

*“Your Success is Our Success”*

**INSTITUTIONAL COMPLIANCE WITH  
HIGHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION  
ACT (1.A.5)**

Estrella Mountain Community College maintains full compliance with the Title IV requirements of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act. Recent data from the Office of Student Financial Assistance indicate the official default rates since Estrella Mountain was initially certified to participate in Title IV programs:

1999	13.9%
1998	5.3%
1997	0%

Estrella Mountain Community College maintains a default rate below 20%, therefore there is no requirement to implement any specific default reduction measures. Internal procedures are in place to ensure that default rates stay within acceptable levels and the staff strives to use all appropriate measures to reduce the default rate for its students. Furthermore, Estrella Mountain is working in consultation with USA Funds to implement new, innovative default reduction plans.

The annual single audit of the College financial operations will be conducted throughout the entire Maricopa Community College District during late fall of 2001. The last single audit was completed in Fall of 2000 and had no findings. Copies of the 2000 audit will be available in the Resource Room.

Copies of the current Program Participation Agreement, which expires on June 30, 2002, will be available in the Resource Room. This agreement documents authorization by the U.S. Department of Education to Estrella Mountain Community College to provide student financial assistance programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act.

**Chapter 8**

## CREDITS, PROGRAM LENGTH, AND TUITION (1.C.9)



Estrella Mountain structures its learning experiences in a traditional semester structure. The College maintains four main terms of study. The college's academic year begins with the two summer semesters, summer I & II day semesters which run for 5 weeks and summer I evening (which runs concurrently with summer I day) for 8 weeks, then moves into the fall semester (16 weeks), and the spring semester which also runs for 16 weeks.

Contained within the fall and spring semesters are two 8 week fast track sessions and Weekend Express classes that are offered on Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays. In addition to this standard schedule, the college offers Self-Paced courses which will have flexible beginning and end dates, but which will be referenced by the semester in which they begin. Transcript policy is to refer each class to its term's designation, e.g. Summer I, Summer II, Fall, and Spring.



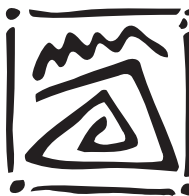
Tuition is charged by credit hour. Each course is listed in the catalog and schedule with its corresponding number of credit hours and periods.

Complete tuition cost for the total number of required contact hours for an associate degree ranged from \$2580 to \$2752 in the 2001-2002 academic year depending upon the credits hours required which range from sixty (60) for the associate in arts degree to sixty-four (64) for the associate in applied science degree.

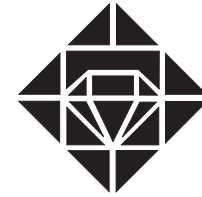
## PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION (III.A.1)

Estrella Mountain does not have any programs that have been reviewed by any professional body.

## REQUIREMENTS OF INSTITUTIONS HOLDING DUAL INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION (III.A.3)



Estrella Mountain does not have any programs that require review by any professional body.



*"Your Success is Our Success"*

## INSTITUTION'S ADVERTISING AND RECRUITMENT MATERIALS (IV.B.2)

Estrella Mountain provides fair and accurate information regarding its programs and policies to students, employees, and the community in the Estrella Mountain Community College Catalog, the Student Handbook and recruitment collateral. Division representatives and the office of institutional advancement check all external and internal communications for advertising, publications, press releases, and other print and electronic pieces for accuracy and design. All official materials are designed to effectively meet the needs of targeted internal constituents and/or external publics.

Estrella Mountain schedules, catalogs and program brochures include a statement referencing the College's accreditation status with the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, as well as the Commission's address and phone number. As the College produces new promotional materials referencing Estrella Mountain's accreditation status with the NCA, the statement will reflect the Commission's new name and identity: Accredited-The Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association *or* Accredited-The Higher Learning Commission; Member-North Central Association.

## TITLE V - STRENGTHENING HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTIONS

The Higher Education Amendments of 1992, Pub. Law 102-325, amended the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), by adding the Developing Hispanic Serving-Institutions (HSI) Program as an authorized program under Title III, Part A of the HEA. The HSI Program was authorized in section 316 of Title III of the HEA.

Under section 316, in general, an HSI institution was an institution that satisfied the statutory definition of an "eligible institution" contained in section 312 of the HEA, and had at least 25 percent of its enrollment consist of Hispanic students. An eligible institution under section 312 of the HEA basically satisfied four conditions. Two of the conditions related to accreditation and licensure. The other two required the institution to have a high percentage of low income students and low education and general (E&G) expenditures.

In the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, Public Law 105-244, the Congress moved the HSI Program into Title V of the HEA and reenacted, in that title, all the relevant provisions that governed that program while it was part of Title III of the HEA. To accommodate that statutory change, all HSI Program requirements were codified in a new part, 34 CFR Part 606.



### **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION VISIT (IV.A.8)**

Estrella Mountain has properly notified its internal constituents and external publics of its institutional self-study and the evaluation team visit scheduled for February 2002.

To ensure that all internal constituents and external publics were kept informed, Estrella Mountain created and followed an Institutional Self-Study Communication Plan. A newsletter - E-clips - was created specifically for institutional self-study information and two issues were produced. The first issue focussed on the various aspects of accreditation and the institutional self-study process. The second issue published major findings and recommendations and highlighted the Evaluation Visit. Other elements of the Institutional Self-Study Communication Plan included press releases, direct mail, paid advertising, World Wide Web, meetings and promotional items.



The Institutional Self-Study Communication Plan and copies of communication vehicles used are available in the Resource Room.

Estrella Mountain has taken the necessary steps meet federal and NCA compliance standards.

