Process and Criteria to Validate the Quality of Partnering Institutions for Collaborative Programs[[1]](#footnote-1)

*Agreed to by IFC xx-xx-xx and approved by President Tim Wolfe xx-xx-xx*

*Definition: The term “collaborative” refers to programs in which the University of Missouri and a partnering institution collaborate, and for which the University of Missouri is predominantly responsible for delivering the academic content of the program.*

In cases in which a campus wishes to include the name of a partnering institution on the diploma awarded for a collaborative degree, the following process shall be used to validate the quality of the partnering institution as required by Section 220.020.B.3 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. This process shall apply to all partnering institutions of higher education and/or degrees not specified in Section 173.005.2(2), Missouri Revised Statutes Cum. Supp. 2007[[2]](#footnote-2).

**Process**

A department or college that wishes to recommend inclusion of the name of a partnering institution on a diploma issued to students completing a University of Missouri degree shall develop a proposal to validate the quality of the partnering institution.

The proposal shall be submitted to the Provost who will refer the proposal to the campus Partner Institution Screening Committee for review. If the committee’s recommendation is for approval and the Provost and Chancellor concur, the Chancellor shall forward the proposal to the President or designee for approval.

**Composition of the Partner Institution Screening Committee**

The screening committee shall consist of five members the University of Missouri campus involved, with the composition of the committee determined by the type of degree and the type of institution.

Undergraduate Degree and Domestic Institution as Partner

The committee shall consist of the following:

1. The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies (or equivalent), or designee
2. The Vice Provost for Graduate Studies/Dean of the Graduate School, or designee
3. Three faculty members chosen jointly by the Provost and the President of the Faculty Senate/Council.

Graduate Degree and Domestic Institution as Partner

The committee shall consist of the following:

1. The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies (or equivalent), or designee
2. The Vice Provost for Graduate Studies/Dean of the Graduate School, or designee
3. Two faculty members chosen jointly by the Provost and the President of the Graduate Faculty Senate/Council (or equivalent)
4. One faculty member chosen jointly by the Provost and the President of Faculty Senate/Council.

Undergraduate Degree and International Institution as Partner

The committee shall consist of the following:

1. The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies (or equivalent), or designee
2. The Director of the Office for International Studies (or equivalent), or designee
3. Three faculty members chosen jointly by the Provost and the President of Faculty Senate/Council.

Graduate Degree and International Institution as Partner

The committee shall consist of the following:

1. The Vice Provost for Graduate Studies or the Dean of the Graduate School, or designee
2. The Director of the Office for International Studies (or equivalent), or designee
3. Two faculty members chosen jointly by the Provost and the President of the Graduate Faculty Senate/Council (or equivalent)
4. One faculty member chosen jointly by the Provost and the President of Faculty Senate/Council.

The Partner Institution Screening Committee shall be chaired by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies or designee if the collaborative program under consideration is an undergraduate degree. The Partner Institution Screening Committee shall be chaired by the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies or the Graduate Dean or designee if the collaborative program under consideration is a graduate degree.

**Criteria to Be Considered by Screening Committee During Proposal Review**

As a minimum, the institution being screened must satisfy the following criteria:

1. Domestic institutions must be accredited by a commission of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (e.g., HLC, SACS, etc.).
2. International institutions must be recognized by their country’s Ministry of Education or the equivalent regulating agency as verified through the Electronic Database for Global Education of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.
3. At least one campus of the University of Missouri must have an established relationship with the partnering institution for at least three years. The relationship should include engagement in significant collaborative activities such as research projects, collaborative degrees, etc.

Satisfaction of the minimum criteria stated above does not guarantee validation of the partnering institution for the purposes of this policy.

The proposal should include additional information to make a convincing argument for the quality of the institution. Other factors that may be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:

* the reputation of the institution;
* the quality of the faculty;
* the institution’s admission requirements, including the average entrance scores of its undergraduate and/or graduate students;
* the research activity of the faculty and the institution’s research reputation;
* the quality of the institution’s collaborations with other colleges and universities, particularly if these collaborations include collaborative degree programs;
* the quality of the institution’s campus library resources and other academically-related physical resources, such as laboratories, etc.;
* the strength of the undergraduate and graduate degrees offered by the institution;
* accreditation of degrees in like disciplines at the partnering institution (e.g., ABET accreditation for engineering and computer science programs, and AACSB accreditation for business programs); and,
* in the case of an international institution, the ranking of the institution among other universities within its own country.

Note that in all cases, the Provost’s Office shall be responsible for ensuring that agreements and processes comply with the policies and processes of the Higher Learning Commission.

1. This policy does not alter the process for approving cooperative agreements between the University of Missouri and other four-year institutions of higher education. Approval of such cooperative agreements will be determined by each campus according to the Collected Rules and Regulations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Link to Missouri Revised Statutes Section 173.005.2 (2): <http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/c100-199/1730000005.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)