

NCPACE

ECON 2301 Syllabus

Macroeconomics

Course Description

An introduction to principles of macroeconomics is presented. Economic principles are studied within the framework of classical, Keynesian, monetarist and alternative models. Emphasis is given to national income determination, money and banking, and the role of monetary and fiscal policy in economic stabilization and growth. Other topics include international trade and finance.
(3 Lec.)

Textbook:	Krugman, Paul and Wells, Robin. <i>Macroeconomics</i> . 3 rd ed. New York: Worth Publishers, 2013. ISBN (10): 1-4292-8343-2; ISBN (13): 978-1-4292-8343-4
Student Course Guide:	Wyatt, Ranita. <i>Student Course Guide for Choices and Change: Macroeconomics</i> . 3 rd ed. New York: Worth Publishers, 2013. ISBN (10): 1-4641-3477-4; ISBN (13): 978-1-4641-3477-7
Video Lessons:	<i>Choices & Change: Macroeconomics</i> videos. Set of two CDs that contain the video programs

Table of Contents

Welcome to Choices and Change!	3
Course Goals	4
Intellectual Competencies for Econ 2301	4
Exemplary Education Objectives for Econ 2301	4
Course Objectives for Econ 2301	5
Getting Started	6
Using the Materials	6
Viewing the Videos.....	6
Using the <i>Student Course Guide for Choices and Change: Macroeconomics</i>	7
Using the textbook, <i>Macroeconomics</i>	7
Using the Exam Review Guides	7
What You Need to Do.....	7
Grades	8
How to Study for the Exams	8
How to Write the Written Project (Two Type-written Essays)	9
Written Project Instructions	9
Writing Topic 1: Low Production and High Unemployment	10
Writing Topic 2: Rising Energy Costs and Rising Inflation	10
Plagiarism.....	11
Diversity	11
Academic Honesty	11
Assignment Calendar	12
Video Index.....	14
Abbreviations Used.....	16

Welcome to Choices and Change!

Welcome to Economics 2301. This course may be taken as the first or second course at the principles level of economics. This course will focus on macroeconomic topics, such as the functioning of economic systems, supply and demand, the role of government in the economic system including fiscal policy, the money and banking system including monetary policy, and economic stability. The course is designed to provide you with the structure and theory to increase your understanding of economics as it relates to economic issues of the day. Successful completion of this course will lead you to a fundamental understanding of the economy as a whole. You will be exposed to many economists and business people, as well as some government representatives interviewed in the course's video lessons.

The textbook and Student Course Guide will provide you with theory and application of the principles of economics. The Krugman/Wells text provides a comprehensive view of macroeconomics. The Student Course Guide was designed to go with the textbook, as well as the video programs, and provides emphasis on the learning objectives and allows you to apply your knowledge and understanding through the use of practice questions and answers.

The assignments during the semester will include four (4) exams, worth 100 points each, and a written project, worth 100 points. This material is not learned through last minute cramming so it is very important to keep on schedule.

IMPORTANT: Keep this syllabus handy and use it as a guide throughout the semester.

Sincerely,

Dallas Colleges Online Military Support Team

NCPACE@dcccd.edu

888-468-4268

<http://military.dcccd.edu/>

Course Goals

Intellectual Competencies for Econ 2301

1. **READING:** the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials-above 12th grade level.
2. **WRITING:** the ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience-above 12th grade level.
3. **LISTENING:** analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communications, possess sufficient literacy skills of writing and reading-above 12th grade level.
4. **CRITICAL THINKING:** think and analyze at a critical level.
5. **COMPUTER LITERACY:** understand our technological society, use computer based technology in communications, problem solving, and acquiring information.

Exemplary Education Objectives for Econ 2301

1. To understand the methods, technologies, and data that economists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Understand the development of our economic institutions and processes and how they relate to our political system and culture.
3. Demonstrate the use of and offer critiques for alternative explanatory systems and theories in the principles of macroeconomics course.
4. Understand and describe alternative explanations and approaches to domestic social issues.
5. Analyze how historical, social, political, cultural and global issues have an influence on our economy.
6. Understand the evolution and current macroeconomic role of the U.S. in the world economy.
7. Differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view in economics.
8. Develop the ability to establish and apply reasonable criteria in determining the acceptability of historical evidence and social research.
9. Analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions for macroeconomic problems.
10. Be able to apply the macroeconomic principles and theories presented in this course by using the information obtained from the news media and other appropriate sources to evaluate current economic policy as it relates to the current economic and public policy environment.

