
C-11 POLICY Consortial/Contractual Arrangements

Purpose

In support of the College’s Strategic Plan, all instructional areas of Southeast Community College are highly encouraged to partner with other entities to provide students with the highest quality education possible. To effectively achieve this objective, it is the policy of Southeast Community College to follow the guidance of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) regarding entering into consortial and contractual arrangements with other academic institutions or corporate organizations.

Definitions

A **consortial arrangement** is defined by HLC as “an arrangement in which all of the contractual partners providing goods or services related to academic programs are institutions accredited by agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.”

A **contractual arrangement** is defined by HLC as “outsourcing a portion of an academic program to a corporate entity or institution that does not qualify as a consortial party within HLC’s definition of a consortial arrangement.”

Approvals

Prior HLC approval or notification may be required for substantive changes related to the initiation, modification or renewal of contractual arrangements. A contractual arrangement is an arrangement in which Southeast Community College outsources some portion of its academic programs—that is, degrees or certificates offered for academic credit—to:

1. An unaccredited institution.
2. An institution that is not accredited by an accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
3. A corporation or other entity.

The services provided by the contractual party may include instruction, oversight of the curriculum, assurance of the consistency in the level and quality of instruction and in expectations of student performance, and/or the establishment of the academic qualifications for instructional personnel.

Oversight and Responsibilities

The Vice President for Instruction, Vice President for Program Development, and Accreditation Liaison Officer work collaboratively to ensure all contractual and consortial arrangements have gone through respective approvals with the Higher Learning Commission.

Related Procedure: C-11a

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