



FEDERAL STUDENT AID  START HERE. GO FURTHER.™

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FEDERAL STUDENT AID
SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY CHANNEL
SCHOOL PARTICIPATION TEAM
DALLAS TEAM

Dr. Ruben M. Flores
President
Palo Alto College
1400 W. Villaret
San Antonio, TX 78224-2499

04/30/2013

OPE ID 02341300

Dear Dr. Flores:

The Dallas School Participation Team is pleased to inform you that, based upon the information included in your Application for Approval to Participate in Federal Student Financial Aid Programs, the Secretary of Education (Secretary) has determined that Palo Alto College (Institution) satisfies the definition of an eligible institution under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). Palo Alto College will be listed in the next edition of the Directory of Postsecondary Institutions published by the U.S. Department of Education (Department).

OPE ID NUMBER

The OPE ID Number 02341300 is a unique identifier for the Institution. The OPE ID Number will also be the Institution's identification number for the Title IV, HEA programs. Please use the OPE ID Number in all communications with the Department.

ELIGIBILITY AND CERTIFICATION APPROVAL REPORT

Please print a copy of the **Eligibility and Certification Approval Report (ECAR)** Together, the **Program Participation Agreement (PPA)** that has been signed on behalf of the Secretary and the ECAR constitute the Dallas School Participation Team's determination that the Institution has qualified to participate in programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) and the Federal student financial assistance programs (Title IV, HEA programs).

The Institution must retain the ECAR and the PPA together.

The ECAR contains the most critical of the data elements that form the basis of the Institution's approval, and also a list of the highest level of offering, any nondegree or short term training programs, and any additional locations that provide 50 percent or more of an educational program that have been approved for the Title IV, HEA programs. The Institution may not award, distribute or disburse any Title IV, HEA program funds for any educational or training program that is beyond the scope of the approval contained in the ECAR, nor for any additional location providing 50 percent or more of an educational program that has not been approved and is not listed on the ECAR.

- In order to comply with the requirements of 34 CFR 668.8(1), some vocational or nondegree programs may have been approved for fewer credit hours than requested in the Institution's application.
- Vocational and nondegree programs that do not meet the requirements of 34 CFR Parts 600 and 668 have not been approved and are marked in the ECAR as not approved.
- The listing of Vocational Programs in the ECAR contains those nondegree programs that the Dallas School Participation Team has determined are eligible programs for participation in the Title IV, HEA programs.
- The ECAR contains a list of HEA programs other than Title IV, HEA programs, for which the Institution is eligible to apply. This list does not mean that the Institution will automatically be eligible to participate in or receive funds under any HEA competitive grant program. Information concerning applications for, and the individual requirements of, the competitive grant program can be obtained from:

Deputy Assistant Secretary Office of Higher Education Programs U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20202-5140
--

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

The PPA contains the agreement between the Institution and the Secretary concerning the Institution's participation in the Federal student financial assistance programs (Title IV, HEA programs).

CERTIFICATION FOR TITLE IV, HEA PROGRAMS

As explained in the PPA, Title IV, HEA programs administered by participating educational institutions are subject to applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines. Listed below are the appropriate telephone numbers for further information on the HEA programs:

- Federal Pell Grant Program (800) 474-7268 
- Federal Family Education Loan Program (202) 377-4008 

- Federal Direct Student Loan Program (800) 848-0978 
If the Institution wishes to begin participating in the Direct Loan Program or to request a change in its funding method, contact COD School Relations at the Federal Direct Student Loan Program number above or send an email to codsupport@acs-inc.com
- Federal Campus-Based Programs (877) 801-7168 
The Federal Campus-Based Programs are (a) the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program, (b) the Federal Work-Study Program, and (c) the Federal Perkins Loan Program. To obtain funding under any or all of these programs, the Institution must file the Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP) annually. FISAP packages are typically available at the end of July each year and the due date for electronic submission of this data is generally a postmark or transmission date of October 1. Please keep in mind that the October 1 submission is to obtain funding for the Award Year that begins the following July 1.

