

Substantive Change Cover Sheet

Submit to SACSCOC,
Substantive Change, 1866
Southern Lane, Decatur, GA
30033. One copy only;
electronic media preferred. Do
not email submissions or send
copies to staff. Thank you.

Note:

1. Include a completed cover sheet with each submission; please don't submit a cover sheet only.
2. Submit substantive changes as separate submissions except as permitted by policy.
3. Submit substantive changes defined in policy only; others are not reviewable.
4. For best results, download this form and complete with [Adobe Reader](#). Hover mouse over fields for guidance.

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

INSTITUTION (NO ABBREVIATIONS PLEASE)

CITY + STATE/PROVINCE

University of South Carolina Columbia

Columbia, SC

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RESTRICTION

1. Is the institution currently on Warning, Probation, or Probation for Good Cause?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
2. Was the institution placed on Warning, Probation, or Probation for Good Cause on or after September 3, 2020, and subsequently removed from sanction?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
3. Is the institution currently under provisional certification for participation in federal financial aid programs?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If ANY are "Yes" the institution is on SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE RESTRICTION . Additional and/or different requirements may apply; consult policy.		<input type="radio"/> No

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE TYPE (SELECT FROM DROP-DOWN LIST: SUBMIT ONLY TYPES DEFINED IN POLICY)

SUBMISSION DATE

Program Change: Dual Academic Award

03/09/2022

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE DESCRIPTION (BRIEF SUMMARY)

INTENDED IMPLEMENTATION

Creating a dual academic award with American University of Sharjah in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

08/01/2022

OFF-CAMPUS INSTRUCTIONAL SITES SUBMITTED IN THIS SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE

Site Name, Physical Address, City, State/Province, ZIP or Postal Code, and Country/Territory

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	There are more than 5 sites in this submission → <input type="checkbox"/>

PROGRAMS SUBMITTED IN THIS SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE

Include credential AND discipline: e.g., Associate of Arts in English, Bachelor of Science in Physics, Certificate in Office Management, etc.

1.	PhD Business Administration
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	There are more than 5 programs in submission → <input type="checkbox"/>

SUBMITTED

I certify the information on this form is correct and accurately represents the current status of the institution at the time of submission.

FOR OFFICE USE

SUBMITTING LIAISON or CEO NAME

EMAIL ADDRESS

Donald Miles

dmiles@mailbox.sc.edu

Revised 01/31/2022

[Check for current version](#)



Office of Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost

March 7, 2022

Dr. Kevin Sightler, Director of Substantive Change
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Sightler:

This letter serves as notification to the Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges of new dual degree programs with American University of Sharjah undertaken by the Darla Moore School of Business. The University of South Carolina, in partnership with American University, will offer a dual doctoral degree, effective Fall 2022.

Contact information for both parties to the agreement is listed as follows:

For University of South Carolina
Harris Pastides
Interim President
University of South Carolina – Columbia
206 Osborne Administration Building
Columbia, SC 29208

For American University of Sharjah
Sultan Bin Muhammad Al Qasimi
President
University City
PO Box 26666
Sharjah, UAE

Upon completion of the program, students will earn a Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina – Columbia, and a Ph.D. in Business Administration from the American University of Sharjah. Students must meet the degree requirements of each institution and each institution will award separate degrees. The research will be collaboratively supervised between the two institutions, and it will be expected that dissertation committees will consist of faculty from both institutions. No changes are being made to curriculum, admissions, or other university policies. This degree has been approved by the UofSC Board of Trustees and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

The University of South Carolina is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award doctoral degrees. Our dual degree

partner in Sharjah is not accredited by SACS Commission on Colleges and the accreditation of University of South Carolina does not extend to or include American University or its students. Further, although University of South Carolina agrees to accept certain coursework from American University to be applied toward an award from University of South Carolina, that coursework may not be accepted by other colleges or universities in transfer, even if it appears on a transcript from University of South Carolina. The decision to accept coursework in transfer from any institution is made by the institution considering the acceptance of credits or coursework.

We do not anticipate any new costs associated with this dual degree program. The signed Memorandum of Understanding and contact information for the program representative at American University of Sharjah is attached.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this notification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen J. Cutler" with a small "es" at the end.

Stephen Cutler
Interim Provost

Enclosure

SC/TH:jp

C: Trena Houp, Director of Academic Programs and eLearning
Donald Miles, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation

AGREEMENT OF ACADEMIC COOPERATION

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

AND

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FOR THE

DUAL DEGREE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

In order to advance academic collaboration between American University of Sharjah (AUS) and the University of South Carolina, Darla Moore School of Business (South Carolina) both institutions will cooperate in the development of a dual degree doctoral program. This program will provide opportunities for Ph.D. students to expand their learning and research and to enhance their academic mentoring to include faculty from both institutions.

