



**NHCGNE/NEXus  
Technical Webinar I:  
Overview**

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**Presenters:**

**Paula McNeil, RN, MS**  
NEXus Project Director and Executive Director, WIN

**Anna Galas, MS**  
NEXus Project Coordinator

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**Purpose**

- ✓ Provide a brief overview of the foundational documents for members of the NEXus consortium.
- ✓ Answer questions.

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### Guiding Principles

#### Principle 1.

The participating Doctoral programs mutually respect the academic standards and quality of the accredited universities involved in this collaboration.

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### Guiding Principles

#### Principle 2.

The participating NEXus members recognize the implementation of the NEXus project at each institutions may best be accomplished using procedures and practices that are inherent to those respective institutions.

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### Guiding Principles

#### Principle 3.

The NEXus partners commit to minimizing the unique challenges and barriers for students that might otherwise occur in an inter-institutional distance education project.

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### Memorandum of Understanding

**Our legal advisor has indicated that the MOU may not be amended. If amended, all existing partners would have to re-sign the document.**

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### Memorandum of Understanding

**The MOU provides:**

- ✓ Description and Mission
- ✓ Program Governance
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Administration and Management

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### Memorandum of Understanding

Identifies academic collaborator responsibilities:

- Support the development and delivery of courses taught by its faculty;
- Provide student services and internet-based program information to support NEXus;
- Provide the agreed-on enrollment capacity for each course taught;
- Comply with pricing and fee sharing agreements.

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### Memorandum of Understanding

Academic collaborator responsibilities (cont.):

- Serve as members & attend Exec. Comm. meetings, provide administrative support for course exchange;
- Support faculty participation in NEXus initiatives
- Appoint a representative to the Exec. Comm., maintain course information on the catalogue;
- Commit to faculty development;
- Overcome administrative barriers to enrolling students in courses.

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### Memorandum of Understanding

Academic collaborator responsibilities (cont.):

- If NEXus is discontinued, make every effort to allow currently enrolled NEXus students to complete courses in plans of study within two years.
- Consider the MOU as a commitment to entering into a financial aid consortium agreement.

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### Memorandum of Understanding

- Defines “academic courses”;
- Defines ownership of property;
- Involuntary termination of NEXus participation based on nonpayment, nonparticipation, or other just cause; and termination by an academic collaborator;
- No partnership or joint venture formed;
- Defines dispute resolution.

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## Memorandum of Understanding

- Signature page lists a variety of campus officials. NEXus does not require that all of those individuals sign the MOU. Those appropriate to the campus are all who are required to sign.

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## Bylaws

### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of NEXus is to enable member institutions to expand the capacity of doctoral programs in nursing in the United States by offering courses through collaborative efforts with other institutions, and thereby give doctoral students greater access to high quality education.

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## Bylaws

### Lead Organization

Approved by the NEXus Executive Committee and is responsible for NEXus Administrative functions. The lead organization selects the chief executive officer.

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**Bylaws**

Membership

Academic Collaborators; Academic Affiliates

Qualifications

Application: approved by 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee

Good Standing

Voluntary/involuntary membership termination

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**Bylaws**

Executive Committee

One representative of the lead organization and one from each academic collaborator.

Annual and special meetings

Vacancies

Quorum

Voting – designated representative of academic collaborators

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**Bylaws**

Officers

Chair

Vice-Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Committees

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### Bylaws

- Project Approval
- Fiscal Management
- Dissolution
- Data and Records
- Rules of Order
- Amendments

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### State Authorization of Distance Education

- State authority for regulating institutions offering education within state boundaries
- Regardless of modality!
- If found non-compliant:
  - State: Cease and desist action
  - Federal (if reinstated): Reimburse aid funds

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### Consortia Agreements

- If a student from one institution (Home) takes required coursework from an institution located in another state (Teaching), that coursework is considered part of the program offered by the first institution (Home).

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### Key Points

- Student must not be required to enroll separately in the out-of-state (Teaching) institution—NEXus enrollment mechanism bypasses separate institutional enrollment
- Member institutions are seeking approvals for distance programs from most states

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### State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

SARA does not completely replace state authorization. Degree-granting institutions must be authorized to issue degrees by a government, typically a state. SARA pertains to approval of distance education courses and programs offered across state lines by institutions that have degree authorization in at least one state.

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### State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

SARA centralizes the authorization process for each institution in a single state called the institution’s “home state”. Colleges or universities in a SARA state only need home state authorization to offer distance education to any other SARA member state.

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### State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

Overseen by the National Council, administered by four regional education compacts:

- MHEC, Midwestern Higher Education Compact
- NEBHE, New England Board of Higher Educ.
- SREB, Southern Regional Education Board
- WICHE, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

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### Looking to the Future...

- Monitor through **WCET**, the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies
- Encourage NEXus institutions to be authorized in other members' states
- Monitor the emerging reciprocity agreement.

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### Future

- <http://www.wiche.edu/sara>
- <http://www.wcet.wiche.edu/advance/state-approval>
- <http://wcet.wiche.edu/wcet/docs/state-approval/FinalStateApprovalRegulationsforDistanceEducationAStarterListwithAddendum2.pdf>

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## Marketing

- [www.winnexus.org](http://www.winnexus.org)
- NEXus course flyers
- Student and Faculty Brochures
- News updates and announcements on [www.winnexus.org](http://www.winnexus.org)
- Faculty videos

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## DRAFT - Implementation of Transcript and Transfer Models

NEXus member institutions agreed on January 10, 2008 that each member may select the transcript or the transfer model for implementation. The following slides are guidelines and are intended to assist in understanding the different procedures, create common procedures for use by NEXus members, and simplify the process of grade/course recording for NEXus students.

The desired outcomes are:

- The registration system be seamless for the student;
- Grades are automatically transferred/transcripted; and
- The student retains financial aid.

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## Transcript and Transfer Models

|               |            | Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               |            | Home School (H.S.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Teaching School (T.S.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Credit/Course | Transcript | 1. Student submits forms to H.S.<br>2. H.S. communicates with and submits forms to T.S.<br>3. H.S. submits seat request.<br>4. Student is enrolled in shadow course at H.S.<br>5. Course and Grade entered on H.S. transcript via shadow course.<br>6. H.S. submits enrollment form to NEXus Administration. | 1. T.S. grants seat request.<br>2. T.S. processes required forms.<br>3. T.S. registers and enrolls student in course/s.<br>4. Student completes course.<br>5. Upon completion of course, T.S. processes Transcript Request form and course/s and grade are automatically sent to H.S. |
|               | Transfer   | 1. Students submit forms to H.S.<br>2. H.S. communicates with and submits forms to T.S.<br>3. H.S. submits seat request.<br>4. Course and grade are transferred on H.S. transcript.<br>5. H.S. submits enrollment form to NEXus Administration.                                                              | 1. T.S. grants seat request.<br>2. T.S. processes required forms.<br>3. T.S. registers and enrolls student in course/s.<br>4. Student completes course.<br>5. Upon completion of course, T.S. processes Transcript Request form and course/s and grade are automatically sent to H.S. |

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## Transcript and Transfer Models

|          |                     | Home School (H.S.)                                                                                                                                  | Teaching School (T.S.)                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Finances |                     |                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                         |
|          | Transcript/Transfer | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Payment is made by the student to T.S.</li><li>or</li><li>2. Payment is made by the H.S. to T.S.</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. T.S. bills student or H.S. for NEXus Common price</li><li>2. H.S. and NEXus invoice T.S. for their respective split.</li></ol> |

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