

# Non-Traditional Student Review

SPRING 2009

A senior unit of the University System of Georgia

## Chart Your Course with the COMPASS

*Tests ensure proper placement at Clayton State*

**H**ikers often use compasses to ensure that they're walking in the right direction, so they can reach their destinations without getting lost. For much the same reason, Georgia universities require most prospective non-traditional students to take the COMPASS placement test. They want to make sure these students are prepared to handle

the difficulties of college coursework and likely won't be sidetracked off their own pathways to their goals. COMPASS stands for Computerized Placement Assessment and Support System. The exam consists of three sections: reading, writing, and math. Students must earn minimum scores in each section to gain admission to Clayton State.

*A **non-traditional student** is one who has either earned a high school diploma at least five years prior to submitting his or her university application. If a student has earned a GED, his or her original high school class must have graduated at least five years prior. Students who have attended college previously must have earned fewer than 30 transferrable credit hours to be classified as non-traditional.*

The COMPASS determines the need for students to attend Learning Support classes, which are designed to build up students' reading, writing, or math skills while helping them get acclimated to university expectations. Some students will be admitted as full-time Clayton State

undergraduates but still need to take Intermediate Algebra and/or English Skills. Other students will be admitted with a provisional status in cooperation with Georgia Perimeter College and be required to complete Elementary Algebra and/or Reading Skills, as well as participate in academic support activities including tutoring, workshops, and academic advising. Students who take Learning Support classes will need to pass COMPASS exit tests before moving forward.

The Office of Recruitment and Admissions must receive your COMPASS scores before you can be admitted and before you register to attend an orientation session. Students are allowed one COMPASS retest if necessary (new scores must be received prior to orientation registration as well).

Clayton State's Center for Academic Success is responsible for COMPASS placement testing and exit tests. For more information including minimum required scores and a schedule of upcoming tests, check out <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/testingcenter/placementtesting.htm>. ■



## We're Still Accepting Applications for our Fall 2009 Semester!

### Deadline: July 15, 2009

Applications and official documents must be submitted and all files must be complete by this date.

# Making Sense of Application Paperwork

Completing your application file can be easy if you're organized!

Every semester, admissions counselors review stacks of application files carefully, using the information provided to decide whether or not prospective non-traditional students meet the requirements for admission to Clayton State University. Some students submit their applications early and with all necessary components in place, ready to work with the counselors to provide additional information if necessary. Other students wait until the last minute, filling in blanks and throwing paperwork together—and then hope that it all works out. Can you tell which students are more likely to get acceptance letters and have a better transition to college?

Remember: students are not considered for admission until their files are complete. Be sure to submit all necessary paperwork early if possible—and definitely by the deadline!

## Here's a list of all required items for application to Clayton State:

- A completed application for admission
- You can fill out an application online at [www.clayton.edu](http://www.clayton.edu) or [www.gacollege411.org](http://www.gacollege411.org)
- If using a paper application, be sure all blanks are filled in and your application is signed.
- A \$40.00 nonrefundable application fee
- If you apply online, you'll need to use a credit or debit card.
- If using a paper application, please enclose a check or money order made out to Clayton State University with the application.
- You may be eligible for an application fee waiver through College Board. For more information, go to [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenefees/feewaivers.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenefees/feewaivers.html).
- An official copy of your high school transcript (or official GED scores if you are not a high school graduate) and college transcripts if you have previously attended another college. All official transcripts must have the institution's seal and must be presented in an unopened official envelope from the sending institution.

Regarding financial aid: your financial aid materials are



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not part of your admissions application paperwork. If you receive an acceptance letter from Clayton State, at that time you should complete and submit a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Assistance) as soon as possible. You can complete a FAFSA online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. Clayton State's Office of Financial Aid can answer your financial aid questions; just call (678) 466-4185 or send an e-mail to [FinancialAid@clayton.edu](mailto:FinancialAid@clayton.edu).

For questions or concerns about your admissions application, please contact Clayton State's Office of Recruitment and Admissions at (678) 466-4115 or [csu-info@clayton.edu](mailto:csu-info@clayton.edu). ■

## Clayton State Counselor Profile

# Carol Montgomery, Assistant Director of Admissions

When nontraditional students start planning to earn their university degrees, they often have a few issues to work out. Some students have been away from a campus for years, and have difficulty tracking down old records. Some students want a new career, but are nervous about tackling college coursework. Many nontraditional students discover that earning a degree means completely reorganizing home and work priorities.

