

GENERAL INFORMATION

Section Two

A. THE COLLEGE

Darton College, formerly Albany Junior College, was founded in 1963 by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia when the citizens of Albany and Dougherty County approved a bond referendum for the original land and buildings. The first classes were offered by the college in 1966.

Darton College is a community college that offers two-year transfer and career degrees and one-year certificate programs. Graduates of transfer programs continue their studies at four-year colleges or universities, while graduates of career programs generally enter the work force upon receiving their two-year degrees. Just over 50 percent of the students enrolled at Darton College are traditional students immediately out of high school. Non-traditional students, who have been out of high school for five years or more, make up the rest of the student body.

To meet the needs of the community, Darton offers day, evening, weekend, online, and televised classes. Students may earn degrees by attending college in the traditional classroom setting, online, or via cable television.

B. ACCREDITATION AND APPROVAL

Darton College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, (404)679-4501 to award Associate Degrees.

Specific programs of study and their accreditors follow:

Nursing Program – Georgia Board of Nursing and the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), 61 Broadway 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10006, (212)363-5555.

Dental Hygiene Program - Commission on Dental Accreditation, a specialized accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education. The Commission on Dental Accreditation can be contacted at (312)440-2568 or at 211 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611.

Emergency Medical Services Program – Georgia Department of Human Resources Emergency Health Section.

Health Information Technology Program – Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education, 233 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601-5519, (312)233-1100, www.cahiim.org This is an agency of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) 233 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60601-5519 (312)787-2672 www.ahima.org

Histotechnology Program – The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), 8410 West Byrn Mawr Avenue, Suite 670, Chicago, IL 60631 (773) 714-8880, www.naacls.org

Human Services Technology Program – Council for Standards in Human Services Education (CSHSE), Susan Kincaid, VP Program Accreditation, Western Washington University, Dept. of Human Services, Woodring College of Education, Miller Hall #419 M-S 9087, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225 Telephone: (360)650-3531.

Medical Laboratory Technology/Histology Program - National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), 8410 West Byrn Mawr Avenue, Suite 670, Chicago, IL 60631, (773)714-8880, www.naacls.org.

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program - Accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), The American Occupational Therapy Association, P.O. Box 31220, Bethesda, MD 20824-1220, (301)652-2682.

Physical Therapist Assistant Program - Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, 1111 No. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 684-2782.

Respiratory Care Program - Accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (COARC), 1248 Harwood Rd., Bedford, TX 76021 (817) 283-2835 through the

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, (CAAHEP), 1361 Park Street, Clearwater, FL 33756 phone (727) 210-2350, FAX (727) 210-2354.

Financial Aid - The College has been approved to disburse funds for programs of student aid and assistance by the Social Security Administration, the Georgia State Department of Veterans Service, and the Georgia State Department of Education - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Darton College holds membership in several other state, regional and national associations and groups, including the American Association of Community Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, American Library Association and the College Board.

C. VISION STATEMENT

Darton College will be recognized as a vibrant and exemplary teaching and learning educational community where students are nurtured and encouraged to achieve their greatest potential. With a student centered faculty and staff who embrace diversity in a friendly and inclusive learning environment, Darton will be a valued leader, resource and model for our students and our community. Darton will provide the opportunity for all students to participate in every aspect of collegiate life, including personal enrichment in athletics, fine arts, and wellness. The College will provide technologically advanced educational opportunities in response to the community's need for quality, affordable, and accessible programs, while partnering with business, industry, and other educational institutions to promote the economic and community development of our region.

D. MISSION STATEMENT

Darton College is a two-year college within the University System of Georgia. Its principal mission is to provide educational programs, services, and opportunities to eligible citizens of southwest Georgia. Darton College seeks to serve by:

1. RESPONDING TO LOCAL AREA NEEDS WITH A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE:
 - A. Darton College will provide high quality academic programs that assure completion of core curriculum requirements and an opportunity for successful transfer into baccalaureate programs or entrance into professional occupations upon completion of two-year programs.
 - B. Consistent with our local agreements with Southwest Georgia Technical College and other technical colleges, Darton College will provide pre-baccalaureate quality career preparation in select degree and certificate programs, particularly allied health, nursing, business, and health/wellness.
 - C. Darton College will encourage student participation in and appreciation of the performing and fine arts, as well as the role of aesthetics in human experience, and the function of ethics and morals in decision making.
 - D. Darton College will expand its curriculum, programs, and activities to incorporate elements of internationalism and to foster a climate of multicultural understanding and acceptance.
 - E. Darton College will support the physical as well as intellectual development of its students by encouraging participation in intercollegiate and intramural athletics, by providing instructional wellness programs, and by providing appropriate facilities for college and community use.

