

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
AMONG  
McNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY, SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA  
UNIVERSITY, SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY-BATON ROUGE, AND UNIVERSITY  
OF SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA  
FOR THE OPERATION OF THE  
INTERCOLLEGIATE CONSORTIUM  
FOR THE  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

**Preamble**

The Intercollegiate Consortium for a Master of Science in Nursing (ICMSN) is an academic partnership among four institutions of higher learning offering a common core and function role options with non duplicative nursing specialties reflective of advanced study in nursing education. Each institution is authorized to offer the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) through affiliation with the ICMSN. The collaborative effort supports open articulation for student mobility and matriculation through the utilization and application of an agreed philosophical base. Students are eligible to enroll in core and role courses across the campuses of participating institutions. All courses completed within the consortium are considered resident among member institutions. The outcome generates an educational alliance that promotes teaching and research in a non-duplicating arrangement where resources are shared and quality graduate nursing education is actualized.

**Introduction**

At the request of the Board of Regents, McNeese State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Southern University-Baton Rouge, and the University of Southwestern Louisiana have agreed to cooperate in the operation of a consortium to offer graduate education in nursing. The consortia arrangement is intended to make effective use of

existing resources and to meet the need for master's level nursing education in southern Louisiana. To this end, the four institutions named above and their management boards agreed to the following terms and conditions.

### **Administration**

A Council of the Intercollegiate Consortium (CINC) will assure that the policies of the consortium are reflective of the interests of the member institutions and responsive to the needs of the nursing profession. Membership on the CINC will consist of the chief academic officer, the dean of the college/school of nursing, and one graduate nursing faculty representative from each participating institution.

The CINC will adopt bylaws to guide its internal operations and will meet at least semi-annually at rotating sites of participating institutions. Officers of the Council will be elected from the membership and will consist of a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary. The chairperson of the Council will rotate among participating institutions every two years.

The CINC will be responsible for establishing and revising as necessary policies for the operation of the consortium. Compliance with all policies, rules, and regulations of the consortium will be monitored by the Council.

In discharging its duties, the CINC may appoint whatever committees it deems appropriate. Membership on committees may consist of members of the CINC and others whose expertise will aid the operation of the consortium. A committee of the faculty body shall be established for appraising and revising that aspect of the curriculum that is shared among the participating institutions. Each participating institution, using minimum criteria set by the CINC, shall have jurisdiction over their faculty and program.

The CINC shall designate one institution to serve as the official depository for documents for the ICMSN. Included in the documents are official minutes of the CINC, data on student admissions and their status in the ICMSN, and any other information deemed appropriate by the CINC. The CINC may designate primary responsibility for specific functions to any of the participating institutions as needed.

Each institution will appoint a program coordinator who shall be an approved member of the graduate faculty of the consortium. The institutional program coordinators will constitute a Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee will meet at least two times a year on a rotating basis between participating institutions and will report to the CINC at each of the Council's meetings.

### **Resources**

Monies generated by tuition, fees, and formula appropriations for each course offered in the program will accrue to the institution that employs the faculty member teaching the course(s) for which a student is registered. Each institution will be responsible for providing the instruction and research resources necessary to assure that its contribution to the consortium is one of high quality. Collectively, the participating institutions will be responsible for providing resources sufficient to maintain the quality of the entire program at the level necessary to assure receipt and maintenance of professional accreditation.

### **Faculty**

Faculty members who teach in the program will be qualified to hold graduate faculty status at their home institution and must meet minimum graduate faculty criteria as set by the CINC. Collectively, these graduate faculty will constitute the Graduate Faculty

Committee of the ICMSN. The Graduate Faculty Committee shall hold regular meetings for appraising and revising that aspect of the curriculum that is shared among the participating institutions. The Graduate Faculty Committee may establish committees as needed and shall report to the CINC at its regularly scheduled meetings.

### **Students**

A student admitted to the program must meet the standards of admission adopted by the CINC, consistent with the graduate schools of the participating institutions.

A student may enter the consortium program through any of the participating institutions and may enroll in the core and role courses at any of the participating institutions. Specialty courses and the thesis must be taken at the home institution of the student. Students shall be advised by respective home institution faculty. Approved courses successfully completed at any consortium institution will be considered resident credit at all participating institutions.

Minimum retention, progression, and graduation standards shall be adopted by the CINC and accepted by the participating institutions. Regardless of the institution in which a student enrolls or at which a student registers, the rules and regulations of the institution at which the student is attending class will prevail.

### **Curriculum and Awarding of Degrees**

The CINC shall stipulate the number of course credit hours and degree requirements for the MSN. The CINC will review and recommend action on any proposed changes in the philosophy of the consortium and in the core, role, and specialty courses. The agreed upon core and role courses will constitute the common curriculum for the MSN degree. Each participating institution will offer different specialties and the specialty areas shall not

be duplicated among institutions. All requests to offer a new specialty and/or role by any of the participating institutions must be approved by the CINC.

Any institution may be designated as the home institution until the student enrolls in specialty courses. At the point of enrollment in specialty courses, the institution offering the student's chosen specialty must be designated as the home institution. The thesis shall be under the jurisdiction of the home institution. Diplomas will give reference to the home institution's affiliation with the ICMSN, as approved by the CINC.

Effective Date

This Memorandum of Agreement shall be effective upon approval by the appropriate management boards and the Board of Regents.

BOARD OF REGENTS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SYSTEM

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

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