

SECTION 3, COMPREHENSIVE STANDARD 3.4.7

The institution ensures the quality of educational programs/courses offered through consortia relationships or contractual agreements, ensures ongoing compliance with the comprehensive requirements, and evaluates the consortial relationship and/or agreement against the purpose of the institution.

JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Compliant

Partially Compliant

Noncompliant

RATIONALE FOR JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

North Georgia College & State University fully complies with the comprehensive requirements relating to consortia and contracts and through its adherence to the Board of Regents policies ensures the quality of educational programs and courses offered through these agreements and evaluates the consortial and contractual relationships in terms of the University's mission [1] and Strategic plan [2]. To protect the integrity of the University System, however, the Board mandates that prior to the establishment of off campus instructional programs, the president of the institution proposing the work is required to have the written concurrence of the president(s) of any other University System institution(s) located in closer proximity to the proposed site of off campus instruction.

To ensure programmatic quality, the consortial relationships are governed by Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), which define, guide, and control the general understanding for a stipulated time period between the University and the affiliated institution, including respective responsibilities. Once the MOU is processed and approved, implementation and evaluation of the program falls to the deans of the colleges (or their designees) in which the program is housed. Oversight for the programs is provided by the program chair, director, coordinator, or dean. The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs has final responsibility for evaluating the agreement against the mission of the University.

Three categories of MOUs are available depending upon the nature of the applied learning experience and the services offered by the internship

facility: Consortial Programs with University System of Georgia Institutions, Clinical Sites for Professional Programs, and Internship sites.

Consortial Programs with University System of Georgia Institutions

NGCSU offers the Regents' Engineering Transfer Program (RETP) and the Dual Degree Program. The RETP is designed to allow students who successfully complete the pre-engineering curriculum at NGCSU to transfer to Georgia Institute of Technology to pursue and complete a degree in engineering. The Dual Degree Program allows students (in Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics and Computer Science) to transfer after three years to Georgia Institute of Technology or to Clemson University to complete two baccalaureate degrees—one from NGCSU and one from the selected engineering school [3, p. 18].

Georgia Gerontology Consortium [4], a program which provides an opportunity to share instructional resources in Gerontology at the advanced undergraduate and graduate levels among universities in the University System of Georgia, coordinated by the University of Georgia's Institute of Gerontology.

NGCSU partnered with the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) to offer a Doctorate of Physical Therapy on the NGCSU campus beginning Summer 2006. NGCSU's Physical Therapy faculty have dual appointments at NGCSU and MCG and provide instruction for this off-site program of MCG. All degrees and academic credit are awarded by MCG.

Clinical Sites for Professional Programs

Individual academic departments and programs negotiate contractual agreements for clinical sites and field placement sites. In every case, the individual departments and programs maintain MOUs and contracts on file, insuring the safety of the students and the quality of the program. Individual departments and programs with clinical sites include Nursing, Education, and Community Counseling.

Internship Sites

Internships for undergraduate students are managed through the Office of Career Services, which handles all paperwork, including evaluations. Individual departments set specific standards for internships and refer students to the Office of Career Services.

Hard copies of the MOUs for External and USG Consortial Programs are housed in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs; of the Clinical Sites in the individual departmental offices; and of the Internship Sites in the Office of Career Services.

Document Reference:

Number	DB Num	Document Title	Resource
1		NGCSU Mission statement	http://www.ngcsu.edu/Resource/irp/mission.shtml
2		NGCSU Strategic Plan	http://www.ngcsu.edu/resource/irp/irphome/stratplans.shtml
3		NGCSU Undergraduate Bulletin, 2004-2006, Dual Degree Programs with Georgia Tech and Clemson	http://www.collegesource.org/displayinfo/catalog.asp?pid={B7D26C41-3189-4993-A182-5B5C65B87E21}&oig={1FD70D8E-2B26-4AEB-B696-5991983E2CD1}&vt=5 , p. 18 of PDF, p. 15 of hard copy
4		University of Georgia, College of Public Health, Institute of Gerontology	http://www.geron.uga.edu/