Course Objectives for Econ 2301

1. To employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. To examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures.
3. To use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. To develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
5. To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study.
6. To understand the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world.
7. To differentiate and analyze historical evidence (document and statistical) and differing points of view.
8. To recognize and apply reasonable criteria for the acceptability of historical evidence and social research.
9. To analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems.
10. To recognize and assume one's responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the new media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.
11. To identify and understand differences and commonalities within diverse cultures.
12. Identify the major macroeconomic problems confronting the United States economy.
13. Identify and explain the primary causes of the major macroeconomic problems confronting the United States economy.
14. Identify and explain the principal, economic effects of the major macroeconomic problems confronting the United States economy.
15. Demonstrate mastery of the macroeconomics theory necessary to think intelligently about the major macroeconomic problems confronting the United States economy.
16. Identify, explain, and justify appropriate policy options for resolving the major macroeconomic problems confronting the United States economy.
17. Evaluate the validity of policies proposed by others for resolving the major macroeconomic problems confronting the United States economy.
18. Succeed in subsequent business courses that require an understanding of macroeconomics theory for successful or enriched completion.
19. Apply the theory of macroeconomics to subsequent courses in the arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

Getting Started

The course materials you need to complete Economics 2301 are as follows:

- Two CDs used to view your fourteen (14) video lessons. Video lessons are contained on the CD-ROMs. This visual material is an integral part of this course and must be watched carefully if you are going to maximize your learning experience and do well on your exams.
- A workbook titled, *Student Course Guide for Choices and Change: Macroeconomics*, your guide to lessons in the course.
- A textbook titled, *Macroeconomics*, for assigned chapter reading.
- Exam Review Guides found in the Student Materials packet, for exam preparation.
- Calculator.

These are the only course materials that may be used.

Using the Materials

Viewing the Videos

CDs that are labeled V2.0 ©2005 contain individual video lessons in Windows Media Video format. These CDs require Microsoft's Windows Media Player to view the videos. This set of CDs consists of two (2) discs.

To view the videos:

1. Right click the mouse over the Start Button on the Task Bar.
2. Use the left button on the mouse and click on Explore
3. Under My Computer locate the letter that designates your CD player. Usually it is D: but it can be E: or another letter
4. Click on the letter designating your CD Player
5. A Window on the right side of your screen will display the contents of the CD.
6. Find the appropriate video lesson and double-click on the video file to view it.

Video Lesson Breakdown:

- CD 1 contains Lessons 1 to 7, video files macro01.wmv - macro07.wmv
- CD 2 contains Lessons 8 to 14, video files macro08.wmv - macro14.wmv

The video programs contained on the CD-ROMs provide visual and narrative information, as well as application of the material presented in the textbook. To accomplish the goals of this course, you must thoughtfully view the video programs.

Using the *Student Course Guide for Choices and Change: Macroeconomics*

The *Student Course Guide for Choices and Change: Macroeconomics* is **essential** for successful completion of this course. It provides important information about each lesson, correlates the reading assignments and the video programs, supplies invaluable “Focus Points,” and includes a truly representative “Practice Test” at the end of each lesson. It is also **very important** to both understand the Lesson Objectives and be able to answer the questions in the Lesson Focus Points found at the beginning of each lesson. Please use it!

Using the textbook, *Macroeconomics*

The textbook is your source for the economic content. To do well in this course, you must read the appropriate textbook assignments indicated in the *Student Course Guide for Choices and Change: Macroeconomics*.

Using the Exam Review Guides

The Exam Review Guides are supplemental materials to help you to prepare for the exams. Follow the instructions on the Exam Review Guides and complete the supplemental questions to help prepare for your exams.

