

The Helm

Keeping Advisers On Course

Counseling and Advising Services
College of DuPage
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Are We There Yet?

Conversion Survey Results Are In



Conversion has been on everyone's mind at College of DuPage. Information regarding the actual conversion date, Wednesday, August 31, and everything that leads to it has been articulated to students, faculty, and staff.

Transition Workshops, *Quarterly* covers, *Courier* articles, multiple reminder postcards, a **Semester Conversion Student Handbook** (now in its second printing), and even an official Semester Conversion website: <http://www.cod.edu/semester1/index.htm> have been created to update everyone about the various phases of the conversion.

Just how well have we been doing? During February, a random sample of students in various classrooms was asked to complete a short two page survey. Almost one thousand students were asked about their general knowledge of the conversion, and here's what they said. Ninety-six per cent of respondents said they knew the college will convert to semesters in August 2005. However, only 16% of students have already spoken to an adviser regarding the conversion. Of those who have not, 26% said they plan to do so.

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Conversion Has Created Its Own Jargon



Along with the development of new semester courses, College of DuPage has created its own conversion language. Unique terms have originated to help the college community understand the conversion process. A **transition student** is someone who will obtain credit at COD under both the quarter and semester systems. **Transition courses** have been created to assist our *transition students* in making steady progress towards their academic goals during the conversion.

There are three types of *transition courses*: **Bridge Courses**, **Reverse Bridge Courses** and **Incomplete Sequence Courses**. **Bridge courses** will enable students to complete the second year of their health science program in the semester format. **Bridge courses** will be offered from Fall 2005 to Summer 2006 only.

Reverse bridge courses are semester content courses offered during the quarter term, for quarter credit, taught prior to Fall 2005. These courses are Math 078 and 079, which replace 081,082, and 083; and Math 228 and Math 229, which replace 231, 232 and 233. These courses will allow students to seam-

lessly continue their math studies without concern about how to combine quarter and semester courses.

Incomplete sequence courses are quarter content courses offered beginning in Fall 2005 under the semester system for semester credit. These courses include Biology 1902 and 1903, replacing 102 and 103; English 1902 and 1903, replacing 102 and 103; and Physics 1953 and 1963, replacing 153 and 253.

And as always, students are to be reminded of the importance of the completion of any "repeat" or sequence courses before the conversion.

Obviously new terminology has been created to support an age old issue, how to best serve the students. Throughout the conversion process, by keeping the needs of the students in the forefront, innovative thinking has created some new solutions. Students will need to meet with a General Adviser, Counselor or Faculty Adviser to obtain the necessary permits for registration in transition courses. Encourage students with questions to contact the academic departments directly or the Counseling and Advising office at 630/942-2259; or to stop by SRC 2044 for a referral to the appropriate contact.

Students Provide the Rich Tapestry Of International Cultures



Conjure up a country, and chances are that College of DuPage has welcomed an “F-1” international student from there. What exactly does “F-1” mean? Federal immigration regulations define “F-1” as a visa classification for non-immigrants whose sole purpose for coming to the U.S. is to pursue full-time study in an academic or language program. Currently, approximately 200 “F-1” international students representing more than 56 nationalities are enrolled at COD. The following are some of the countries included in this list: Rwanda, Croatia, Nigeria, India, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Myanmar (formerly Burma), and Burkina Faso (a West African nation).

“F-1” students must be high school graduates; show that they have sufficient funds for their tuition and living expenses in the United States; and are required to prove their English proficiency by way of the TOEFL Exam (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or by completion of COD’s intensive English language program prior to being admitted to an academic program. “F-1” international students are also required to pay out-of-state tuition.

The International Student Office in IC 2084A, headed by Tracey Klickman, provides immigration advising and logistical assistance for “F-1” students. The International Student Office also provides limited academic advising services, which include initial referrals for ESL advising and placement testing, and assistance with first term course selection.

