Nuclear Medicine Technologist Certification Board (NMTCB)
- Diagnostic Medical Imaging Radiography—Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology
- Health Information Technology—Commission on Accreditation of Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM)
- Occupational Therapy Assistant – Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
- Physical Therapist Assistant—Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE)

III.A.3, *Requirements of Institutions Holding Dual Institutional Accreditation*

COD does not hold dual institutional accreditation.

4. Commission Policy IV.B.4, *Organizational Records of Student Complaints*

We have developed a process to monitor the number of student complaints, nature and the action taken for resolution. A flowchart of the process is shown below. By having a formal process, we are now able to establish a student complaint summary report. The reports get monitored regularly each semester looking for trends and identifying areas of improvement. Information is distributed to appropriate areas within the college for possible future planning.



Information for students regarding formal policies regarding student academic grievance procedures and discipline grievance procedures is found in the College Catalog (page 52). Both documents can also be viewed at: <http://www.cod.edu/Catalog>.

5. Commission Goals and Expectations in Soliciting Third-Party Comments in Relation to Accreditation Processes

The Commission requires organizations undergoing a comprehensive evaluation to publish basic information about the visit in appropriate publications and invite the public to provide written comments to the Commission. The following announcement was published in the Daily Herald on March 16, 2007:

LEGAL NOTICE

College of DuPage is seeking comments from the public about the College in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The College will undergo this evaluation visit on Wednesday to Friday, April 25 to 27, by a team representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. College of DuPage has been accredited by the Commission since 1967. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college:

Public Comment on College of DuPage
The Higher Learning Commission
30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60602

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; comments cannot be treated as confidential.

6. Title IV Compliance:

College of DuPage participates in the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, Federal College Work Study Program, and the Federal Family Education Loan Programs (FFELP) including both the Stafford Loan Program for students and the PLUS Loan Program for parents.

Over the past several years, the College has undergone a variety of financial aid program reviews and audits.

The State of Illinois performed a compliance review of state and federal financial aid programs for the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 academic years. The state acts as the reviewing entity for the applicable Federal programs and reports accordingly. During the course of this review, two minor administrative issues were noted and identified as isolated instances and closed without necessary response or further action.

The College's annual external audit reviews Title IV compliance. No audit exceptions were noted for the 2004-2005 academic year. One exception was noted for the 2005-2006 academic year which was reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education. Their final audit determination indicated that the institution's corrective action would alleviate the procedural issue.

Documents relevant to Title IV compliance will be available on-site.

7. Commission Policy IV.B.2, *Advertising and Recruitment Materials*

The following statement is provided on-line at <http://www.cod.edu/accreditation/> and will be printed in the 2007-2009 official college catalog:

The College of DuPage is accredited by
The Higher Learning Commission; Member, North Central Association
Academic Quality Improvement Program Participant

Samples of the College of DuPage's advertising and recruiting materials will be available for on-site inspection.