

# Joint, Shared, Collaborative Academic Programs

## **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) Definitions and Expectations**

**Dual Academic Award:** An agreement between two or more institutions to grant dual academic awards, where students study at two or more institutions, and each institution issues a separate award bearing only its own name, seal, and signature.

**Joint Academic Award:** An agreement by two or more institutions to grant a joint academic award 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.

**Cooperative academic arrangement:** An agreement between a SACSCOC-accredited institution and another entity (or entities) to deliver program content recorded on the SACSCOC institution's transcript as its own. These are not Transfer Articulation Agreements and must be submitted to the SACSCOC Liaison for review. Examples include geographic or denominational consortia, statewide distance education agreements, collaborative agreements with international institutions, and contractual instruction.

UAB Responsibilities include:

1. Prior Notification
2. Ensure the integrity of the partner Institutions' accreditation and awards
3. Provide a disclaimer statement
4. Ensure appropriate percentages of work offered by the member institution
5. Ensure the quality of credits recorded on the transcript

## **Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) Definitions and Expectations**

**Cooperative Degree Program:** A formal arrangement whereby multiple institutions agree to share coursework or other resources to support degree completion for their respective students. In contrast with a joint program, a cooperative degree program results in a single program completion credential from the student's home institution. For program viability purposes, completers will be counted collectively across institutions under most circumstances.

**Dual Degrees:** An arrangement whereby students can earn two separate degrees from two separate institutions with a shorter time to completion than if the degrees were completed separately.

**Joint Degree Program:** An academic degree program whereby students study at two or more institutions and are awarded a single program completion credential bearing the names, seals, and signatures of each of the participating institutions. For program viability purposes, completers are counted collectively.

University of Alabama System Board Rules (BR 506)

Please contact the SACSCOC Liaison for assistance with these programs.