



DISTANCE ED CONNECTIONS

A NEWSLETTER FOR CCCC'S DISTANCE STUDENTS

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[WWW.CCCC.EDU/DE/](http://www.cccc.edu/de/)

DE NEWS—Summer 2009

BUY AN EDUCATION...NOT A DEGREE!!

Electing to continue your education is an important, and potentially expensive, endeavor. It is not something that should be taken lightly or without some research. But, how do you know if the institution you are considering is legitimate? This is where accreditation comes in!

Accreditation, simply put, is a measure of quality. The U.S. Department of Education sets standards for accrediting agencies. These agencies then set standards for institutions of learning. There are many recognized agencies, some of which are broad in scope, while others pertain to specific programs. A list is available on the U.S. Department of Education website. It is important to check this list when evaluating schools and programs within schools. Unfortunately, there are some companies posing as accrediting agencies that are not legitimate.



Obtaining a degree or taking classes through an unaccredited institution poses many problems. Courses will not transfer to other institutions. Degrees will not be deemed valid by institutions or employers. Furthermore, it is against the law in some states to indicate you have a degree if it was obtained from an unaccredited school.

Checking the accreditation of a school is surprisingly easy. A quick search on the U.S. Department of Education website is all that is needed. One can conduct a search on the school name and the results will show not only the valid general accreditation of the institution, but also any specialized accreditation(s). All recognized agencies are included in this search.

Resources

General Information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/School_accreditation

Accreditation Search: <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>

DE'S NEW COUNSELOR

CCCC has a new distance education counselor, Rory Dutterer. She earned her B.S. in Legal Studies from University of Maryland University College and her M.S. in Management Information Systems from Nova Southeastern University. Dutterer is no stranger to distance education, as she has experience as a distance student, professor, and on-site facilitator. In her various roles, she has had the opportunity to work with all types of students. This includes high school students up through and including bachelor candidates in their final semester.



Dutterer has been busy working on resources to assist CCCC's distance education population. The online community at CCCC will notice a number of changes to the College Resources 101 course, as well as the return of this newsletter.

CCCC NEWS AND BEYOND

- ◆ **During June and July, campus will only be staffed Monday—Thursday (7am-7pm).**
- ◆ **Tutorials and FAQs are available in the COUGAR'S DEN!!**
www.cccc.edu/de/cougarsden
- ◆ **Beginning July 1, students should check WebAdvisor to view their current CCCC balance.**
webadv.cccc.edu/WA/

CHANGES IN REGISTRATION

With the warm summer weather comes changes in the registration policies at Central Carolina Community College. Students will begin to notice these changes beginning with the Summer 2009 semester. There are a number of changes related to registering and paying for your courses. These changes will affect all students. The two major changes that have the most impact are the removal of “pre-registration” and when payment is due.

In past semesters, students would view the course offerings, speak with their advisor, “pre-register,” and then officially register at a later date. This will no longer be the case. Now, students will still view the course offerings and speak with their advisor. However, pre-registration will no longer take place. Instead, the student will be able to register right then and there.

Previously, payment was due at the time of registration. This too is changing beginning in the summer semester. Instead, students will be able to register and have a payment due date. The payment plan and financial aid will still be available and will not be affected by the changes. Payment due dates are as follows:

Summer Tuition Due Dates

- May 15: Early Registration Tuition Due by 3pm.
- May 21: Open Registration Tuition Due by 3pm.
- May 29: Late Registration Tuition Due by 12pm.



Fall Tuition Due Dates

- August 10: Early Registration Tuition Due by 5pm.
- August 17: Early Registration Tuition Due by 5pm.
- August 21: Open Registration Tuition Due by 12pm.

These tuition due dates serve a dual purpose. Payment must be received by CCCC by these dates and times. If payment is not received, the student risks deregistration. This means that the student may be removed from the course due to non-payment. However, students wishing to drop the course(s) must still officially withdraw or may be required to pay for the course(s). Students should **NOT** rely on the deregistration process as a means of dropping a course! However, if deregistration does occur, the student’s entire schedule will be purged from the system. As a result, the “seat” will be opened up for other students. This could result in the original student not being able to take the course. Once a schedule is purged, information regarding specific courses within that schedule will no longer be available. Students in this situation who wish to register again must meet with their advisor in order to draft a new schedule.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE??

One of the goals of the Distance Education Department is to ensure that information is being provided to students in a timely manner. This newsletter and College Resources 101 are the primary methods for providing information to students. But, the question remains ... What information do you need/want?



WEBADVISOR

Student Self-Service



Beginning in the Spring semester, WebAdvisor was available to view the course offerings at CCCC. The benefits were immediately recognized by anyone searching the schedule.

WebAdvisor allows many options for finding classes, including subject, course level, meeting times, meeting days, title, location, and instructor. Search results show the above information, as well as if the section is open and how many seats are still available.

