

**GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Board of Trustees**

**DISTANCE EDUCATION POLICY**

**WHEREAS**, distance education (hereinafter referred to as DE) refers to the practice of providing educational services – either instruction or support services – to students who are physically separated from the individuals providing the service. DE includes the use of computer and Internet-based educational services as well as video and audio services to accomplish the instruction. Institutions use Internet technologies to bring students educational programming in either synchronous (students and the service provider are interacting simultaneously) or asynchronous modes (students and the service provider are interacting without any simultaneous requirement). Educational interactions delivered through these means may occur on campus as well as off campus; 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, reducing the use of gas and decreasing related emissions into the environment; and

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

**WHEREAS**, in addition to working adults, the traditional-aged college students come to campus with extensive experience through the use of digital technologies in their personal lives and at school. For these students, DE that involves the use of Internet, webcasts, text messaging, and other digital media is comfortable and familiar; however, the College acknowledges that all students, traditional and nontraditional, will benefit from measures put in place to prepare them for structured, academic tasks and an online learning environment; and

**WHEREAS**, as technology continues to expand worldwide, participation in DE prepares students for future employment; and

**WHEREAS**, the College has completed a Distance Education Strategic Plan.

**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 August 2012); and

**Page 2: GCC Board of Trustees Policy 340 – Distance Education Policy**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a manual will be developed based on this policy. Discussions will be held with stakeholders during the development of the manual and will include an assessment of student preparedness for DE and a consequent approach to meeting student training needs that is applicable to the current times. The manual will include specific forms, and other detailed processes that are necessary to ensure the policy is implemented.

**Amended & Adopted: September 9, 2022  
Resolution 11-2022**

**Amended & Adopted: February 16, 2018  
Resolution 1-2018**

**Adopted: July 7, 2010  
Resolution 7-2010**