IDEA

An Online Higher Education Alliance

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ALLIANCE

Questions?

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IDEA OVERVIEW

ABOUT US

The Innovative Digital Education Alliance (IDEA) is a consortium of 20 renowned public universities from across the United States, offering online degrees and certificate programs in human sciences and agriculture.

Through IDEA students have the unique opportunity to take classes from multiple universities and receive engaging online instruction in high-demand professional fields from faculty across the country. Our faculty collaborate closely and have developed a student-centric online academic environment that maximizes learning and preparation for career advancement.

WHY IDEA?

CREATES NEW REVENUE STREAMS

Universities receive revenue from all students enrolled in the courses they offer through the alliance and from their students enrolled in courses at partner universities. This is all revenue that would be lost if the university was unable to offer a particular program.

PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPERIMENTATION

The alliance provides universities with the opportunity to enter new academic spaces without hiring a full faculty. This allows for responsible financial stewardship of limited resources and the ability to cover courses the university wishes to offer but cannot provide.

CONNECTS YOU TO STUDENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD

The alliance allows universities to reach students they would otherwise not have access to by allowing them to offer fully online programs. This allows universities to stay connected to their students wherever life takes them.

FUELS INNOVATION FOR FACULTY & ADMINISTRATORS

The alliance's collaborative approach to sharing resources and expertise creates a space for innovation among faculty and staff which provides opportunities to shape the future of higher education. Faculty and staff are offered professional development opportunities and have access to a variety of resources and best practices.

HOW IT WORKS
THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Through IDEA students receive engaging online instruction in high-demand professional fields from faculty across the country. Our faculty collaborate closely and have developed a student-centric online academic environment that maximizes learning and preparation for career advancement.

Learn more about how the alliance works for students by visiting our website or by watching this short video. IDEA - it is your future, our idea.

One University to Call Home
Students apply and are admitted to one university, which the alliance calls their home university.

Paying the Common Price
Students enroll and pay their tuition, a negotiated common price per credit hour, to their home university. There are no hidden fees.

Gaining Course Access
Each university uses their own LMS to deliver online course content, and students use the LMS to complete coursework.

Degree Completion
A student's degree or certificate is awarded by their home university. All courses are transcripted as if they were taken at one institution.

20 UNIVERSITY
PARTNERS

Member universities are each accredited by one of 18 regional accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Accreditation indicates to students and university constituents that a program meets specific levels of quality for higher education.

University of Arkansas
Auburn University
California State University, Chico
Central Washington University
Clemson University
Colorado State University
University of Georgia
Iowa State University
University of Kansas Medical Center
Kansas State University

Michigan State University
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri
Montana State University
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
North Carolina State University
North Dakota State University
Oklahoma State University
South Dakota State University
Texas Tech University

Participation Key: Human Science Program(s); Agriculture Program(s); Both

Agricultural Programs

Agricultural Education
Agricultural & Environmental Law
Agricultural Systems Management & Technology
Animal Science
Food Safety & Defense
Grassland Management
Horticulture
Quantitative Genetics & Genomics
Swine Science Online

Human Sciences Programs

Community Development
Dietetics
Early Care & Education in a Mobile Society
Early Childhood & Family Policy
Family & Community Services
Family & Consumer Sciences Education
Family Financial Planning
Gerontology
Merchandising
Youth Development

ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP

IDEA is made up of several areas that work together to offer programs and support students. These groups, the Cabinet, Human Sciences and Agriculture Board of Directors, and Management Team, work to facilitate collaboration and ensure the best experience possible for students.

Cabinet

Guides the overall policy of the alliance, sustains the culture of collaboration, maintains relationships with functional teams, and approves new alliance members.

Human Sciences & AG Board of Directors

Facilitates collaboration among members in their respective disciplines and support program maintenance and development.

Management Team

Implements board initiatives and provides centralized resources and support. They also provide guidance on the membership process and bringing new programs/ universities on board.

INSTITUTIONAL **SUPPORT**

IDEA relies on support from multiple individuals, departments, and units across member universities to support the needs of the alliance and students.

Department Chairs
Department Chairs review course rotations, make teaching assignments within programs, and provide support to faculty.

Chief Financial Officers
Chief Financial Officers meet annually to determine the common price for alliance courses.

Continuing Education Unit Dean
Continuing Education Unit Deans serve as a functional team providing guidance to the alliance on important updates in their field.

Graduate Dean
Graduate Deans collaborate to support quality academic programs and implement IDEA policies while minimizing challenges for students.

