

II. INSTITUTIONAL PURPOSE

Introduction

Dalton State College (DSC) has adopted a statement of purpose that defines its mission and gives direction to its program development, its formulation of educational goals, and its service operations.

Presentation of Findings

2.0 (1 and 2 of 7) Statement of Purpose
Describes the Institution, Its Characteristics, and Components

The College's "Statement of Purpose" is located in the *Dalton State College 2001-2002 Catalog and Student Handbook*, pp. 11-12; in the *Dalton State College Statutes* Article 1, B, pp.1-2. It reads as follows: Dalton State College serves Northwest Georgia by offering associate, certificate, and targeted baccalaureate programs of study and a wide variety of public service and continuing education activities. Located at the center of the greatest concentration of carpet production in the world, the College is a comprehensive institution, one of only two in the University System authorized to offer a full range of technical programs in addition to the traditional pre-baccalaureate curricula and targeted baccalaureate offerings which meet workforce development needs of the Northwest Georgia area. Through direct and technological collaboration with neighboring technical institutes and other colleges and universities on the one hand, and outreach and cooperation with local preschool, primary and secondary systems on the other, Dalton State College acts as an educational broker to meet the needs of business and industry and to provide opportunities for all persons within its service area to live self-fulfilling and productive lives.

Dalton State College shares with the other state colleges of the University System of Georgia the following core characteristics or purposes:

- a commitment to excellence and responsiveness within a scope of influence defined by the needs of the local area and by particularly outstanding programs and distinctive characteristics that have a magnet effect throughout the region or state;
- a commitment to a teaching/learning environment, both inside and outside the classroom, that sustains instructional excellence, functions to provide the University System access for a diverse student body, and promotes high levels of student learning;
- a high quality general education program that supports a variety of well chosen associate programs and prepares students for transfer to baccalaureate programs, learning support programs designed to insure access and opportunity for a diverse student body, and a limited

number of certificate and other career programs to complement

neighboring technical institute programs;

- a limited number of baccalaureate programs designed to meet the educational and economic development needs of the local area;
- a commitment to public service, continuing education, technical assistance, and economic development activities that address the needs, improve the quality of life, and raise the economic level within the college's scope of influence;
- a commitment to scholarship and creative work to enhance instructional effectiveness and to encourage faculty scholarly pursuits; and a responsibility to address local needs through applied scholarship, especially in areas directly related to targeted baccalaureate degree programs;
- a supportive campus climate, necessary services, and leadership and development opportunities, all to educate the whole person and meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff;
- cultural, ethnic, racial, and gender diversity in the faculty, staff, and student body, supported by practices and programs that embody the ideals of an open, democratic, and global society;
- technology to advance educational purposes, including instructional technology, student support services, and distance education;
- collaborative relationships with other System institutions, State agencies, local schools, technical institutes, and business and industry, sharing physical, human, information, and other resources to expand and enhance programs and services available to the citizens of Georgia.

In all that it does, Dalton State College strives for the highest possible standards of quality and excellence and systematically assesses and evaluates its effectiveness. Especially in its combination of associate level studies in the liberal arts and targeted baccalaureate degrees with a large complement of career programs in health-related, business, and technical fields; in the quality of its preparation of students for work or further study; and in its role as a broad-based information resource for the people of Northwest Georgia, the College seeks to build upon its strengths and to justify recognition as one of the most academically respected, student-oriented, and community-centered institutions of its kind (*Dalton State College Statutes*, April 2001, Art. I, B, pp. 1-2).

Clearly, the College's statement of purpose expresses its role as a post-secondary

educational institution committed to providing quality collegiate education in response to the needs of its service area. Documentation of the progress of the Statement of Purpose and other locations in which it is published are listed in the “Supporting Documents” column for this section located below.

