

University Board of Trustees Policy:

State Mandated Academic Learning Compacts

I. PURPOSE

This policy governs the development, implementation, and review of State Mandated Academic Learning Compacts. The policy shall be consistent with and further the requirements of the Board of Governors in Policy Guideline, #05.02.15.

II. ACCOUNTABILITY/ RESPONSIBILITY

Primary responsibility for implementation of these guidelines resides with the Office of Academic Affairs.

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.

(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 submitting the core student learning outcomes associated with a degree program for each academic year into the existing university institutional effectiveness repository. The Chair of the Undergraduate Policy Committee of the Faculty Senate will be responsible for submitting core student learning outcomes associated with the liberal studies curriculum. Each outcome must be written in clear, concise, jargon-free language.

The core student learning outcomes and their related assessments, results,

improvements and review will be recorded in and conform to the template in the university institutional effectiveness repository.

Student Learning outcomes and assessment statements along with results and improvements statements for the previous academic year shall be entered into the institutional effectiveness portal annually between August 15th and October 15th.

(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.

The assessment or method used to measure performance on a student learning outcome must constitute a valid measurement. The validity of an individual measure must be established by both internal and external methods as specified in 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 the findings along with any concerns that the analysis identifies.

(6) Improvement and Action Plans

Each student learning outcome must be considered in an improvements and action plan statement that is supported by the results of the assessment and their analysis. The recommended improvement and action plan 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 guidelines. The Chair, Program Director or designee shall be responsible for the initial review of the student learning outcomes and associated information concerning a degree program. The Office of Academic Affairs is responsible for overall assessment of the policy annually and, at three-year intervals, shall develop, implement and report on evaluation efforts (including external validations) necessary to corroborate that the assessments actually measure student achievement against the expected core learning outcomes.

(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 home page. The Academic Learning Compacts must be made available to students beginning no later than the end of the fall semester of 2005. 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 types of assessments used in each program and will be updated as needed.

IV. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Full implementation is contingent upon approval of these guidelines by the Faculty Senate and the University Board of Trustees.