What You Need to Do

For success in this course:

- Read the Overview, Lesson Objectives, and Lesson Focus Points in the Student Course Guide for each of the fourteen (14) lessons.
- Read all of the textbook assignments.
- View all fourteen thirty-minute video programs. Take notes!
- Answer the Practice Tests in the Student Course Guide for each of the fourteen lessons.
- Prepare and submit written project.
- Use the Exam Review Guides to help prepare for exams.
- Complete all four exams.
- Remember that you must turn in all assignments to receive a passing grade in the course.
- Submit your completed written project to your ESO when you take the fourth exam. Refer to your Assignment Calendar to ensure that you have completed all of the course requirements.

Grades

Your assignments will be evaluated using the following point values. Semester grades will be assigned according to a 500-point scale.

Assignment	Point Value	Total Possible Points
Four Proctored Exams	100 points each	400
One Written Project (consisting of 2 essays)	100 points	100
DCCCD Distance Learning Student Survey*	10 points	10
Total Points Available		500

Numeric Value		Letter Grade
450 – 500	=	A
400 – 449	=	B
350 – 399	=	C
300 – 349	=	D
0 – 299	=	F

***Note:** The DCCD Distance Learning Student Survey is not required. The instructor will not see your comments only know that the survey was submitted. If a student decides not to submit a survey, there is no effect on the student's final grade.

This is a unique distance learning course where you do not have access to the instructor. That means that the DCCCD cannot review and return materials to you on a scheduled basis to assist you with comments as you take the course.

However, if you contact the Dallas Colleges Online Military Support Team, they may provide you the instructor's contact information as needed.

How to Study for the Exams

During the semester, you are required to complete four exams based on the lessons in the *Student Course Guide*. Each exam consists of forty-five multiple-choice questions and two short-answer questions. Five of the forty-five multiple-choice questions will be dropped, and the remaining forty questions are worth two points each for a total of 80 points. Each short-answer question is worth 10 points for a total of 20 points. **Two** questions must be answered. If more than two short-answer questions are answered, only the first two submitted will be graded.

Follow these instructions when studying for your exams.

- Know and understand the materials presented in the video programs.
- Review and have a working knowledge of the materials in the Lesson Objectives and Lesson Focus Points.
- Answer the questions in the Practice Exams and understand the material presented in the questions. Review these more than once!
- Pay special attention to the Lesson Focus Points and the short-answer questions in each lesson in preparation for the short-answer questions on the exams.

- Use the Exam Review Guides for each exam to understand what you should know for each lesson.
- Use the supplemental graph/calculation questions on each Exam Review Guide as an additional resource to practice working with graphs and formulas. The answers to the supplemental practice questions can be found on the last page of each Exam Review Guide.

How to Write the Written Project (Two Type-written Essays)

Written Project Instructions

- A cover page is required on the written project. This cover page will include the following:
 - a) the title of your Economics Analysis
 - b) course name and section number
 - c) your name
 - d) last four digits of your Social Security number
 - e) date that the project was submitted
- The written project will consist of **two type-written essays** written to analyze the two economic scenarios on the next page. You must write an analysis for **both** writing topics.
- Each essay will consist of two to two-and-a-half pages of double-spaced text for a total of no more than five total pages. The cover page and any reference page for the position paper do not count as pages of text. Font size **MUST** be 12 point.
- You must write your analysis on the assigned topics. No exceptions will be made.
- You should apply what you have learned in this course to thoughtfully analyze the economic scenarios listed below. Your grade will largely be determined by the depth and level of analytical thought present in your essays. Use the analytical thinking skills that you have developed in this course!
- You may use any resources at your disposal to help you analyze the economic scenarios below, including your textbook and encyclopedias. Any and all resources that you reference or use for your analysis must be included on a reference sheet attached to the end of your paper. Direct quotations and summaries should be notated using MLA or APA standards.
- The written project must be typed and double-spaced with margins and spacing consistent with good college standards (MLA, APA, etc.). Please staple your project in the upper left-hand corner before submitting.
- Proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation should be observed.

Note: Both topics are required!

Both of these topics are required.

