

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS FOR COPLAC MEMBERSHIP

- Offer a broad education with an emphasis on educating the whole person, rather than simply imparting specific skills. Essential instruments in pursuing this goal are extensive, integrated arts and sciences curricula that expose all graduates to the best learning of their age with the goal of preparing them not just for livelihood, but for life.
 - Clear institutional mission statement indicating a commitment to the liberal arts as a core activity beyond a strong general education program.*
 - Significant evidence of an institutional commitment to the liberal arts as a core emphasis that reaches beyond top leadership to the faculty and students.*
 - More than 50% of all degrees conferred awarded in traditional liberal arts disciplines.*
 - A significant institutional commitment to active learning.*
- Bring faculty and students together on a human scale, offering ample opportunities for personal contact and individual mentoring. They possess a palpable sense of community.
 - Small to moderate size: usually less than 5,000 students.*
 - Opportunities for strong student and faculty interaction are very good.*
 - A critical mass of students in a residential environment.*
- Possess a vibrant extra-curriculum with intellectual, artistic, and performance opportunities that transcend academic programs and enrich the broader campus culture.
 - Recognition of the importance of the co-curriculum in student development accompanied by significant student involvement in these activities.*
- Create opportunity by offering access to individualized education at prices common citizens can afford and by encouraging and supporting diversity.
 - A diverse student body which reflects both the composition of the service region and the institution's commitment to provide access to a high-quality liberal arts experience to students who otherwise might not have such an opportunity.*
- Commit to preparing students for a life of active citizenship and public service.
 - Ample opportunities for student involvement in community service & civic engagement.*
 - Institutional involvement in the life of the community.*
- Exhibit unique structural characteristics
 - Separate institutional identity and a public governance structure.*
 - Predominantly undergraduate, baccalaureate level student body: at least 75% of total degrees conferred at the baccalaureate level.*
 - Selective undergraduate admission policies.*
 - Faculty appropriate to a liberal arts institution in numbers, training, and full-time status.*



COPPLAC

COUNCIL OF PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES

FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

One University Heights, Asheville, NC 28804
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WHO WE ARE

Established in 1988 and now consisting of 29 colleges and universities in 27 states and one Canadian province, the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges represents a distinguished sector in higher education. COPLAC advances the aims of its member institutions and drives awareness of the value of high-quality, public liberal arts education in a student-centered, residential environment.

Membership in COPLAC is reserved for small to medium-sized, primarily undergraduate public colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Currently, our smallest campus enrolls 800 undergraduates while our largest enrolls 7000. The median size is just over 3000. Our member institutions are distinctive within their respective state and provincial systems as student-centered, exclusively or predominantly undergraduate institutions.

Every campus is dedicated to helping students reach their full potential, both personal and professional, through a rigorous course of study. For COPLAC, an education in the great tradition of the liberal arts and sciences remains the best preparation for a meaningful life and professional career.

COPLAC serves both external and internal constituencies. It communicates to state and federal policy makers the vital importance and benefits of providing students with public higher education in the liberal arts and sciences. It collaborates with major national higher education organizations to advance the aims of liberal learning in a global society. The consortium also offers a range of internal programming for administrators, faculty, professional staff and students.

Dedicated to the advancement of
high quality *liberal arts education*
in a public college setting

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

FOR CAMPUS LEADERS AND SENIOR ADMINISTRATORS

Bi-annual meetings facilitate collaborations, information sharing and opportunities to promote a unique sector in higher education.
Professional area gatherings and presentations at COPLAC's annual summer meeting, hosted by a member campus. Past participants have included CFO's, Library Directors, Facilities Management Directors, Student Affairs and Development/Foundation Officers.
Annual comparative data profile for benchmarking and advocacy. Professional area listservs for networking and project collaborations.
The combined strength of a recognized sector in higher education for communications, staff development, student recruitment and advocacy.

FOR FACULTY AND STAFF

Annual Summer Institute brings together faculty and/or staff to share best practices, student learning outcomes and assessment practices.
Grant-funded workshops on advancing undergraduate research.
Faculty panel at the annual meeting of AAC&U showcasing innovative teaching and learning at public liberal arts colleges and universities.
Academic department and program reviews through peer visits.
Option to mentor students at other COPLAC universities through distance technology in a specialized field.

FOR STUDENTS

Regional undergraduate research conferences advance high impact student learning.
Web-based, campus-reviewed undergraduate journal *Metamorphosis* showcases outstanding student research and creative activity.
Opportunity for grant funded research in a specialized field with a mentor at another institution using distance technology.

For additional information on the application process, contact COPLAC Director Bill Spellman at spellman@coplac.org. For news and calendar information, visit our website at www.coplac.org.