



Relations with other Educational Institutions and Agencies #380.101

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
March 19, 2019	February 7, 2024	Academic Affairs

POLICY STATEMENT

Academic Affairs and the Colleges and Schools and their units accept responsibility for voluntary and mutual planning and/or coordination with the educational and non-educational, governmental and non-governmental institutions and agencies related to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the University. The outreach may involve international entities with varying scopes and purposes.

The basis for such relations may rest in the interests of higher education in general, or in inter-institutional or inter-agency agreements as specified in Florida Statutes. Such relations are conditioned upon the legal capacity of the University. These agreements must follow the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) "Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement" for the initiation of consortium or contractual arrangements. Depending on the terms stipulated in an agreement, SACSCOC Substantive Change Policy and Procedures would set forth the procedure required for compliance.

The policies and decisions of Academic Affairs, the Colleges and Schools and each of its units are guided by the spirit and letter of the "Statewide Articulation Agreement" between the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors which the State Board of Education shall adopt by rule. State of Florida, by Statute, summarizes the academic and credit relationships of the member institutions of the State University System and the Florida College System.

Contracts for educational services and programs must be consistent with the purpose, policies, and procedures of the University. The University is responsible for the qualifications of the faculty and for the quality of all courses offered under contract.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all academic units.



REASON FOR POLICY

To state the administrative and programmatic policy of Academic Affairs regarding voluntary cooperation and statutory coordination with other domestic and international educational institutions and governmental agencies.

DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITIONS
Articulation, International	<p>An international articulation agreement is a transfer agreement whereby students earn 60-90 credits at the undergraduate level at the foreign institution (these transfer credits are pre-approved through an equivalency review) and then seek admission to FIU to complete the degree.</p> <p>At the graduate level, a specified number of credits are pre-approved for transfer depending on the total credits required by a degree.</p>
Articulation, Domestic	See Articulation Agreement #340.050
Dual Degree	An agreement by two or more institutions to grant dual academic awards is one whereby students study at two or more institutions and each institution grants a separate academic award bearing only its name, seal, and signature (SACSCOC policy).
Dual Enrollment	The dual enrollment program is the enrollment of an eligible secondary school student or home education student in a postsecondary course creditable toward high school completion and a career certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree. A student who is enrolled in postsecondary instruction that is not creditable toward a high school diploma may not be classified as a dual enrollment student (Florida Statute 1007.271-Dual enrollment programs).
Joint Degree	An agreement by two or more institutions to grant a joint academic award is one whereby students study at two or more institutions and the institutions grant a single academic award bearing the names, seals, and signatures of each of the participating institutions (SACSCOC policy). Per this definition, Florida International University does not award joint degrees.
Non-Credit Continuing Education Program Agreement:	An agreement between FIU and another entity (including other post-secondary institutions and organizations) to provide non-credit professional development training opportunities.
Non-degree Seeking International Agreement	An agreement that is executed between FIU and a foreign higher education entity to allow their students to enroll as non-degree seeking students in certain courses at FIU, as stipulated in the



	<p>agreement. This opportunity can be offered at undergraduate and graduate levels. Undergraduate students are limited to 15 attempted credit hours. No more than 15 earned undergraduate credit hours can be counted toward an undergraduate degree in terms of credits taken as a non-degree seeking student. Only via an affiliated status, as granted by the College/School, may non-degree seeking students take courses beyond the credit hours specified. While additional attempted undergraduate credits could be approved under the affiliated status, the credit limitations remain in terms of transfer to an FIU undergraduate degree. In terms of a graduate non-degree seeking agreement, credits taken as non-degree seeking students are subject to the graduate transfer credit policy. Non-degree seeking students who have been granted affiliated status by an FIU department can take more than 12 credits with departmental approval, but they may not transfer more than 12 credit hours toward the completion of a graduate degree at FIU.</p>
<p>Offshore Degree Agreement</p>	<p>An agreement between FIU and a foreign postsecondary institution to offer FIU’s academic program(s) and award an FIU degree. These programs require extensive collaboration with the foreign institution. The FIU degree, however, would be offered independently upon students meeting all academic requirements. An offshore degree program could also involve a dual degree arrangement. Can be offered at the graduate level. Most of these agreements require in-country approval by local government authorities.</p>
<p>Student Cohort Pipeline Agreement:</p>	<p>An agreement between FIU and a foreign post-secondary institution that specifies the terms by which graduates of the foreign institution, if qualified, may seek admission into identified programs at FIU.</p>
<p>Student Exchange Program Agreements</p>	<p>An agreement by which qualified students from FIU study abroad at one of FIU’s partner institutions for a semester or academic year and students from our partner institutions study at FIU for a semester or academic year. FIU students and exchange students from all partner institutions must be enrolled full-time during the international student exchange program.</p> <p>International exchange agreements require a balanced approach to the collaboration (i.e., via inbound [from the foreign entity] and outbound [from FIU students]).</p> <p>For FIU students going abroad, Grades received internationally may or may not be counted to the student’s overall cumulative GPA. They must complete all the legal pre-departure requirements to be able to participate in the exchange program abroad, including</p>