2. FOSTERING AND MAINTAINING A TEACHING/LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT SUSTAINS INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR DIVERSELY PREPARED STUDENTS:
 - A. Darton College will provide and maintain a comprehensive learning environment for students desiring the challenges and rewards of academic excellence.
 - B. Recognizing the different intellectual aptitudes and learning patterns of students, Darton College will provide Learning Support courses and academic support services for those who are not completely ready for college-level work.

- C. For gifted students and those who seek the challenge of advanced classes and seminars, Darton College will offer an Honors Program.
 - D. Recognizing the unique needs of special populations, Darton College will provide support services and programs for students who may require special attention or reasonable accommodations.
3. PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:
- A. Using state-of-the-art technologies, Darton College will provide both transfer and pre-baccalaureate career-specific programs, as well as select certificate programs consistent with our local agreements with technical institutes, that foster academic excellence.
 - B. In collaboration with area technical colleges, Darton College will provide general education and support services for students of those institutions who desire the associate degree.
 - C. Darton College will provide a broad range of support services for its students including, but not limited to, career planning, program and course selection, advising, financial counseling, minority and disabled student advising and counseling, job placement assistance, and extracurricular activities. Services will be designed to promote educational, cultural, social, physical, personal, and professional growth.
 - D. In preparation for entrance into the contemporary social and employment environments, Darton College will educate its students in the technologies of a global information age.
4. MAKING A COMPREHENSIVE COMMITMENT TO THE TOTAL NEEDS OF SOUTHWEST GEORGIA:
- A. Darton College will work collaboratively with other institutions to utilize distance learning technologies to provide lifelong learning opportunities for area residents.
 - B. Believing that all of life is a field of learning, Darton College will offer a wide range of continuing education programs, seminars, and courses designed to enhance personal and professional growth.
 - C. Darton College will share its physical facilities, faculty and staff expertise, and informational resources in support of educational, cultural, civic, and economic development.
 - D. Darton College will collaborate with other area University System institutions to assure the most efficient and effective utilization of each institution's resources in responding to the needs of the service region.
5. SUPPORTING FACULTY DEVELOPMENT TO ENCOURAGE INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE, SCHOLARLY ADVANCEMENT, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES:
- A. Darton College will promote and support scholarly and creative activities that encourage enhanced instructional effectiveness and professional development.
 - B. Darton College will promote and support faculty engagement in community service, academic research, and participation on System committees and activities.
 - C. Darton College will promote and support faculty participation in international studies and activities, as well as the expansion of the College's Global Center.

E. DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

The College awards the Associate of Arts degree (A.A.), the Associate of Science degree (A.S.), the Associate of Applied Science degree (A.A.S.), and certificates. Students who complete the requirements for one of the college transfer programs are awarded either an A.A. or an A.S. degree depending upon their particular program of study. The A.S. degree is also awarded to students who complete a career program in certain health areas. The A.A.S. degree is awarded to students who complete other two-year career programs. Certificates are awarded to students who complete certain planned objectives or programs requiring less than two years of work.

F. THE CAMPUS

The Darton College campus consists of 180 acres and is located in west Albany. Ten buildings house the various activities of the college. The modern classrooms and labs and the beautifully landscaped campus offer students a picturesque setting in which to study.

(SEE INSIDE BACK COVER)

The following is a list of the campus buildings with the offices or services normally accommodated in each; however, some adjustments may be made because of renovation or new construction:

Administration Building-A (0001) - Houses the Offices of the President, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Business and Financial Services, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Alumni Affairs, Office of Marketing and Communications, Registrar, Admissions, Business Office, Financial Aid, Computer Center, and Personnel.

Allied Health, Community Services, Classroom Building-J (0015) - Houses Allied Health Programs, Continuing Education facilities, Instructional Technology and Distance Learning Department, WebCT Help Desk, classrooms, and a theater.

Alpine Tower and Carolina Climbing Wall – Located east of the Baseball Field. They are used with a low initiatives course for team building and leadership training.