Writing Topic 1: Low Production and High Unemployment

Country A has recently experienced (1) a decrease in Real Gross Domestic Product (RGDP) and (2) high unemployment.

Analyze and answer the following questions in your analysis of this scenario:

- Is Country A in long run economic equilibrium? If not, is Country A experiencing a recessionary period or an inflationary period? Briefly explain the state of Country A's economy.
- If this economy is not in equilibrium, what kind of fiscal or monetary policy might be used (expansionary vs. contractionary) to move this economy toward long run equilibrium? What are the specific policy tools and/or actions that might be used/taken?
- What are any pros or cons of the different policy options that policy-makers should consider?
- How will each policy option affect the price-level, the quantity of RGDP in the economy, and unemployment?
- In your opinion, what is the best policy option? Why?

Writing Topic 2: Rising Energy Costs and Rising Inflation

The economy of Antarctica is facing both steep increases in the price of oil (supply shock) and rising inflation.

Briefly explain the concepts of inflation and supply shocks, and consider the following questions in your analysis of this scenario:

- What is the effect of the increase in the price of oil on Short Run Aggregate Supply (SRAS)? How does this affect producers?
- Does the increasing price of oil affect consumers? Why or why not?
- How does rising inflation affect consumers? How does rising inflation affect the value of money?
- Is there a relationship between the increasing price of oil and rising inflation? Briefly explain.
- If the price of oil continues to increase, how will this affect inflation?
- What is the effect of rising oil prices on the price-level, the quantity of RGDP in the economy, and unemployment?

Plagiarism

In any written paper, you are guilty of the academic offense known as plagiarism if you half-copy or copy the author's words. This results in an automatic "F" for the course. You cannot mix the author's words with your own or "plug" your synonyms into the author's sentence structure. To prevent unintentional borrowing, resist the temptation to look at the source as you write. The author's words, phrases, sentences must be put in your words, in your way of writing. When you do this, you are demonstrating the ability to comprehend.

Diversity

The course content and the course environment are dedicated to an understanding of and acceptance of all people. Disparaging remarks in relation to others' ethnic or racial background, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, socioeconomic background, etc. will not be tolerated.

Academic Honesty

The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to provide guidelines for the educational environment of the college. Such an environment presupposes both rights and responsibilities. Disciplinary regulations at the college are set forth in writing in order to give students general notice of prohibited conduct. Students should be aware of disciplinary actions for all forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and collusion. Your college catalog and the DCCCD catalog contain the entire Student Code of Conduct, which is also on the Internet at <http://www.dcccd.edu>. Click on Student Services, Code of Student Conduct.

Assignment Calendar

For ease the explanation:

- Workbook = *Student Course Guide for Choices and Change: Macroeconomics*
- Textbook = *Macroeconomics*
- CDs = videos

Weeks		Topics Covered	Student Activities
1, 2, 3	Workbook	Lessons 1–3	Read Lessons and complete Practice Exams.
	Textbook	From the workbook, you are referred to companion reading assignments in the textbook for each lesson.	Read
	CDs	From the workbook, you are referred to companion video programs to watch for each lesson. There is one video that corresponds to each lesson	View
	Exam Review Guide	Use the Test 1 Review Guide to prepare for your exam.	Review materials and complete supplemental questions.
	Exam 1: Take Exam 1 proctored by your ESO.		
4, 5, 6, 7	Workbook	Lessons 4–7	Read Lessons and complete Practice Exams.
	Textbook	From the workbook, you are referred to companion reading assignments in the textbook for each lesson.	Read
	CDs	From the workbook, you are referred to companion video programs to watch for each lesson. There is one video that corresponds to each lesson	View
	Exam Review Guide	Use the Test 2 Review Guide to prepare for your exam.	Review materials and complete supplemental questions.
	Exam 2: Take Exam 2 proctored by your ESO.		

