

Prompt

A few months ago I posted a question asking for advice on US institutions who are in school of record partnerships with institutions abroad or through third party providers.

Summary of Responses

1. Most common caveat was to be careful with US accreditation at the institutional and academic discipline levels.

2. I did have a phone conversation where the partnership was well in place but the partnership was with a US based organization offering programs outside of the US. Very complex and successful relationship has developed.

3. Web searches using the words School of Record reveals two links

http://www.australearn.org/about/school_of_record/ -

<http://www.gowithcea.com/students/academic/global-education-network/global-campuses/school-of-record.html>

and with the wording Study Abroad School of Record one finds:

http://handouts.aacrao.org/am07/finished/F1030a_M_Ganz.pdf Other web searches of specific institutes and other providers also will find specific references to the universities or educational institutions that offer transcripts from US institutions for work done at the institutions abroad.

4. Through our Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment office who is responsible for our institutional SACS accreditation a June 2010 SACS policy statement was brought to light:

<http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/Collaborative%20Arrangements%20final.pdf>

"Southern Association of Colleges and Schools - COLLABORATIVE ACADEMIC ARRANGEMENTS: POLICY AND PROCEDURES - Policy -

Collaborative academic arrangements are agreements between institutions accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and accredited or non-accredited degree-granting institutions of higher education throughout the world for purposes of awarding academic credits and/or educational program completion credentials, e.g., certificates, diplomas, degrees or transcripts. "... much more at the link.

5. A web search produced some interesting AACRAO: American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers resources not only for international institutions credential evaluation <http://www.aacrao.org/international/>

but also for study abroad resources: <http://www.aacrao.org/international/abroad.cfm> _ Request an Evaluation of Study Abroad Experience of US Student

http://handouts.aacrao.org/am07/finished/F1030a_M_Ganz.pdf School of Record for Study Abroad

http://handouts.aacrao.org/am08/finished/R0115p_C_Foley.pdf Unraveling the Knot: International and Study Abroad Transfer Credit

6. Also in 2001 "The American Council on Education (ACE), the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions

Officers (AACRAO) jointly released an updated Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit as a framework to revisit increasingly complex transferability issues".

http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ProgramsServices/CLLL/Credit_Transfer.pdf

"Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit - The following set of guidelines has been developed by the three national associations whose member institutions are directly involved in the transfer and award of academic credit: the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the American Council on Education, and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The need for such a statement came from an awareness of the growing complexity of transfer policies and practices, which have been brought about, in part, by the changing nature of postsecondary education. With increasing frequency, students are pursuing their education in a variety of institutional and extrainstitutional settings. Social equity and the intelligent use of resources require that validated learning be recognized wherever it takes place"

6. One response noted that the Forum on Education Abroad has a working group discussing this as well and that they may have some guidelines to propose in the near future.

In the end from all the feedback it was clear that there is strong interest in this area but not much in the way of guidelines in this area beyond that offered through US accreditation agencies and professional organizations such as AACRAO. Clearly there are school of record partnerships that exist in one form or another and that time and experience has been beneficial. Perhaps trying today to implement something of this nature might be an increasing challenge given the potential for more institutions/agencies to be involved from the outset.

From all these discussions it was clear that there are many issues that need to be addressed from "accreditation level certification" of those teaching the courses proper to the administration of the host institution (abroad) and the academic content as well financial arrangements. Ultimately it appears that increasingly the US institutions accrediting agency and any academic discipline accreditation agency will be (if not already) involved either up front, during or after the fact.