

Overview of University Guidelines on State Mandated Academic Learning Compact Guidelines

I. PURPOSE

These guidelines governs the development, implementation, and review of State Mandated Academic Learning Compacts. The guidelines shall be consistent with and further the requirements of the Board of Governors Regulation 8.016.

II. ACCOUNTABILITY/RESPONSIBILITY

Primary responsibility for implementation of these guidelines resides with the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Office will respond to any requests for information from the Board of Governors related to this regulation. Responses will be submitted through the university data administrator.

III. PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. State University System Academic Learning Compact (SMALC)

A State mandated Academic Learning Compact shall be comprised of the identification, for each academic Bachelor's program, of what it is that students will have learned by the end of the program, and how that learning will be measured and validated above and beyond course grades. The published compact for each degree program will identify core student learning outcomes in three areas: content/discipline knowledge and skills, communication skills, and critical thinking skills along with the type of assessment used.

2. Development of the Compacts

The faculty of each baccalaureate program listed on the State University System Academic Degree Inventory will develop an Academic Learning Compact.

3. Submission of State Mandated Academic Learning Compacts

The Department Chair or Program Director will be responsible for identifying and submitting the core student learning outcomes associated with a baccalaureate degree program for each academic year into the existing university institutional effectiveness (IE) repository (IE Portal).

The core student learning outcomes and their related assessments, results, analysis, improvements and review will be recorded in and conform to the template in the university institutional effectiveness repository (IE Portal).

The assessment units for Bachelor's programs together with student learning

outcomes, assessment processes, results, analyses and improvement plans/recommend actions associated with the previous academic year shall be entered into the institutional effectiveness portal annually on a schedule established and disseminated by the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.

4. Assessment of State Mandated Academic Learning Compacts

Each student learning outcome within a State Mandated Academic Learning Compact must identify a specific learning result that can be measured and be assessed in accordance with the university guidelines for State Mandated Academic Learning Compacts.

5. Reporting and Analyzing the Results of Assessment

The results of assessing student performance on a student learning outcome must be reported thoroughly and clearly, and include an analysis of results along with any concerns that the analysis identifies.

6. Improvement Plans and Actions Recommended

Each student learning outcome must be considered in an improvements or action plan statement that is supported by the results of the assessment and their analysis. The improvement plans and recommended actions should note how student performance can be improved or sustained, and whether the assessment mechanism is performing as expected.

7. Review of the Learning Outcomes and Associated Information

Each of the student learning outcomes and associated information shall be subject to annual review in accordance with university Institutional effectiveness guidelines. The Chair, Program Director or designee shall be responsible for the initial submission and review of the student learning outcomes and associated information concerning a degree program. The Dean of the academic unit responsible for each Bachelor's degree has final approval for the associated Academic Learning Compact but that approval is contingent upon the entry being consistent with the requirements in these guidelines. The Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President will conduct periodic reviews of the Academic Compacts consistent with the university Institutional Effectiveness Guidelines.

8. Programmatic Uses

State Mandated Academic Learning Compacts shall be an integral part of the university quality enhancement process and be included in the State University System program review process.

The documentation required for and certified for graduation by each major, program or department to the Office of the University Registrar shall constitute

satisfaction that individual students have met the requirements of the State Mandated Academic Learning Compact.

9. Dissemination of the Compacts

State Mandated Academic Learning Compacts for each Bachelor's degree program will be made readily available to students electronically at a site initially listed on the university's Academic Program Guide. The web site will provide current and prospective students access to the outcome statements of Academic Learning Compacts, edited and rendered in clear, concise, colloquial descriptions of what knowledge, skills and abilities active and successful participants have attained and be able to do after completion of the requirements for each baccalaureate degree. The web site will list the categories of outcomes used in each program and types of assessment. The website will be updated as needed.