
Subject: Academic Consortial Relationships

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1. Purpose

In compliance with the requirements of regional accreditation, Virginia Tech is responsible for ensuring the quality of educational programs/courses offered through consortial relationships or contractual agreements, ensuring ongoing compliance with the comprehensive requirements and evaluating the agreements against the purpose of the institution. This policy on Academic Consortial Agreements is established to ensure the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges (COC) of the quality of joint curricular ventures involving the awarding of credit.

This policy defines the procedures and the responsible department/college/university unit that enables and empowers compliance with the SACS-COC Comprehensive Standard, 3.4.7.

2. Policy

Ensuring compliance of “joint curricular ventures involving the award of credit” as defined by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is a shared responsibility. Consortial relationships or contract agreements may be initiated by an academic department, an academic college, or an administrative unit reporting to the senior vice president and provost. As defined by SACS-COC, the policy applies to affiliations, partnerships, technical assistance agreements, articulation agreements, cooperative agreements, consortial agreements, contracts and memoranda of understanding established for credit-bearing and degree-granting joint curricular ventures with regionally-accredited, non-regionally-accredited and international institutions or organizations. Guidelines developed through SACS-COC policy (<http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/081705/joint%20ventures.pdf>) will be used to ensure full compliance with the comprehensive standards. To ensure sustainability of compliance after the initial joint curricular venture is established, a review of the agreement will be incorporated into the seven-year academic program review cycle. The program review process includes administrative endorsement by the department head, the college dean and the appropriate vice president (vice president and dean for undergraduate education; vice president and dean for graduate education; and vice president for outreach and international affairs) with recommendations for program improvement to the senior vice president and provost.

The senior vice president and provost and his or her designees are assigned responsibility for ensuring compliance with joint curricular ventures.

3. Procedures

3.1 Initiation of Educational Programs/Courses

Educational programs/courses offered through consortial relationships or contractual agreements will be initiated at the department/college/university level by the appropriate administrator with final approval for the agreement coming from the senior vice president and provost (or designee).

3.2 Review and Renewal of Educational Programs/Courses

Review and renewal of existing educational programs/courses offered through consortial relationships or contractual agreements will be incorporated into the seven-year cycle of academic program review. Renewal agreements will be approved by the appropriate vice president on behalf of the Senior Vice President and Provost.

4. Definitions

Joint Curricular-Venture – defined by SACS-COC as any affiliation, partnership, technical assistance agreement, articulation agreement, cooperative agreement, consortial agreement, contract and/or memorandum of understanding established for credit-bearing and degree-granting programs with regionally-accredited, non-regionally accredited, and international institutions or organizations.

5. References

[Commission on Colleges Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Joint curricular Ventures Involving the Award of Credit by Member Institutions: Policy and Guidelines](http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/081705/joint%20ventures.pdf)
(<http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/081705/joint%20ventures.pdf>)

[Virginia Tech – Academic Program Review at Virginia Tech](http://www.provost.vt.edu/documents/apr_guidelines_final09.pdf)
(http://www.provost.vt.edu/documents/apr_guidelines_final09.pdf):

6. Approval and Revisions

Approved August 20, 2009 by the Senior Vice President and Provost, Mark G. McNamee.