**2.0 (3 of 7)
College's
Posture and
Practice
Consistent
with Purpose**

The official posture and practice of Dalton State College are consistent with its statement of purpose. This consistency is evident in the College's commitment to a teaching and learning environment that promotes instructional excellence in its certificate and career programs, its general education programs, and its carefully selected baccalaureate programs. To maintain high quality of instruction and programming, the College's Strategic Planning Committee established an Institutional Effectiveness Subcommittee to create and implement key performance indicators for the College and appointed an Academic Program Review Subcommittee that designed a mechanism for periodic review of the various programs of study. As a result of the work of those committees, each division and department of the College has formulated a specific statement of purpose and goals that directly reflect the general Statement of Purpose of the College. Each instructional unit has composed a list of expected educational outcomes for every course offered. Instructors assess their individual efforts to achieve those specified outcomes each semester and review their results with division/department chairpersons annually. Furthermore, as the *DSC Strategic Plan* indicates, all division and department chairpersons regularly review their mission statements and assess all of their activities and programs in the light of those mission statements and associated goals (DSC President, Personal Interview, 4/5/01). For a more comprehensive view of the College's institutional effectiveness program and its educational program, see Sections III and IV, respectively, of this *Self-Study Report*.

The high achievement rates of the students, as measured by transfer grade point averages, Regents' Testing Program scores, and specialized certification examinations, demonstrate the excellent quality of instruction at the College. Other components of the College that help to fulfill its statement of purpose include the breadth of its curriculum offerings, the size of its library collection, the growing diversity of its student population, and its ongoing retention efforts (*Dalton State College 2000-2003 Strategic Plan*, “History of Planning at Dalton State College,” pp. 9-10; *Dalton State College Handbook of Institutional Effectiveness*).

As indicated in Tables 2.0-1 and 2.0-2, surveys of both faculty and staff members of the College, administered in the 1999-2000 Academic Year, indicate that 99 percent of faculty respondents and 90 percent of staff respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the mission and core purposes of the College accurately reflect the purpose and practices of the College. One hundred percent of the

faculty respondents and 90 percent of the staff respondents agreed that the educational programs of the College carry out the official purposes of the College

(1999-2000 Faculty Survey Results, Items 14, 15, 39, and 45; 1999-2000 Staff Survey Results, Items 9 and 10).

Table 2.0-1
1999-2000 Faculty Survey Results Related to DSC's Purpose Statement

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know/ No Opinion	Dis-agree	Strongly Disagree
14. The official mission and core purposes of DSC accurately reflect the purpose and practices of the college.	44%	55%	1%	0%	0%
15. In general, the educational programs of DSC carry out the official purpose of the college.	48%	52%	0%	0%	0%
39. The College's undergraduate curricula are appropriate to the institution's mission and core purposes.	33%	59%	1%	6%	0%
44. The College's instructional policies are appropriate to the purposes of the institution.	25%	65%	9%	1%	0%

Source: 1999-2000 Faculty Survey Results, pp. 4, 8

Table 2.0-2
1999-2000 Staff Survey Results Related to DSC's Purpose Statement

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Know/ No Opinion	Dis-agree	Strongly Disagree
9. The official mission and core purposes of DSC accurately reflect the purpose and practices of the college.	33%	57%	10%	0%	0%
10. In general, the educational programs of DSC carry out the official purpose of the college.	33%	59%	8%	0%	0%

Source: 1999-2000 Staff Survey Results, p. 3

2.0 (4 of 7)
Publication
of Purpose
Statement

At the time of this report, the "DSC Statement of Purpose" is published in the *Dalton State College 2001-2002 Catalog and Student Handbook*, the *Dalton State College Evening & Extended Campus Programs Student Handbook 2001-2002*, the *Dalton State College Part-time Faculty Handbook*, the *Dalton State College Faculty Handbook*, the *Dalton State College Extended Campus Faculty Handbook*, and the *Dalton State College Statutes*.

