

Institutional Overview

Prepared on 4/13/2026

HISTORY

College of DuPage's origins can be traced to two signature events. First was the Illinois General Assembly adoption of the Public Community College Act of 1965. Second was the approval by DuPage County voters of a 1965 referendum. Their foresight created a new community college to serve the dynamically growing and prospering DuPage area.

On September 26, 1967, College of DuPage opened under the leadership of President Rodney Berg and Board of Trustees Chairman George Seaton. Classes were held in office trailers and at leased suburban sites throughout the newly formed Community College District 502. Driving from class to class, the students, faculty, and staff of this "campus-less" community college became affectionately known as roadrunners, hence the school's nickname, "Chaparrals".

In 1968, a 273-acre Glen Ellyn campus site was acquired, and a year later, three interim buildings were constructed. The first permanent building, today's Rodney K. Berg Instructional Center, opened in 1973. Four years later, the top floor of the Rodney K. Berg Instructional Center was completed, and in 1983, the Student Resource Center and Physical Education and Community Recreation Center opened.

The population of the district served by College of DuPage has grown significantly over the years. Originally formed from 10 high school districts, District 502 has become the most populous in Illinois, outside of Chicago. More than one million residents from all or part of 51 communities comprise today's District 502, with boundaries encompassing the majority of DuPage County and parts of Cook and Will counties.

FACILITIES

Located 25 miles west of Chicago, College of DuPage's Glen Ellyn campus includes 13 main buildings.

Campus Buildings

by Size in Square Feet (Rounded)

Building	
Culinary and Hospitality Center (CHC) LEED Certified	61,600
Campus Maintenance Center (CMC) LEED Gold	35,800
Institutional Resource Center (IRC)	22,500
George L. Seaton Computing Center (SCC) LEED Silver	18,100
Harold D. McAninch Arts Center (MAC) LEED Certified	169,129
Health and Science Center (HSC) LEED Gold	189,800
Homeland Security Training Center (HTC) LEED Certified	39,700
Physical Education Center (PEC) LEED Gold	147,400
Robert J. Miller Homeland Security Education Center (HEC) LEED Certified	72,000
Rodney K. Berg Instructional Center (BIC) and Student Services Center (SSC) LEED Certified	565,707
Student Resource Center (SRC) LEED goal of Silver	384,521
Technical Education Center (TEC) LEED Silver	179,100

In order to create a greater presence in the community, making programs and services more accessible to District 502 residents, College of DuPage operates four strategically placed sites in Addison, Carol Stream, Naperville and Westmont.

In addition, College of DuPage has one of the premier outdoor athletic complexes in the nation. The complex includes a football field, baseball field, and three soccer fields.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is charged with establishing policy for the financing, governance, operation, and administration of the College. Seven voting members are elected from the district at large and a non-voting student trustee is elected by student referendum during spring semester to serve from April to April.

CORE STATEMENTS

College of DuPage is guided by its institutional philosophy, vision, mission, and values.

Institutional Philosophy

College of DuPage believes in the power of teaching and learning. We endorse the right of each person to accessible and affordable opportunities to learn and affirm the innate value of the pursuit of knowledge and its application to life. Our primary commitment is to facilitate and support student success in learning.

College of DuPage is committed to excellence. We seek quality in all that we do. To ensure quality, we are committed to continual assessment and self-evaluation.

College of DuPage values diversity. We seek to reflect and meet the educational needs of the residents of our large, multicultural district. To this end, we recognize the need for freedom of expression and that facts, arguments, and judgments should be presented, tested, debated, challenged, deliberated, and probed for their

objective truth in the marketplace of ideas. Every College individual owes a duty to exercise his or her own individual judgment; and to permit others to exercise that same freedom of conscience.

We recognize the importance of embracing individual differences and cultures and value the contributions made to the College by people of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds. We affirm our role as a catalyst for promoting dialogue and tolerance on issues supporting the common good.

College of DuPage promotes participation in planning and decision making. We support participatory governance and the involvement of the College community in the development of a shared vision. We believe that all students, staff, and residents can make meaningful contributions within a respectful environment that encourages meaningful discourse. We strive to build an organizational climate in which freedom of expression is defended and civility is affirmed.

College of DuPage will be a benefit to students and the community. The needs of our students and community are central to all we do.

Vision

College of DuPage will be the primary college district residents choose for high quality education.

Mission

The mission of College of DuPage is to educate, enrich and empower our communities for success.

Values

Integrity - We expect the highest standard of moral character and ethical behavior.

Honesty - We expect truthfulness and trustworthiness.

Respect - We expect courtesy and dignity in all interpersonal interactions.

Responsibility - We expect fulfillment of obligations and accountability.