To comply with U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requirements, Klickman must confirm each student’s current address, major, enrollment status, and verify information from the student’s immigration documents at the beginning of each term. She is also required to report any changes in this information to DHS within 21 days.

To retain “F-1” status, international students must be enrolled full-time. In order to ensure that students do not fall below twelve quarter/semester hours, a “K” hold is placed on their COD registration record. (Incidentally, the “K” stands for Klickman.) This unique distinction ensures that students do not withdraw from classes without Klickman’s knowledge, and prevents students from dropping below full-time status without obtaining proper immigration authorization. The “K” hold can only be removed by the International Student Office.

For questions regarding “F-1” international student advising, contact Klickman at 630/942-3328, or check <http://www.cod.edu/advising/international.htm>, the International Student Advising website. The next F-1 International Student Orientation for new students will be held on March 24th from 10:00AM-Noon. Interested faculty and staff are welcome to attend. Please call for further details.

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More than half the student (58%) are aware that the fall semester starts in August, but fewer students (40%) know that fall registration begins in May.

Almost half the students (49%) agree that the college has provided them with the information they need for the conversion. Many (33%) are neutral regarding the college meeting their information needs, and 13% of students feel the college has not provided the information they need.

In general, students who need to know about the conversion, do. Of the 3% of students who were not aware of the conversion, most were course-takers who were not working to complete a degree or certificate.

Regardless of a student’s age or the number of credits earned, the top sources of information are classroom discussions, mailings to the home, the *Quarterly* class schedule, the college’s web site. Clearly classroom discussions led by instructors are a powerful method of communication.

Since many students said they have yet to discuss the conversion with an adviser, faculty must encourage students to see an adviser, counselor, or faculty adviser to get the information they need. Faculty needing assistance on arranging group advising may contact Mandy Kouri, at extension 2812.

What Time Is It?



Check out the newly developed Academic Advising Calendar, at : <http://www.cod.edu/advising/calendar.htm> . At this location you will find a sequential listing of activities such as college representative visits; departmental advising sessions, open houses or fairs; orientation dates specific to program areas; as well as special seminars or workshops. If there is an event which you would like included on this calendar, click on the website listed above, or contact Mandy Kouri, at extension 2812.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Tour 2005



Over twenty College of DuPage students will be leaving on the HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) tour April 5 through April 12. These students will be visiting Howard University, Georgetown University, Hampton University, Norfolk State University, Virginia Union University, and the College of William and Mary. They will make Richmond, Virginia their home base and visit two institutions each day. Students will have an opportunity to meet with admissions personnel, tour the buildings and grounds, experience the campus community, as well as visit historical and cultural exhibits.

According to Julia Willis, Multicultural Adviser, "Students come back different, changed people with a new perspective. They can actually imagine a four year institution in their future. The freshmen get an idea of how our courses transfer and what courses to plan on taking their sophomore year. Some of our sophomore students have already applied to these institutions and they can speak to the insti-

tion personnel to get an update regarding their application." Willis added, "We are really pleased that last year nine COD students transferred to a HBCU."

Criteria for interested students includes: 2.5 or above GPA; community service experience or completion of two volunteer activities between the time of application and trip; typewritten essay answering a specific question; willingness to fundraise sponsorship money (minimum of \$250); and submission of a complete application and permission forms.

The selection process for this year has been completed. Recruitment for next year's trip which will take place in April 2006, will begin in the Fall term, during September and October. Faculty is encouraged to make referrals for students who they think could benefit from this experience. For questions or information contact the Multicultural Student Center at 630/942-2848.

Private Illinois College and University (PICU) Session Set For March 3

Twenty-six Illinois colleges and universities will come together at the College of DuPage to provide an update session for advisers, counselors, and faculty. The update session will take place from 9:00am-10:00am in SRC 1450B. From 10:00am-1:00pm the upper walkway by the SRC will be full of admissions personnel, recruitment materials, and interested students. Encourage your students to attend.