2.0 (5 of 7)
Purpose
Approved by
Governing
Board

In 1998, the University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents upgraded the College's status to that of a state college authorized to offer selected four-year degree programs and reviewed the College's new statement of purpose (Minutes

of the Meeting of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, Nov. 10 and 11, 1998, pp. 11-12). The Dalton State College Statement of Purpose also contains the Core Mission Statement that the USG Board of Regents established

for state colleges in 1998 (<http://www.usg.edu/inst/mission/statecol.html>).

**2.0 (6 of 7)
Review of
Purpose
Statement**

Throughout its history, the College has reviewed and amended its statement of purpose as its mission and status have changed. Each of the three previous institutional self-studies conducted by Dalton State College over the course of its history has included an examination of revisions to the College's statement of purpose. The first purpose statement was adopted in 1968, a year after the College began operations; and a review of its evolution since then shows that the College, in 1972, 1982, 1992, 1995, and 1998, thoroughly examined and reevaluated the purpose of the institution and its official expression to ensure accordance with both the College's changing mission and prevailing SACS standards and criteria. In 1982, Dalton State College, then Dalton Junior College, amended its statement of purpose following recommendations arising from the 1981-83 Self Study, and that amended version of the purpose statement remained in effect until 1992:

The philosophy of Dalton Junior College is such that the faculty view the campus as embracing the entire area whose people it serves. The purpose is therefore to provide all persons on this extended campus an opportunity to engage in general educational experiences designed to enable students to transfer to senior institutions for further education to enrich cultural and physical lives, to equip them for careers of gainful employment and increase their individual, professional, and vocational competence, and to prepare them for living self-fulfilling and productive lives (*1991-92 Dalton College Catalog and Student Handbook*, pp. 11-12).

In 1987, the Board of Regents deleted "Junior" from the name of the College, and all subsequent printings of the Statement of Purpose have reflected that change. In 1995, the University System of Georgia undertook a mission review for all colleges and universities under its governance. The statement of purpose for Dalton College was revised at that time by a campus-based committee established for that purpose (Board of Regents Executive Summary/Mission Review Report, October 1995).

In 1997, planning began for Dalton College's change of status from a two-year institution to a state college authorized to offer a limited number of four-year degree programs designed to meet the educational and economic needs of its ten-county service area in Northwest Georgia. The proposed change in status required the College to revise and expand its statement of purpose. Subsequent to that status change, effected in the fall of 1998, the Board of Regents reviewed and approved the new "Dalton State College Statement of Purpose" and mandated the addition of a list of "core characteristics or purposes."

Such reviews will be ongoing, since the *Dalton State College Strategic Plan* mandates a three-year cycle of review of all areas of the College, including review of the Statement of Purpose (*2000-2003 DSC Strategic Plan*, "Structure of the Planning Process," pp. 11, 58-60).

**2.0 (7 of 7)
Adequate and
Appropriate
Processes and
Programs**

Subsequent sections of this *Self-Study Report* as well as the College's *Handbook of Institutional Effectiveness* will demonstrate that the mission and goals set forth in the Statement of Purpose are the foundations for the planning and evaluation processes, the educational programs, the educational support services, the financial and physical resources, and the administrative processes of Dalton State College (*Dalton State College Handbook of Institutional Effectiveness*; *Dalton State College 2000-2001 Annual Report of Institutional Progress*, pp. 20-21; and Self-Study Sections III, IV, V, and VI).

Conclusion:

Dalton State College is in compliance with the *SACS Criteria*, Section 2.0.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

None

Proposals:

1. Considering changes in terminology that the Board of Regents has made in the wording of the "Core Mission Statement for State Colleges in the University System of Georgia," the Sub-committee on Institutional Purpose proposes that the Dalton State College Statement of Purpose be reexamined and reedited for greater clarity and consistency of language.
2. Having noted that various documents refer to the "Dalton State College Statement of Purpose" by different names ("Statement of Purpose," "Purpose Statement," "Mission Statement," etc.), the sub-committee on Institutional Purpose proposes that one title be selected and that it be used consistently wherever the statement of institutional purpose appears in official College documents.