These students get the helping hand and friendly smile they need from Carol Montgomery, Assistant Director of Admissions at Clayton State University. For many of her 19 years in the Recruitment and Admissions Office, she has counseled nontraditional students. With her experience, she is able to provide specific advice on a wide variety of issues.

Montgomery says the most common problem nontraditional students have is learning to juggle their responsibilities.



“Fitting college into a life that may already be filled with work, marriage and children is daunting to contemplate. The advice I usually give is to make sure they pace themselves. Start the admissions process well before the application deadline and allow ample time to prepare for taking the COMPASS test, seeking financial aid, and getting the necessary transcripts submitted.”

While helping others solve a variety of problems may sound like a demanding job, Montgomery says there are moments that make it worthwhile. “Frequently, around graduation time, I get a call or a visit from one or two students who say something like, “Mrs. Montgomery, I finally did it!” They go on to tell me how rewarding their college experience was. I’m always thrilled to have played a small part in their success stories.”

Contact Carol Montgomery at (678) 466-4115 or [csu-info@clayton.edu](mailto:csu-info@clayton.edu). ■

## Mind the Majors

### Our new list of undergraduate and pre-professional programs

Clayton State University is pleased to offer more than 40 bachelor’s degree programs, associate’s degree programs, certificate programs, and pre-professional tracks. If you have any questions about one of the programs of study listed below, please feel free to contact Clayton State’s Office of Recruitment and Admissions at (678) 466-4115 or by e-mail at [csu-info@clayton.edu](mailto:csu-info@clayton.edu). We’ll put you in touch with a counselor or advisor who can help you with your educational and career goals. ■

#### List of Majors / Bachelor’s Degree Programs (as of Fall 2009):

##### ONE-YEAR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS:

Computer Network Technology  
Information Technology  
Paralegal Studies

##### ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS) DEGREE PROGRAMS:

Information Technology  
Paralegal Studies

##### ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS:

Arts, Core Curriculum  
Science, Core Curriculum

##### Bachelor’s Degree Programs:

##### BACHELOR OF ARTS PROGRAMS:

Communication and Media Studies

English  
History  
Liberal Studies  
Middle Level Education  
Music  
Theatre

##### BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE PROGRAMS:

Administrative Management  
Allied Health Administration  
Dental Hygiene Practice and Administration  
Technology Management  
Homeland Security / Emergency Management (coming soon!)

##### BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS:

Accounting



Business Marketing and Marketing Management  
General Business Management

##### BACHELOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS:

Information Design and Production  
Information Technology

##### BACHELOR OF MUSIC PROGRAMS:

Music – General

##### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PROGRAMS:

Biology  
Computer Science  
Criminal Justice

Dental Hygiene  
Dental Hygiene (RDH to BSDH)  
Health Care Management  
Health Fitness Management  
Information Technology – WebBSIT (online degree program)  
Integrative Studies  
Legal Studies  
Mathematics  
Nursing  
Nursing (RN to BSN)  
Political Science  
Psychology and Human Services  
Sociology

##### PRE-PROFESSIONAL TRACKS:

Pre-dentistry  
Pre-engineering  
Pre-law  
Pre-medicine  
Pre-pharmacy



# Visit Clayton State!



### From I-75

Take I-75 to exit 233 (15 miles south of downtown Atlanta). Turn left and follow the green and white signs for 1-1/2 miles north on Georgia Highway 54. Turn right onto Clayton State Boulevard.

### From I-675

Take I-675 to exit 5 west and continue straight on Forest Parkway for two miles. Turn left onto North Parkway. At the first traffic light, Harper Drive, North Parkway becomes North Lee Street. Continue straight on North Lee Street for one block to the next traffic light. Turn left onto Clayton State Boulevard.

**We Want to Hear from You!**

Phone: (678) 466-4115 | Fax: (678) 466-4149  
 E-mail: [csu-info@clayton.edu](mailto:csu-info@clayton.edu)  
[www.clayton.edu/futurestudents.htm](http://www.clayton.edu/futurestudents.htm)



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