Classroom Building-B (0002) - Houses the Science/Mathematics Division, Dental Hygiene facilities, the Southwest Georgia Center for Women, the MESA Center, and a computer laboratory.

C.D. McKnight Building-F (0006) - Houses the Humanities/Learning Support Division, and the Mathematics, Writing, and Reading Laboratories.

Classroom Building-I (0014) - Houses the Business/Social Science Division, Nursing, laboratories for Chemistry and Biology, and computer laboratories.

Physical Education Building-E (0005) - Houses the Physical Education and Athletic Departments, including a Recreation gymnasium, the Cavalier Arena, a fitness center, and a 10 lane, 25 yard x 25 meter multi-use indoor heated pool equipped with two one-meter and one three-meter maxi flex model "B" springboards on cement standards. Outdoor athletic facilities surround the building and include a baseball field, soccer fields, softball field, six all-weather lighted tennis courts, six racquetball courts, walking paths and a 5K cross-country course. A cyber café, serving Starbucks products, with free computer stations is located at the center of the complex.

Fitness Facility-E (0005) - The Darton College Fitness Facility is located in E-105. It is equipped with StairMasters, Schwinn AirDynes, rowing machines, treadmills, Nautilus weight machines and free weights.

Student Center-C (0008) - Houses the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, Student Activities, Student Success Program, Testing Center, Job Placement, Minority Advising, Food Services, Bookstore, Career Development Center, Disabled Student Services, International Student Program, the Writing Lab, some public services and meeting rooms, the Albany Symphony Orchestra offices, and a recreational room with table tennis, pool tables, and video games.

Harold B. Wetherbee Library-G (0007) - Houses the College library, the Foreign Language Lab, television operations/studio area, and an open computer laboratory.

Maintenance Building-D (0004) - Houses the Director of Plant Operations, maintenance shops, and storage for building and grounds service.

Warehouse Building-H (0009) - Houses Purchasing, Central Supply, Receiving, storage, and delivery.

Provisions for Disabled Students - All buildings include access and facilities to accommodate students with disabilities. The Disability Services Office is located upstairs in the Student Center.

Parking - Two lighted parking areas for 1,000 cars are located behind the Student Center. An additional parking lot is located in front of the Warehouse Building, adjacent to the Allied Health, Community Services, Classroom Building. Parking is also available to the west of the Physical education Complex and to the east of the Challenge Course. Faculty, staff, and visitor parking areas are marked. Security personnel are employed to assist with parking and traffic safety. Traffic regulations are detailed in the Student Handbook and must be obeyed by all motorists.

G. OFF-CAMPUS CLASSES

Cordele – Darton College offers college credit and continuing education courses in Cordele at the Crisp County Higher Education Center. College credit courses offered in Cordele lead to a two-year associate's degree. Courses are offered days and evenings to accommodate working adults as well as traditional age college students. The Crisp County Higher Education Center is located at 2705 E. 14th Avenue, in the Cordele Industrial Park. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The telephone number is (229) 276-2589. Information about the Cordele Center, class schedules, and registration information is also available on the web at www.darton.edu

Medical Laboratory Technology Degree Program – Classes are offered at two off-campus sites: Rome and Waycross. Some travel to clinical sites may be required to complete the program. Admission and all other requirements for the off-campus programs are the same as they are for the main campus (see page 232.) Additional information may be obtained on the Darton College web site (www.darton.edu) or by calling the Allied Health Division (229) 317-6900.

Nursing Degree Program - Darton College offers its two-year nursing degree program in Americus, Colquitt and Thomasville in addition to the Albany Campus. Some travel to Albany and clinical sites may be required to complete the program. Admission and all other requirements for the off-campus programs are the same as they are for the main campus (see page 250.) Additional information may be obtained on the Darton College web site (www.darton.edu) or by calling the Nursing Division (229) 317-6820.

CAMPUS DISRUPTIONS

Students should note their Student Handbook concerning the disruption of instruction or operations of the College. The handbook defines what is considered disruptive behavior and explains the consequences that result.

College policy prohibits pets or unenrolled or unauthorized persons access to the classrooms or any other service areas of the college unless specifically authorized by the instructor or person in charge of the activity area. This restriction on persons does not apply to special functions. Family members and friends are always welcome at public activities on campus.