A. Purpose of the Program, Definitions and General Principals

The institutions seek to enhance and expand doctoral education for their Ph.D. students in Business Administration. Students will take course work and conduct research under the instruction and supervision of faculty from both institutions. Students will complete a dissertation supervised by faculty from each partner institution. Students receive Ph.D. degrees from each university upon completion of the degree requirements for each school. Transfer of academic credit between the institutions may be approved to meet academic program requirements.

In this agreement “home institution” refers to the institution at which a student is initially accepted and “host institution” to the institution which has agreed to receive a dual degree student. “AUS student” applies to students who are initially accepted at AUS, “South Carolina student” to students initially accepted at Darla Moore School of Business. “Dual degree student” corresponds to a student participating in the dual degree program.

The requirements for each degree have to be fulfilled. Each institution will be the sole judge of whether a student has completed the requirement for the degree that it awards. Each institution will be the sole judge of whether or not a student has met any progression requirements for its degree. Each institution may change the requirements for their degree according to their own governance process and give notification to the partner institution. If a student does not meet the requirements for the award of the host institution’s degree, the home institution reserves the right to award its own degree to the student.

At AUS, the Vice Provost for Graduate Studies approves applications for graduation upon completion of all AUS doctoral degree requirements.

At South Carolina, the Dean of the Graduate School approves applications for graduation upon completion of all South Carolina doctoral degree requirements.

B. Eligibility for Participation

1. Each home institution will be responsible for selecting their participating students. Each home institution will nominate students to the host institution. The host institution shall make the final admission decision regarding those nominated based upon the existing admission criteria of the host institution.
2. Dual degree students must meet all eligibility requirements for admission to each doctoral program and must follow the normal application process for graduate admission to each institution.
3. Candidates who do not hold a degree from a U.S. institution, have not graduated from a program with English as the instructional language, or are not currently enrolled in a program with English as the instructional language must submit a valid (two years old or less) test score demonstrating their command of the English language. The minimum score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is 80 (Internet-based) and 6.5 for the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) prior to beginning the program at South Carolina.

C. Transfer of Academic Credit and Program Requirements

1. Dual degree students may transfer academic credit from the home institution to meet some of the course requirements of the host institution. Any transfer of academic credit must be pre-approved by the host institution.
2. South Carolina and AUS agree that the administrative and educational requirements of both universities shall be respected in that all rules, regulations, and policies will be followed, including but not limited to admissions standards, academic progress rules, mental health support on campus and all codes of student conduct. Students will be held accountable to both the host and home university student codes of conduct while participating at respective program locations.
3. Each institution has established degree requirements that must be met by student participants in order to earn the Ph.D. degree. Each institution will confer their Ph.D. degree to participants only upon completion of its own institution's specified requirements.

4. At South Carolina, the doctoral program requires at least 60 credit hours. This includes 18 hours of research methods courses, 15 hours for the major, 15 hours for the cognate, and 12 dissertation preparation credit hours. Dual degree students are required to complete at least 30 hours of course credit while enrolled at South Carolina. In addition to at least 30 hours credit earned at South Carolina, up to 18 credit hours from AUS may be accepted and applied toward the South Carolina Ph.D. degree course requirements. The general structure is for students to complete their first year at AUS, matriculate to South Carolina for their second year (three semesters), and then return to AUS to complete their dissertation.

5. At AUS, the doctoral program in business administration requires at least 60 credit hours. This includes 12 hours of business core courses, 15 hours of required courses in the area of concentration, 6 hours of elective courses in the area of concentration, and a minimum of 27 credit hours dissertation. Dual degree students are required to complete at least 24 hours of course credit while enrolled at AUS. Up to nine hours of academic credit from South Carolina may be accepted and applied toward the AUS Ph.D. degree course requirements.

6. Student participants are normally required at both institutions to take a qualifying examination at the end of the first year of study. AUS and South Carolina will collaborate, as feasible to meet their respective institutional requirements, to design and offer a qualifying examination that will fulfill the requirements of both institutions.

7. The comprehensive exam will usually be administered at the end of the program coursework. In the event that a student participant has returned to the home institution prior to administration of the comprehensive exam, the comprehensive exam may be proctored at the home institution.

8. In the event that a dual degree student has returned to the home institution at the time of the dissertation defense, permission can be granted for the defense to be done via Skype, tele-conference, or similar long distance communication medium, as approved by the both institutions.