	medical form, pre-departure session and documents, equivalency forms, and passport copy.
Study Abroad-Faculty-led Programs	An academic program led by an FIU faculty member (or in collaboration with other providers of study abroad programs) for FIU students enabling them to take FIU courses abroad and obtain academic credit for those courses taken abroad. These programs can be in one location, possibly working with a foreign university or involving travel through a country. The students must be enrolled for FIU credit and must pay a program fee to participate in the program. They must complete all the legal pre-departure requirements to be able to participate in program abroad, including medical form, pre-departure session and documents, and passport copy. Programs sponsored by FIU faculty are guaranteed FIU credit and will count towards the student’s overall cumulative GPA. Programs involving a foreign provider require a formal signed agreement between FIU and the third-party provider.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

International Agreements (Articulation, Dual Degree, Non-degree Seeking, Student Cohort Pipeline, Offshore Degree)

The Office of Academic Planning and Accountability (APA) reviews credit international agreements for compliance with University and Board of Governors regulations and SACSCOC principles and policies prior to signature by the Provost or designee. Non-credit training international agreements, sponsored by Academic Planning and Accountability’s Continuing Education unit or other units, are also reviewed prior to submission to the Office of the General Counsel (OGC).

An agreement by any unit of Academic Affairs to plan or conduct academic programs or activities with any educational institution or non-educational agency outside the University must have the prior authorization of the appropriate Dean or designee, and the Provost (or designee) (following review by the OGC). International engagements with the possibility to lead to memoranda of understanding and/or agreements may involve FIU Global .

Domestic Articulation Agreements

The Office of Transfer and Transition Services reviews articulation agreements with professional programs whereby equivalencies are established to facilitate transfer credits to support an FIU undergraduate degree. The OGC reviews and approves agreements prior to signature by the Provost or designee.

Dual Enrollment Agreements

The Office of Academic Support Initiatives & Services drafts, negotiates, and finalizes Dual Enrollment Agreements in collaboration with South Florida public, charter, and private schools (6-12 grade-level). The OGC reviews and approves agreements prior to signature by the Provost or designee.

Student Exchange Program Agreements and Study Abroad-Faculty-led Programs

The Office of Education Abroad (OEA) provides extensive opportunities for students to develop global awareness and experience cultural immersion via study abroad and faculty-led programs and international exchange programs. This office collaborates closely with units and students to ensure that all the requirements are in place prior to deployment of students abroad.

For Student Exchange Program Agreements, OEA engages with prospective international partners to develop an agreement detailing the proposed program. APA reviews and submits to OGC for review and approval prior to signature by the Provost or designee.

For Study Abroad Faculty-led Programs, OEA collaborates with the academic unit to finalize the planning and implementation phases. Programs involving a foreign provider are coordinated by OEA and require a formal signed agreement between FIU and the third-party provider (through OGC).

RELATED RESOURCES

AUTHORITY/SOURCE:

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), Accreditation Principles 10.8 and 10.9

SACSCOC Policy Statement on Agreements Involving Joint and Dual Academic Awards Policy and Procedures: <https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/08/JointDualAwards.pdf>

SACSCOC Policy Statement on Dual Enrollment:
<https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/08/Dual-Enrollment.pdf>

SACSCOC Substantive Change Policy and Procedures:
<https://sacscoc.org/app/uploads/2019/08/SubstantiveChange.pdf>

Board of Governors Regulation 6.004, 6.009, 8.009
<https://www.flbog.edu/regulations/active-regulations/>

The 2023 Florida Statutes, 1007.01, 1007.22, 1007.23, 1007.235, 1007.24, 1007.25, 1007.271



6A-10.024 Articulation Between and Among Universities, Florida Colleges, and School Districts (effective 9/26/2023) <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/RuleNo.asp?id=6A-10.024>

CONTACTS

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT

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HISTORY

Initial Effective Date: University Policy and Procedure 230, Former Academic Affairs Policy, 1.51., March 19, 2019

Review Dates (*review performed, no updates*): N/A

Revision Dates (*updates made to document*): November 17, 2020; February 7, 2024.