

Academic Learning Compacts

Presentation to USF Board of Trustees
September 8, 2005

Florida Board of Governors Meeting October 22, 2003:

- The Board of Governors agreed to develop a proposal for performance-based funding that will apply accountability standards to the State Universities. The proposal shall be incorporated into a set of recommendations for the K-20 education system to be submitted to the Legislature by December 1, 2004.
- “Academic Learning Compacts” was included in the set of accountability standards recommended by the BOG.

Florida Board of Governors Resolution April 22, 2004:

“Under the student achievement measure, the Board of Governors recommends that all universities, through their Boards of Trustees, adopt Academic Learning Compacts;

That the Compacts constitute a clear identification, by academic program, of what students...will have learned in terms of content knowledge, and communication and critical thinking skills by the time they graduate...and that, on or before graduation, the universities will certify, through any process they choose, that the criteria of the Compacts have been met by individual students...”

Summer and Fall 2004:

- Division of Colleges and Universities staff visited the universities to discuss existing practices regarding assessment of student learning outcomes.
- Through the efforts of the CAVP, agreement was reached that certification of individual students would **not** be the goal of Academic Learning Compacts.

February 2005 - Division of Colleges and Universities Policy Guideline on Academic Learning Compacts:

- Will be developed for each baccalaureate program,
- Will identify, at a minimum, the expected core student learning outcomes for program graduates in the areas of
 - Content/discipline knowledge and skills
 - Communication skills
 - Critical thinking skills, and

February 2005 - Division of Colleges and Universities Policy Guideline on Academic Learning Compacts (continued):

- Will identify corresponding assessments used to determine how well student learning matches those articulated expectations.
- Will include concise statements that
 - Must be written in a user-friendly, jargon-free format.
 - Must be made available to students no later than the fall semester of 2005.

February 2005 - Division of Colleges and Universities Policy Guideline on Academic Learning Compacts (continued):

- The USF Board of Trustees must approve
 - The USF policy statement on ALCs
 - The USF plan for implementation of ALCs (as presented in the Guidelines for Development and Implementation of Academic Learning Compacts).
 - The timeline for implementation of ALCs.

USF Plan for Development and Implementation of Academic Learning Compacts:

- Includes separate processes for the ICAR campuses (USF Tampa, USF Sarasota/Manatee, USF Lakeland) which share common oversight of academic programs, and USF St. Petersburg, which has delegated authority from the USF System President to oversee its own programs and award degrees.
- Includes provisions for approval of ALCs by faculty committees at the department, college, and institutional level.

USF Timeline for Implementation of Academic Learning Compacts:

- September 9, 2005 – Following approval by USF Board of Trustees, departments/programs begin developing Academic Learning Compacts for approval by appropriate department committee (or college committee in the case of USFSP).
- October 15, 2005 – USF College deans forward Academic Learning compacts (approved by the appropriate college committee) to the University Provost. USFSP college deans forward Academic Learning Compacts to the USFSP Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

USF Timeline for Implementation of Academic Learning Compacts:

- October 21, 2005 – University Provost forwards Academic Learning Compacts to USF Undergraduate Council for review and approval. USFSP Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs forwards Academic Learning Compacts to USFSP Faculty Council for review and approval.
- December 1, 2005 – Departments/colleges post Academic Learning Compacts to the USF Academic Learning Compacts web site or USFSP Academic Learning Compacts web site as appropriate.