Guam Community College
Board of Trustees

Distance Education Policy

WHEREAS, distance education (hereinafter referred to as DE) refers to the practice of offering educational services – either instruction or support services – to students who are not physically co-located with the individuals providing the service. DE includes the use of computer and Internet-based educational services as well as video and audio services. Institutions use Internet technologies to bring students educational programming in either synchronous (students and the service provider are interacting on line at the same time) or asynchronous modes (students and the service provider not interacting on line at the same time). Educational interactions delivered through these means may occur on campus as well as off campus, and

WHEREAS, DE can be a convenient, flexible, and effective means of providing education. Nearly half of all the college students in the country are of the age group once thought of as nontraditional. They are working adults or adults seeking first educational credentials or retraining. Many working adult students with multiple demands on their time find DE to meet their needs better than campus-based education, and

WHEREAS, DE is also an opportunity for the College and the students to contribute to environmentally friendly practices. Courses that run through DE reduce the use of paper and copying, as resources are available digitally. In addition, students commute to campus less frequently than traditional courses, lessening the use of gas and related emissions into the environment, and

WHEREAS, in addition to working adults, the traditional-aged college students come to campus with extensive experience using digital technologies in their personal and school lives. For these students, DE that involves the use of Internet, web casts, text messaging, and other digital media is comfortable and familiar. As technology continues to expand world-wide, participation in DE assists students in preparing for the workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this document serves as a policy for the College to support the policy on distance education and correspondence education of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) (Revised January 2010).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a manual will be developed based on this policy. The manual will include specific forms, and other detailed processes that are necessary to ensure the policy is implemented.

Adopted: July 7, 2010

Resolution No: 7-2010

verified through official college transcripts) on building an online course, minor troubleshooting, and features of a course management system.

- Faculty must be able to provide minimal technical assistance to students (e.g., course enrollment into course management systems, access to online course materials, access to online examinations, etc.). The College will identify an individual person or department to provide further assistance for students and faculty.

- As per the WASC Distance Learning Policy, the College must ensure that the student enrolling in course is the same student who completes the course. Therefore, students enrolling in DE courses must present photo identification during the orientation procedure. Only those enrolled students should receive the enrollment key or password to enter the course. Students enrolled must agree, in writing, to be solely responsible for the completion of the course.

- Faculty and staff involved in DE courses will be provided with training opportunities specific to online learning.

Resources

- *Copyright*. Faculty and students must refrain from using copyrighted materials illegally and seek permission from the respective author or publisher to use copyrighted material. For more information on the U.S. Copyright Law, visit the U.S. Copyright Office's web site.

Privacy/Security

- In accordance with the U.S. Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), the College is committed to protecting the privacy of all faculty and students enrolled in DE courses. The information collected will only be visible to the instructor, system managers, technical support team and other pertinent personnel. In order to ensure privacy, posting personal information such as phone numbers and addresses are discouraged and should be kept confidential. Sole access to DE courses should be limited to the registered student to maintain integrity of privacy and academic integrity as well.

Support

- *Basic Student Support Services.* Each student enrolled in a DE course shall have access to all the academic support services, instructional equipment, and campus events and other non-academic activities provided to other students. Support services may include, but are not limited to, academic advising, counseling, library services, computer access, tutoring services and financial aid.

- *Library Support.* The Library shall provide equivalent, effective and appropriate support for DE courses. Library support may include, but is not limited to, access to over 7,000 different periodicals (majority of which are available full-text) and online public access of the library catalog (through the GCC Library web page) and other strategies that emphasize access to these resources.