Smooth Sailing Ahead: Essentials of Semester Conversion

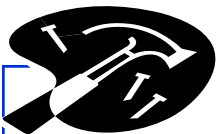


The transition workshop, "Smooth Sailing Ahead: Essentials of Semester Conversion" developed by Advisers Stephanie Rose and Deb Humphreville, will continue through Spring quarter. This one hour workshop offers tools and tips for making a smooth transition to semesters. As new information becomes available, the presentation is continually updated. The workshop will be held on multiple dates and times. Please encourage your students to attend this important workshop.

March 8, 2-3pm, IC 1000

April 6, 1-2pm, IC 2003

April 27, 3-4pm, IC 2003



Tools and Tips
By
Marge Peters
Reference Librarian

DISCOVER: One-Stop Career and College Information

Looking for an all-in-one resource to recommend to students for career interest exploration, college match, choice of major and occupational information? Be sure to check out the DISCOVER database, brought to you by ACT.

This subscription database is available at: <http://webapps01.act.org/eDISCOVER/Login.jsp>

Modules are available in various areas of interest. Because it is a for-free database, a login and password is required to enter the site. Send students to the College and Career Information Center (CCIC) on the upper level of the Library to get individual login credentials, currently good through August '05. If you need a login/password immediately to help a student you are meeting with, call CCIC at 630/942-2386 and the information can be given over the phone. If you have questions, contact Marge Peters at: petersm@cdnet.cod.edu.

Welcome Spring!



The following **Student Success** Workshops will be offered:

Time, Time, Time is On Your Side... Yes It Is

April 11, noon to 1:00PM in the Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 1450A (inside the cafeteria). Edison Wells, Counselor, will be the presenter.

Always running around at the last minute? Try taking this session on time management where you will find out exactly where you are spending your time and how best to prioritize it.

Goal Setting and Goal Attainment

April 19, noon to 1:00PM in the Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 1450A (inside the cafeteria).

Jeanne Kempiak, Counselor, will be the presenter.

Come and learn steps for success. How do you put together where and what you want to be with how you're going to get there? Discover simple strategies that you can use on a daily basis.

A.D.D. and Student Success Skills: Meet the Students

April 20, 6:00PM to 7:00PM in the Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 1450A & B (inside the cafeteria). Michael Duggan, Counselor, will be the presenter.

The final part of this series will involve meeting students with Attention Deficit and hearing their personal stories of navigating through college. Topics of discussion will include pre-college educational experiences, successful study strategies, recommendations for success in higher education, and what life is like outside of classes.

The following **Food for Thought** Workshops will be offered:

Sex and Violence: Images of Women in the Media

March 1, Noon to 1:30PM and March 2, 6:00PM to 7:30PM, in the Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 1450A & B (inside the cafeteria). Joyce Fletcher, Counselor, will be the presenter.

During Women's History Month explore the often toxic images of girls and women in the media by viewing "The Strength to Resist: Beyond Killing Us Softly." A discussion will follow.

Exhibit E: Exposing the Truth About Club Drugs

April 27, Noon to 1:00PM in the Student Resource Center (SRC), Room 1450A & B (inside the cafeteria). Corinne Duffy, from PROJECT X and Breaking Free

Join us to learn the dangers of the most popular "designer drugs," including Ecstasy, Methamphetamine, GHB Ketamine and Rohypnol. Discover how these chemical drugs affect the mind and body. Discussion to follow.

Student Success educational sessions, sponsored by Student Services, and **Food for Thought** educational sessions, sponsored by the Counseling Services are free of charge and open to all College of DuPage faculty, students, staff, administrators, and community members. Pre-registration is not required. For more information for **Student Success** call: 630/942-2259; for **Food for Thought** call: 630/942-2004.

For Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).

We welcome comments and suggestions to **The Helm.**

Please contact: Mandy Kouri, Advising Support Coordinator
Counseling and Advising Services
SRC 2044f/Ext. 2812
kourim@cdnet.cod.edu



The cure for anything is salt water—sweat, tears, or the sea.
Quote attributed to Isak Dinesen, 1885-1962