

Federal Requirement 4.7

The institution is in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the most recent Higher Education Act as amended.

Impact Statement

Effective July 1, 2012, an act of the Louisiana State legislature merged Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC), with its principle campus in Baton Rouge, with Capital Area Technical College (CATC), with campuses located in Jackson, New Roads, Port Allen, and Westside. As a matter of course, CATC and BRCC still maintain a separate Program Participation Agreement (PPA) and each campus has its own OPEID with the Department of Education. The merger requires that the newly formed BRCC create a single PPA and OPEID covering the primary campus and each learning site. BRCC is currently working with the Department of Education to complete a new PPA agreement and to resolve any outstanding issues. Once complete and under the direction of the Department of Education, the merged College will complete a new PPA that is inclusive of the main campus and all learning locations and programs. This process target date is February 1, 2015.

Under the auspices of Louisiana Community and Technical College System and the prior merger of BRCC and CATC, each location's database management system was upgraded to Banner. At present, the merged BRCC is operating under two Banner databases—one for students attending BRCC academic and transfer programs, and one for students attending CATC technical programs. Banner is slated for merger no later than July 1, 2015, at which time all students, regardless of program, will be found in one Banner database. Prior to the merger of BRCC and CATC, each campus location had their own financial aid counselors. The Financial Aid Counselors were responsible for completing the entire financial aid process, from students applying for financial aid, the completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) verification, and awarding financial aid. To improve quality, consistency, and efficiency, effective March 2, 2014, the Acadian Campus of the former CATC adopted all policy and procedures that are maintained and created by BRCC.

To further serve all the BRCC communities, the Director of Financial Aid works between the Mid City and Acadian campuses to provide guidance, training, workshops, seminars, and presentations and to assist the Financial Aid Counselors in any way necessary.

Rationale

BRCC receives Federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education under Title IV of the *1998 Higher Education Amendments*. The College's Program Participation Agreement was approved on January 8, 2013 and is valid through September 30, 2018 ([Figure 4.7.1](#)).

This agreement covers the College's eligibility to participate in the following Title IV and Higher Education Act programs: Federal Pell Grant Program, Federal Direct Student Loan Program, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program, and Federal Work-Study Program.

The Louisiana Legislative Auditor selects a sample of colleges and universities each year to test for compliance under the 1996 Single Audit Act. Evidence is examined to determine the College's compliance with the requirements described in the U.S. Office of Budget and Management Circular A-133 Compliance Supplement applicable to the State of Louisiana's major Federal programs. BRCC was tested for compliance for the year period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Auditors issued a management letter in March 2012 for the audit ([Figure 4.7.2](#)).

The auditors performed internal control and compliance testing with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major Federal program in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. Procedures were performed on the Student Financial Assistance Cluster for the Fiscal Year that ended June 30, 2011 as a part of the Single Audit of the State of Louisiana.

As reflected in the College's *Cohort* Default Rate for Student Loans Report, in FY 2010, the default rate was 27.9 percent ([Figure 4.7.3](#)). BRCC's 3 year draft default rate is estimated to be 32.7 ([Figure 4.7.4](#)). This report provides a history back to 2009.

Supporting Evidence

- [Figure 4.7.1](#) Eligibility and Participation Agreement
- [Figure 4.7.2](#) Baton Rouge Community College Management Letter
- [Figure 4.7.3](#) School Default Rates
- [Figure 4.7.4](#) CDR Default Rates