D. Faculty Composition of Dissertation Committees

1. Student participants in the dual degree program are required to complete research work to satisfy the dissertation requirement. Because dual degree student research will be collaboratively supervised between the two institutions, it will be expected that the dissertation committee will consist of faculty from both institutions. Each institution's policies and regulations about faculty membership of dissertation committees will be respected.

2. The dissertation committee for a dual degree committee will be chaired by a faculty member from the home institution and co-chaired by a faculty member from the host institution appointed

as per the procedures specified by the home institution. Faculty members from both institutions may serve as members of the dissertation committee as outside members.

3. A student defending a dissertation shall not be responsible for travel costs of faculty members to participate in dissertation activities. Participation via online video conferencing or other distance modalities is allowed pending approval of both institutions.

E. Program Costs

1. Dual degree student participants will pay the required tuition and fees for the institution during their residence semesters in that specific institution. Participants will also be responsible for the tuition and fees for the research dissertation hours required to complete the South Carolina degree.

2. Dual degree students are eligible to receive funding from either the host or home institution, as is available and governed by the policies of each institution.

3. At South Carolina, dual degree students will be assessed the graduate non-resident full-time student tuition rate; students will not be assessed the matriculation, technology, international student, or health center fees. Dual degree students will be considered on a competitive basis for graduate assistantship support that includes a salary and a reduction of tuition to the graduate resident rate. Those student participants who do not qualify for an assistantship may, under the terms of this agreement, be entitled to receive a scholarship each semester whereby they are eligible for the resident graduate tuition rate.

4. All individual expenses of dual degree students, including travel and room and board, and other incidental expenses are the responsibility of the individual student.

5. Student participants are required to provide a proof of acceptable medical and accident insurance coverage while enrolled at the host institution (at South Carolina enroll in the University's Student Health Insurance Plan; at AUS enroll in the Student Health Insurance Plan; or provide evidence of comparable coverage).

6. Students shall provide financial certification acceptable to the host institution as required for visa regulations. South Carolina will assist students, upon receipt of all documentation, with the visa application and measures to ensure legal status in the U.S. AUS will assist students in obtaining a student visa for the United Arab Emirates.

F. Accreditation Disclaimer Statement

1. South Carolina is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees. AUS is not accredited

by the SACS Commission on Colleges and the accreditation of South Carolina does not extend to or include AUS or its students. Further, although South Carolina agrees to accept certain course work from AUS to be applied toward an award from South Carolina, that course work may not be accepted by other colleges or universities in transfer, even if it appears on a transcript from South Carolina. The decision to accept course work in transfer from any institution is made by the institution considering the acceptance of credits or course work.

2. AUS is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) and by the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the Ministry of Education, Higher Education Affairs Division in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Ministry of Education of the UAE, regulates the award of Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees. The accreditation of each institution does not extend beyond partners or include the other institution or its students. Further, although each institution agrees to accept certain course work from the other institution to be applied toward an award from the institution, that course work may not be accepted by other colleges or universities in transfer, even if it appears in a transcript from the institution awarding the degree. The decision to accept course work in transfer from any institution is made by the institution considering the acceptance of credits or course work.

G. Terms and Conditions

1. This agreement shall take effect on August 1, 2021 and shall be for a period of five years terminating on July 31, 2026. This agreement may be renewable on the same terms and conditions for another five (5) years, upon mutual written agreement by both parties.

2. Termination at any time may occur by mutual agreement or at the request of either party with six (6) months written notice. If no activity occurs as described materializes within five (5) years, the agreement shall be considered terminated.

3. In the event of program termination, those student participants who are enrolled in the program shall be allowed to complete the program, with the agreed upon conditions, as long as they make academic progress toward degree completion.

4. The parties agree to consult periodically concerning the status and progress of the program.

H. Force Majeure

Neither partner institution shall be liable for failure to perform its obligations under this agreement if such failure results from circumstances which could not have been contemplated and which are beyond the partner institution's reasonable control.

I. Dispute Settlement

Both partner institutions agree to amicably resolve any disputes arising from the agreement in accordance with institutional policies and governmental regulations of each partner’s institution and government.

J. Intellectual Property

The parties convene that this Agreement does not grant South Carolina or AUS any license of use or rights over the intellectual property of the other party. The use of trademarks and/or denominations representative of either party are strictly prohibited without the owner’s written consent.

H. Official Text

This agreement is written in English only.

President
University of South Carolina

Professor Kevin Mitchell, Chancellor
AUS University

Date: _____

Date: _____