Registrar
University Registrars work as a functional team to ensure the transcription of grades for IDEA students.

Campus Coordinators
Campus Coordinators are the first point of contact for students. They enroll students and oversee visiting student access.

Disability Support Services
The Disability Support Services team plays a critical role in ensuring all students who are in need receive necessary accommodations.

Academic Dean
Academic Deans provide important insight into the needs of their colleges and departments.

EXPANSIS
STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

The ExpanSIS student information system enables the legal and secure sharing of student grades and information.

The ExpanSIS system removes the need to transfer student credits between institutions. Campus coordinators at each institution translate grades to/from university student information systems using a defined translation process.

Course Scheduling

The ExpanSIS system is used by campus coordinators at each institution to schedule courses so that students across the alliance may be enrolled. This also allows for the secure exchange of grades between universities.

Used by Multiple Consortia

Since 2006, ExpanSIS has been utilized by numerous consortia, including two long-standing partnerships, IDEA and the Alliance for Cooperative Course Exchange in the Plant Sciences (ACCEPtS).

Created by IAA and IT

The ExpanSIS system was created by The Institute for Academic Alliances (IAA) in cooperation with Information Technology Services (IT) at Kansas State University. These groups oversee the operation and maintenance of the system.

Security of Information

IAA and Kansas State University IT ensure the security of information exchanged through ExpanSIS. The secure, web-based system is hosted on the K-State cloud.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

FACULTY-LED COURSE & PROGRAM DESIGN

The curriculum for each program is set by the faculty of participating universities, with the same core curriculum being offered at each institution. They are responsible for identifying key content, creating courses/course objectives, and providing a recommended course rotation to the department chairs.

TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

Once the curriculum has been set by faculty and the course rotation approved by the department chairs, each university is responsible for offering their designated courses as assigned.

The department chair at each university will assign teaching responsibilities, as they would for any other course in their department. If an instructor is granted graduate faculty status at the teaching institution, it is honored by all partner universities.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Programs work with an assessment consultant, funded by the human sciences board of directors, to create an assessment plan which they report on annually. This plan assesses the learning outcomes of the program as a whole.

The management team also provides opportunities for student feedback, which include a New Student Survey, Check-In Survey, Course Withdrawal Survey, and Program Experience Survey.

Survey reports are sent to program faculty, department chairs, and the board of directors for further discussion and review.

It is the responsibility of partner institutions to assess the quality of courses, which many do through tools like Quality Matters rubrics.
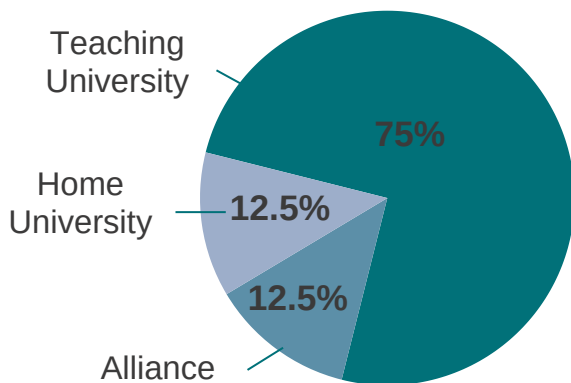
ALLIANCE **FINANCES**

Students pay the same common price per credit hour, regardless of which university is their degree-granting, or home, university. The price is reviewed annually by the IDEA functional team of finance officers.

In an effort to provide transparency of cost for students, the common price is inclusive of regular tuition and any course, program, facilities, or student services fees. No additional fees shall be charged by any participating institution. Additional administrative fees incurred by the student, for example, application fees, late enrollment, or late payment fees, may be assessed by the home institution. The common price may be higher or lower than regular tuition at the home institution.

Revenue Distribution

Students pay tuition to their home university and the funds are distributed across the alliance as the pie chart shows.

Teaching University — **75%**

Home University — **12.5%**

12.5%
Alliance

Common Price

Common price information for the current and upcoming academic years can be found on our website.

MEMBERSHIP **OPPORTUNITIES**

Entry into IDEA is through participation in an academic program. Membership in programs is selective and must be approved by both the program faculty and the sponsoring academic board of directors. The pathway to membership is outlined below.

1 **Request to Apply to an Existing or New Academic Program**

2 **Assess University Capacity and Support**

3 **Apply to an Academic Program**

4 **Implement Program and Recruit Students**

5 **Gain Full Alliance Membership**

To learn more about the membership process, please request the Membership Handbook from Executive Director Morgan Jones (mvjones@ksu.edu).