If the Institution does not already participate in the Title IV, HEA programs, the Institution must complete Fundamentals of Title IV Administration (Precertification) Training no later than 12 months after the Institution executed the PPA. Completion of this training must be not earlier than one year before beginning to participate in any Title IV, HEA program for which the Institution has not previously participated. If you wish to register for Fundamentals of Title IV Administration (Precertification) Training, please register at <http://www.register123.com/event/profile/web/index.cfm?PKwebID=0x112117625&varPage=info>. For information concerning the training, contact the Dallas Team at the telephone number listed later in this letter.

Participating educational institutions will be reviewed at least once every six years to determine whether the institutions remain administratively capable and financially responsible to administer Title IV programs and funds.

REPORTING AND REAPPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Institution must report promptly to the Department certain changes and actions that affect the Institution's participation approval, as specified in 34 CFR 600 and 668, including, but not limited to:

- Change of name and/or address;
- New contract or significant modification of existing contract with a third party servicer;
- Change in exercise of a person's substantial control over the Institution, e.g., a change in the chief executive officer or members of the board of trustees or board of directors.
- Change in the way the Institution measures educational program length;
- Change in the level of course offerings;
- Additions and/or closures of non-main campus locations that offer at least 50% of an educational program;
- Change of accrediting agency;

- Change of the State agency that confers legal authority on the Institution to offer programs of postsecondary education; or
- Change in ownership *whether or not* that ownership change results in a change in control of the Institution.

If the Institution fails to report any such changes within ten days after the change occurs, the ability of the Institution to administer the Title IV student financial assistance programs properly will be called into question. As a consequence, we will consider whether it is necessary to monitor the Institution's receipt of Federal funds more closely. Failure to report changes within the time frame required may also result in an adverse action being taken against the Institution in accordance with 34 CFR 668, Subpart G.

Automatic Termination of Approval

This Approval for Institutional Participation automatically terminates on the happening of any of the following events:

- June 30, 2018
- The date the Institution loses the legal authority to offer programs of postsecondary education in the State in which it is located;
- The date the Institution loses accreditation from its designated primary accrediting agency;
- The date the Institution ceases to offer all approved postsecondary instruction;
- The date the Institution merges with another institution;
- The date the Institution undergoes a change in ownership resulting in a change of control;
- The date the Institution files for bankruptcy; or
- The date the Institution otherwise ceases to meet the definition of an eligible institution of higher education.

Please send all information or documentation required by this letter to:

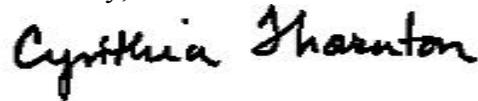
United States Department of Education Federal Student Aid, Schools Channel Attention: Dallas School Participation Team 1999 Bryan Street Suite 1410 Dallas, TX 75201-6817

One of the institutional eligibility requirements is that the institution must admit as regular students only persons who have a high school diploma; have the recognized equivalent of a high school diploma; or are beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is physically located (see 34 CFR 600.4, 5 or 6). This means if the student is not yet beyond the age of compulsory school attendance in the State in which the institution is physically located, the institution can only enroll the individual as a regular student if he or she has a high school diploma or its equivalent.

One of the student eligibility requirements is that an eligible student is one who is not enrolled in either an elementary or secondary school (see 34 CFR 668.32). This means that an institution cannot accept as a regular student at this school, an individual who is also enrolled at the same time in elementary or high school.

The telephone number for the Dallas Team is (214) 661-9490. The fax number is (214) 661-9662.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Thornton
Area Case Director
School Participation Team, Federal Student

Aid

Dallas Regional Office

cc: Dr. Harold G. Whitis, Director of Student Financial Services
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
Guarantee Agency
TX Higher Education Coordinating Board