

SREB

Southern
Regional
Education
Board

*Electronic Campus
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SREB's 'Free Trade Zone'

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Electronic *Campus* Basic Concept

- Launched in January, 1998
- Utilize the “connectedness” of SREB and the existing and developing strengths of our region’s colleges and universities to:
 - Establish a regional “marketplace” of online courses, programs and services
 - Create opportunities for the region’s colleges and universities
 - Reduce barriers to learning
 - Promote interstate collaboration
 - “Free Trade Zone” reciprocal arrangement

Electronic Campus **Building Blocks...**

- **Quality Assurance**
Institutional and state review against “Principles of Good Practice”
- **Interstate Cooperation**
Creating a “free trade zone”
- **Sharing Resources**
Providing access and sharing courses and programs
- **Driving Policy**
“Realigning” traditional policies
- **Reaching the Underserved**

Why a Reciprocal Model?

- Keeps the focus on serving students and institutional quality (consumer protection)
- Recognizes and values the approval of the home state (an educational 'driver's license')
- Builds on state knowledge of institutional capabilities in online programming
- Recognizes the direction that state authorization was moving
- Saves time and money for state agencies
- Reduces institutional burdens and costs
- Provides greater learning options for students

SREB's 'Free Trade Zone:' A Regional Reciprocity Model

- Since inception of SREB's *Electronic Campus* (EC) in 1997, 16 states have agreed to "Free Trade Zone"
 - Courses and programs approved by the home SHEEO agency **listed in the EC** have been exempt from approval in other SREB states
 - States agreed to "Principles of Good Practice" and to recognize certification of home states
 - Limited to regionally accredited institutions
 - Applicable only to listings in the EC
 - Necessary for institutional participation in the EC

How the 'Free Trade Zone' Works

- Institutions wishing to participate in the Electronic Campus are required to:
 - Understand and commit to the 'Principles of Good Practice'
 - Have the approval of their home state SHEEO agency that the institution is committed to the principles and delivery of quality online programs and services
 - Repose in the Electronic Campus database detailed information about courses, programs, services, institutional policies and procedures
 - Update program data annually

Re-affirming the 'Free Trade Zone'

- Ask each state to re-affirm Free Trade Zone philosophy and reciprocity arrangement
 - Address changes necessitated by 600.9 (and expected in any new regs to follow)
 - Address new issues/concerns, e.g. complaint procedures and data collection
- Ask states to opt in/out in writing
- Review and amend (as needed) Principles of Good Practice/*Electronic Campus* requirements
- Establish protocols to work with other regional or national organizations

'FTZ II' Effective July 1, 2012

- States that opt in
 - Essentially no change to current processes/procedures in the EC
- States that opt out
 - Notify all SREB states of the state's decision to opt out
 - Notify participating EC institutions from those states of the decision
 - Institutions will then need to seek approval from other SREB states as those states may require (as they would for non-SREB states)

'FTZ II' Effective July 1, 2012

- Regardless of a state's decision institutions can continue to list courses and programs in the EC
- Indicate, in some fashion on the website, institutional status in the arrangement
 - Consumer information
- Provide a common template that can be used for the sign-off
- Suggesting a three-year agreement
- Expect national plan during this period

Status of Presidents' Forum/CSG

- Enhance the current regulatory environment with an interstate reciprocal agreement (new) making the regulatory process more efficient and encouraging expanded access for students.
- Key Steps
 1. Define agreeable and beneficial multistate requirements and processes.
 2. Develop a new statutory model providing states authority to participate in reciprocal compacts.
 3. Create an efficient financial support mechanism for regulatory services and consumer protection.

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Questions

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