**Must Statement Compliance Table
2.0 Institutional Purpose**

Must Statement	Compliance Statement	Supporting Documentation
<p>2.0 (1 and 2 of 7). An Institution must have a clearly defined purpose or mission statement appropriate to collegiate education as well as to its own specific educational role.</p> <p>The statement must describe the institution and its characteristics and address the components of the institution and its operations.</p>	Compliance	<p><i>Dalton State College 2001-2002 Catalog and Student Handbook</i>, pp. 11-12</p> <p><i>Dalton State College Statutes</i>, Article I, B. pp. 1-2</p> <p>DSC Web site: <http://www.daltonstate.edu/statement.htm></p>
<p>2.0 (3 of 7). The official posture and practice of the institution must be consistent with its purpose statement.</p>	Compliance	<p>Mission Statements of all DSC Divisions</p> <p>Assessment Documents of each Division</p> <p><i>DSC Strategic Plan</i>, “Core Purposes, Strategic Initiatives, and Goals,” pp. 66-74</p> <p>DSC President, Personal Interview, 04/05/01</p> <p>Self-Study Sections III, IV</p> <p><i>DSC Strategic Plan</i>, Revised May 2002, “History of Planning at Dalton State College,” pp. 9-10</p> <p><i>Dalton State College Handbook of Institutional Effectiveness</i></p> <p><i>1999-2000 Dalton State College Survey Results</i>, Items 14, 15, 39, and 44</p> <p><i>1999-2000 Dalton State College Faculty Survey Results</i>, Items 9 and 10</p>

Must Statement	Compliance Statement	Supporting Documentation
<p>2.0 (4 of 7). Appropriate publications must accurately cite the current statement of purpose.</p>	<p>Compliance</p>	<p><i>Dalton State College 2001-2002 Catalog and Student Handbook</i>, pp. 11-12</p> <p><i>Dalton State College Part-time Faculty Handbook</i>, “Dalton State College Statement of Purpose”</p> <p><i>Dalton State College Full-time Faculty Handbook</i>, “Dalton State College Statement of Purpose”</p> <p><i>Dalton State College Statutes</i>, Article I, p. 1</p> <p><i>Dalton State College Evening & Extended Campus Programs Student Handbook 2001-2002</i></p> <p>DSC Web site: <http://www.daltonstate.edu/statement.htm></p>
<p>2.0 (5 of 7). It [the purpose statement] must be approved by the governing board.</p>	<p>Compliance</p>	<p>Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia Meeting Minutes, 11/10/98 and 11/11/98, pp. 11-12</p> <p>“Core Mission Statement for State Colleges in the University System of Georgia” <http://www.usg.edu/inst/mission/stat ecol.html></p> <p>Mission Development Report September 2000</p>

Must Statement	Compliance Statement	Supporting Documentation
<p>2. (6 of 7). An institution must study periodically its statement of purpose, considering internal changes as well as the changing responsibilities of the institution to its constituencies.</p>	<p>Compliance</p>	<p><i>1991-92 Dalton College Catalog and Student Handbook</i>, pp. 11-12</p> <p>Board of Regents Executive Summary/Mission Review report, October 11, 1995</p> <p>Review 1996 Mission Statement Documentation</p> <p>Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia Meeting Minutes, Nov. 10 and 11, 1998</p> <p><i>Dalton State College 2000-2003 Strategic Plan</i>, “Structure of the Planning Process,” pp.11, 58-60</p>
<p>2.0 (7 of 7). The statement of purpose serves as the foundation for all institutional operations, programs, and activities. Consequently, the institution must demonstrate that its planning and evaluation processes, educational programs, educational support services, financial and physical resources, and administrative processes are adequate and appropriate to fulfill its stated purpose.</p>	<p>Compliance</p>	<p><i>Dalton State College Handbook of Institutional Effectiveness</i></p> <p><i>DSC Strategic Plan</i></p> <p><i>Dalton State College 2000-2001 Annual Report of Institutional Progress</i>, pp. 20-21</p> <p>Self-Study Sections III, IV, V, VI</p>