Beginning with the fall semester, additional features will be available. WebAdvisor will become the one-stop spot for CCCC students. With the new registration policies in effect, students will be able to register without paying at the same time. Tuition for the fall semester will be available via WebAdvisor to provide students with real-time access to their account balance. Students will be able to view their Fall account information beginning July 1, 2009.

In addition to billing information, students will be able to obtain their final course grades from within their WebAdvisor account. In fact, final grades for the fall 2009 semester will not be mailed to students. This information will only be available via WebAdvisor.

Many other pieces of information will also be available. This includes such things as student current contact information on file. Your current academic advisor and program of study information will also be available. Lastly, information regarding any financial aid you are receiving will also be included.

Students should rest assured that their information is protected by this new system. A secure login will provide privacy and ensure no one is able to access information without the proper credentials. Students will just be able to more easily access their own account information.

DE CALENDAR & IMPORTANT REMINDERS

May 20 Open Registration.	July 9 Last day of 8 week classes.	August 17 Students must pay fall balance by 5pm or risk deregistration.
May 21 Students must pay fall balance by 5pm or risk deregistration.	July 16 Last Day to Withdraw Without a "WF" (10-week).	August 21 Students must pay fall balance by 12pm or risk deregistration.
May 26 First day of Summer Classes.	July 27 Graduation Practice.	August 24 First Day of Fall courses.
May 28 Last day to Register, Add/Drop, and make contact with Instructor.	FINALS Check course syllabus.	August 31 Deregistration for non-payment.
May 29 Students must pay fall balance by 5pm or risk deregistration.	August 6 Graduation.	
	August 10 Students must pay fall balance by 5pm or risk deregistration.	



Changes in Brief

- ◆ **Blackboard:**
The gradebook portion of Blackboard has been upgraded to version 8. As a result, passwords have been reset to your birthday. Your gradebook for each class will now look slightly different.
- ◆ **WebAdvisor:**
Beginning for the fall 2009 semester, students will be able to use WebAdvisor to check their balance. Additional information will also be available.
- ◆ **College Resources 101:**
Revisions and additions will continue to appear. As always, important information will be available here and students should check in frequently.
- ◆ **Deregistration:**
CCCC will begin using a process called deregistration for students who have not paid for their courses by a certain date. However, if you no longer wish to take a course for which you are registered, you must still complete the drop form. Do not assume you will be dropped for non-payment!



Cubby's DE WordSearch

- ◆ Accreditation
- ◆ Asynchronous
- ◆ Blackboard
- ◆ College Resources
- ◆ Cougar Mail
- ◆ Discussions
- ◆ Financial Aid
- ◆ myCCCC
- ◆ Online
- ◆ Orientation
- ◆ Proctor
- ◆ Smarthinking
- ◆ Syllabus

D O F B X A C C R E D I T A T I O N U N
 N P D C Z I X O O G Y E U O T G J O M C
 A I Y H U B F L S L U B J R F N D G S Z
 F O Z B Q O N L I N E W A F V O R T P G
 L E K A L X Y E V V P M Y L U I G W H M
 N F L C D S O G D X N T B Y X T H F R T
 D X N A B D W E A A Q J S N D A D R Z Q
 M V L X N I D R B Y Y G L Y P T D H H C
 F E R C B A T E E G Z H F R X N R L R B
 S W G C O L O S W N F A W Z X E A C Y H
 J C V C U A K O D I S C U S S I O N S I
 Q P R C J I S U K K O O F O F R B K L T
 U A S Y N C H R O N O U S M P O K Q K B
 P H O M W N U C N I Y G M U P T C J I U
 A R C J E A Z E S H I A T M N C A A B X
 B A Y C P N Q S X T O R M S W O L B O O
 B Z V R E I T R L R Y M E E C R B W O Z
 P W X B J F M T T A Z A D D R P U Q A Q
 U K A Q Y S K X M M M I M V J Y Z D K E
 F Z G B V B C W M S Y L L A B U S U H U

DISTANCE EDUCATION CONTACTS

If contacting CCCC is not a local call, and you live in the state of North Carolina, use the toll-free number: 1-800-682-8353. The last four digits of the numbers below also serve as the extensions for the toll-free number.

Lee Campus: (919) 775-5401 Chatham Campus: (919) 542-6495

Harnett Campus: (910) 893-9101

Advising & Registration

Students seeking a CCCC degree, diploma, or certificate: Contact your faculty advisor

Non-degree seeking students: Contact the DE Counselor at 919-718-7511

Cougar Mail

(919) 718-7397

Tuition/Billing

(919) 718-7310

Financial Aid

(919) 718-7229

Books/Supplies

(919) 718-7275

Blackboard

(866) 834-6894