

### **Scholarship Aid from Dutchess Community College**

In addition to the various types of financial aid available from governmental and non-governmental sources, Dutchess Community College also administers various types of local scholarship aid. The Charles and Mabel Conklin Scholarship for Academic Excellence is for full-time freshmen who have graduated from a Dutchess County high school in the top 10% of their class. These scholarships cover the cost of tuition for two consecutive years (four semesters) of full-time study at Dutchess Community College.

Dutchess Community College also offers scholarships to both our continuing students (24+ credits) and graduating students. Awards for these scholarships are made through the various academic departments and applications are available during the spring semester of each academic year.

### **Federal Aid Programs**

The Office of Financial Aid can assist students and/or their parents with questions concerning Federal Aid programs. Call the Office of Financial Aid, (845) 431-8030, for more information about:

- Pell Grants
- Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants
- Federal Direct Stafford Loan (subsidized)
- Federal Direct Stafford Loan (unsubsidized)
- Federal Direct PLUS Loan (Parent Loan Undergraduate Students)
- Nursing Student Loans
- College Work Study
- Federal Perkins Loans
- Academic Competitiveness Grant

The faculty and staff at Dutchess regard student services as an integral part of the total college experience. A conscientious effort is made to know students as individuals and to serve them as such. The Department of Student Services includes the following offices: admissions, registrar, counseling and career services, disability services, financial aid, health services, and student activities. They are coordinated and directed by the dean of Student Services and Enrollment Management.

### **Your Right to Know**

The federal government under the Student Right-to-Know legislation requires colleges and universities to report the percentage of students who began their studies full-time and then completed their programs within 150% of the normal time for completion. This time is three years for an associate degree.

In general, Dutchess Community College students compare favorably with other community colleges in the Hudson Valley. For full-time students entering DCC in the Fall 2006 semester, the percentage of students who graduated within a three-year period (25%) has been consistently higher than that of full-time students entering the other five regional community colleges.

The sample used to satisfy the federal report contains only first time, full-time students. Since in many programs the majority of students enrolled are part-time, many successful students are not counted in the numbers above.

Several factors tend to delay graduation for community college students: three years is a relatively short time to complete a degree. Many community college students work full-time, and tend to change from one program to another and from full- to part-time. They may “stop out” for a semester or more. Also, more than half of the students entering DCC are required to take remedial courses which increases the time necessary to complete a degree.

Several positive factors can influence community college students to transfer out of the community college before completing their degrees. Reasons include the selection of a specialized career goal; desire for a full-time, residential campus experience; and increased independence and confidence. Therefore, the transfer-out rate is a measure of the community college experience as a stepping stone to further success. For the cohort of Dutchess Community College students described above, the transfer-out rate is 21%.

Adding together these three measures of academic success (graduation, transfer out, and continuing enrollment) we find the full-time students who entered DCC in the fall of 2006 have succeeded at a rate of 62% – consistently higher than the other five regional community colleges.