Weeks		Topics Covered	Student Activities
8, 9, 10	Workbook	Lessons 8–10	Read Lessons and complete Practice Exams.
	Textbook	From the workbook, you are referred to companion reading assignments in the textbook for each lesson.	Read
	CDs	From the workbook, you are referred to companion video programs to watch for each lesson. There is one video that corresponds to each lesson	View
	Exam Review Guide	Use the Test 3 Review Guide to prepare for your exam.	Review materials and complete supplemental questions.
	Exam 3: Take Exam 3 proctored by your ESO Remember to submit written project before the last exam.		
11,12,13,14	Workbook	Lessons 11– 14	Read Lessons and complete Practice Exams.
	Textbook	From the workbook, you are referred to companion reading assignments in the textbook for each lesson.	Read
	CDs	From the workbook, you are referred to companion video programs to watch for each lesson. There is one video that corresponds to each lesson	View
	Written Project	Complete the written project and submit to your ESO when you take Exam 4.	Write the two essays as indicated in the instructions
	Exam Review Guide	Use the Test 4 Review Guide to prepare for your exam.	Review materials and complete supplemental questions.
	Exam 4: Take Exam 4 proctored by your ESO Submit written project with this final exam.		

Video Index

- 1. The Study of Choice**

Utilizing scarce resources is the primary focus of this lesson. Los Angeles school district representatives illustrate the dilemma faced by organizations that are competing for resources and discusses the choices that must be made. Conflicting opinions concerning NAFTA are also explored.
- 2. Confronting Scarcity**

The Production Possibilities Curve (PPC) is first developed graphically and then used to illustrate the conflict arising from potential vs. actual uses of the South American rainforests. The PPC also illustrates the benefits of trade derived from a country's ability to reach beyond its production possibilities.
- 3. Supply and Demand**

In one of the most important lessons in the series, supply and demand curves are developed and then used to analyze how surpluses and shortages are eliminated in a market based system. Price controls and their potential effects on markets are graphed and analyzed through contemporary examples.
- 4. The Business Cycle**

Segments on unemployment and inflation illustrate the business cycle. Job seekers in various circumstances portray the causes and types of unemployment. Inflation—the potential causes, the effects, and how to calculate the rate through price indices—is explained. Experts debate the reliability of price indices in estimating the true rate of inflation.
- 5. Measuring Economic Growth**

A simple circular flow model outlines economic activity through the interactions between businesses and households in a small entertainment oriented community. The components and methods of calculating GDP, along with the problems associated with measuring economic activity, are presented.
- 6. Aggregate Supply and Demand**

This lesson develops the AS/AD model graphically and shows how recessionary and inflationary gaps are created. Experts debate the value of government policies aimed at eliminating or reducing these gaps. Also highlighted is the wide range of U.S. citizen opinion concerning this topic.
- 7. Economic Growth**

The desire to increase standards of living is the dominant theme of this lesson. Savings rates, technological advances, and investment as the engine for economic growth are examined. The challenges faced by the countries of the former Soviet Union, as well as developing countries, in terms of achieving economic growth provide thought provoking issues for the student to explore.
- 8. The Nature of Money**

Presents a brief history of money and explains how the Federal Reserve measures the money supply. A discussion of the structure and functions of the Federal Reserve leads into the money creation process. The major tools of the Federal Reserve and its goal to maintain the stability of the economy are the major points of this lesson.

9. **Financial Markets**

The interaction of supply and demand is used to analyze bond and currency markets. Factors that cause changes in the bond markets are emphasized. The lesson also looks at how governments affect currency prices and analyzes how bond and currency markets affect aggregate demand.

10. **Monetary Policy**

The primary focuses of this lesson are actions initiated by the Federal Reserve to maintain economic stability through discretionary monetary policy and the expected effects of these actions throughout the economy. The potential problems associated with activist policies and the barriers to successful outcomes are illustrated. Also introduces the equation of exchange and monetarism.

11. **Aggregate Expenditures**

Provides insight into the Aggregate Expenditures model, its components, and the determining variables. The multiplied effects on income and output from a change in spending or taxing are determined algebraically and graphically with an AS/AD graph.

12. **Fiscal Policy**

This lesson primarily utilizes a historical approach to fiscal policy and the creation of the national debt. The AS/AD model illustrates the economic effects of different fiscal policies. Interviews with economists and politicians highlight the controversy over using fiscal policies to stabilize the economy.