Equity - We strive to remove barriers to empower all to achieve their goals.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

As a comprehensive community college, College of DuPage meets five key community educational needs through a wide range of programs, degrees, certificates and services:

1. Transfer Education that prepares students for transfer to a four-year institution to pursue a bachelor's degree.
2. Careers and Technical Education that prepares students who will graduate with an Associate in Applied Sciences degree or certificate to directly enter the workforce.
3. Developmental Education that provides remedial education for students who are not academically ready to enroll in college-level courses.
4. Continuing Education that provides non-credit courses to the community for personal development and enrichment.
5. Business Training that provides specialized or customized training and education to local companies for their employees.

In response to different learning styles and student needs, College of DuPage delivers its programs and services in several different formats:

- Traditional—face-to-face/in-person instruction
- Online/Distance—asynchronous, internet-based courses
- Hybrid—traditional combined with online/distance or VCM
- Virtual Class Meetings (VCM)—synchronous, internet based courses
- Independent Learning—self-directed courses

College of DuPage grants the following seven degrees:

1. The **Associate in Arts degree (A.A.)** represents the first two years of study for students who plan to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree.
2. The **Associate in Science degree (A.S.)** represents the first two years of study for students who plan to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree.
3. The **Associate in Engineering Science degree (A.E.S.)** is intended for students who wish to prepare for transfer to a baccalaureate-granting school in the field of engineering.
4. The **Associate in Applied Science degree (A.A.S.)** represents the completion of study in a career and technical education program. Students earning this degree may seek employment following graduation or transfer to a baccalaureate-granting college or university that has articulation agreements with College of DuPage for these programs of study.
5. The **Associate in General Studies degree (A.G.S.)** is designed for students who desire to arrange a program of courses to meet their personal interests.
6. The **Associate in Fine Arts degree in Art (A.F.A.)** is intended for students who wish to prepare for transfer to a baccalaureate-granting school with a Bachelor in Fine Arts program.

7. The **Associate in Fine Arts degree in Music (A.F.A.)** is intended for students who wish to prepare for transfer to a baccalaureate-granting school with a Bachelor in Music program.

In addition to associate degrees, College of DuPage offers over 180 certificates in over 50 areas of study.

STUDENT SERVICES

College of DuPage provides many services to assist students in making appropriate academic and career plans, addressing other issues and enriching their college experience through cocurricular activities. Key services include:

- Counseling Services
- Advising Services
- Center for Access and Accommodations
- Veteran and Military Personnel Student Services
- International Student Services
- Career Services Center
- Math Assistance Area
- Tutoring Services
- Writing, Reading, and Speech Assistance
- Library/Research Services
- Tuition and Financial Aid
- Placement Testing
- Basic Needs Resources and Referrals

Student Life and Leadership Opportunities Student Leadership Council

The Student Leadership Council represents the student body to the administration and provides a place for students to become involved in the college community.

Student Clubs

College of DuPage has many student clubs that provide opportunities for students to interact through a connection with academic programs, topical interest sharing, leisure-time activities, and social interaction. Practicing leadership, business, and organizational skills outside of the classroom enhances students' life and career goals.

InterCultural Student Initiatives

The mission of InterCultural Student Initiatives (ISI) is to address the educational needs of College of DuPage's multicultural campus by fostering connection, collaboration, and community. It seeks to empower and enhance the student experience while promoting success for every individual.

Athletics

College of DuPage is a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and competes in Region 4 (Chicagoland).

Intercollegiate sports for men include:

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- ESports
- Football
- Golf
- Half Marathon
- Lacrosse
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
- Volleyball

Intercollegiate sports for women include:

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- ESports
- Flag Football
- Golf
- Half Marathon
- Soccer
- Softball
- Tennis
- Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
- Volleyball

HAROLD D. MCANINCH ARTS CENTER

Since opening in October 1986, the Harold D. McAninch Arts Center has focused on enriching the community with excellent entertainment opportunities that go beyond the stage.

Along with offering the most diverse range of programming in the area, the Harold D. McAninch Arts Center provides unique outreach and engagement programs before or after performances to enlighten and educate their audiences.

The mission of the Harold D. McAninch Arts Center is to foster enlightened educational and entertaining performance opportunities, which encourage artistic expression and engagement, establish a lasting relationship between people and art, and enrich the cultural vitality of the community.

MARKET OVERVIEW

Competition

Within District 502, College of DuPage's competition comes from more than 16 other institutions of higher education. College of DuPage also competes on a statewide basis with other community colleges and universities for state funds.

Strategic Direction

Through College of DuPage's comprehensive strategic planning process, the following four Strategic Pillars help to guide the long-term direction of the College.

- Student Success
- Arts, Culture & Community Engagement
- Economic Development
- Organizational Culture