13. **Schools of Thought**

The development of theories for economic stabilization is influenced by the existing conditions of the times. Typically, an economy faces one of two problems: unemployment or inflation. This lesson provides historical examples of these problems and helps the student understand the creation of major economic ideas.

14. **Economies in Transition**

The political and economic situations in the former Soviet Union and the struggle to achieve stability after a near collapse of the economic system are presented. Shows why transformation to a market system from a command system is challenging and perhaps overwhelming. The problems associated with this transformation and some of the possible solutions are the focus of this lesson.

Abbreviations Used

These abbreviations are used in both Macroeconomics and Microeconomics.

Symbol	Word
AOTE	All Other Things Equal
C.P.	<i>Ceteris Paribus</i>
PPF or PPC	Production Possibilities Frontier (Curve)
MB	Marginal Benefit
MC	Marginal Cost
Δ	Change
P	Price
Q	Quantity
Q_D	Quantity Demanded
Q_S	Quantity Supplies
D	Demand
S	Supply
Q^* or Q^E	Equilibrium Quantity
P^* or P^E	Equilibrium Price
P_C	Price Ceiling
P_F	Price Floor

These abbreviations are used in Macroeconomics textbook.

Symbol	Word
GDP	Gross Domestic Product (Nominal)
RGDP	Real Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
NDP	Net Domestic Product
NNP	Net National Product
C	Consumption (Personal)
I_G	Gross Private Domestic Investment
G	Government Purchases
EX	Exports
IM	Imports
N_X OR X_N	Net Exports
I_N	Net Private Domestic Investment
CCA	Capital Consumption Allowance
CCA; Consumption of Fixed Capital	Both are synonymous with depreciation
IBT	Indirect Business Taxes
NFFI	Net Foreign Factor Income
RE	Retained Earnings (Undistributed Corporate Profits)
NI	National Income
PI	Personal Income
DI OR Y_D	Disposable Income
S	Saving
PER CAPITA	Per Person
U	Unemployment (Rate)
LF	Labor Force
LFP	Labor Force Participation (Rate)

Symbol	Word
$U_N; U_F; F_E; Q_N$	Full Employment; Natural Rate of Unemployment
CPI	Consumer Price Index
PPI	Producer Price Index
MPC	Marginal Propensity to Consume
APC	Average Propensity to Consume
MPS	Marginal Propensity to Save
APS	Average Propensity to Save
T	Taxes
i	Interest Rate
I_D	Investment Demand
SS	Saving Supply
$m = 1/1-mpc$ or $1/mps$	Spending Multiplier
TM	Tax Multiplier
BB	Balanced Budget
A	Autonomous Spending
C_0	Autonomous Consumption
AD	Aggregate Demand
AS	Aggregate Supply
P_L	Price Level
AE	Aggregate Expenditures
TE	Total Expenditures
TP	Total Output(Product)
MD	Money Demand
MS	Money Supply
FED	Federal Reserve System
FOMC	Federal Open Market Committee
FDIC	Federal Deposit Insurance Corp
A	Assets
L	Liabilities
SE	Stockholders' Equity
TR	Total Reserves
RR	Required Reserves
ER	Excess Reserves
DD	Demand Deposits
r	Required Reserve Ratio
$m = 1/r$	Deposit Multiplier
D_T	Transaction Demand
D_A	Asset Demand
OMO	Open Market Operations
PV	Present Value
NPV	Net Present Value
$MV=PQ$	Money supply (m1) * Velocity of money = Price level * Real Gross Domestic Product
NTB	Nontariff Barriers
VER	Voluntary Export Restrictions

A DCCCD distance learning course adapted exclusively for delivery to the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE)
©2014-2015

R. Jan LeCroy for Educational Telecommunications, Dallas County Community College District

This publication is protected by copyright and permission should be obtained from the publisher prior to any prohibited reproduction, storage in a retrieval system, or transmission in any form or by means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise.

Educational opportunities are provided by the Dallas County Community College District without regard to race, color, age, national origin, religion, sex, or disability or sexual orientation.

The DCCCD is a Service member's Opportunity College – NAVY

The seven-member colleges of the DCCCD are independently accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.