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—Mary Ann Coughlin, Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Springfield College

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Next Steps to Join CIC-OCSC and Leverage the Benefits for Your Institution

COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

Online Course Sharing Consortium

A cost-effective option to make available high-quality online courses that will improve student success, retention, and degree completion
Seamless, Affordable Online Course Options

The CIC Online Course Sharing Consortium (CIC-OCSC) enables colleges and universities to offer one another a wide range of online courses to meet curricular needs and help students stay on track or get ahead for timely program and degree completion.

By joining the Consortium, institutions can quickly implement strategies to improve student retention and graduation rates while maintaining full control of the institution’s curriculum and digital transfer of credits and financial aid.

Institutions can participate in the Consortium as Home Institutions, as Teaching Institutions, or as both Home and Teaching Institutions. Revenue sharing between the Home and Teaching Institutions benefits both financial, course development and faculty approval processes, micro-typical course adoption practices on campus to ensure that shared courses meet institutional standards.

In contrast to other online initiatives, the Consortium focuses on CIC members, which often have similar curricular goals, educational philosophies, concerns for academic quality, and a commitment to the liberal arts.

Consortium membership allows institutions to:
• Apply financial aid to the online consortium course;
• Allow motivated students to pursue a major or topic more deeply or more quickly than otherwise possible;
• Optimize scheduling efficiency with an expanded curriculum;
• Bring back "stop-outs" to degree completion;
• Access accelerated, online developmental or core courses (at least three courses) for students needing additional time;
• Fill gaps in degree completion programs; and
• Streamline program transitions with student-friendly wash-out rules.

Consortium members can:
• Help students regain good academic standing;
• Provide more options for summer progress;
• Support student-athletes’ eligibility;
• Guide early graduation “walkers” to completion;
• Use a winter term to recover and ease spring scheduling pressures; and
• Activate mid-term interventions;

Proven Strategies for On-Time Completion, Retention, and Program Support

More than 100 institutions have joined the Consortium to address several persistent issues that most colleges and universities face, and they have identified a set of proven strategies that other institutions can implement and refine for timely results.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can institutions assure the quality of the online courses offered by other Consortium participants? Each Consortium member can:
• Approve every course and every institution with whom they share, as well as every individual student enrollment; and
• Review syllabi, faculty credentials, and assessment of student learning data as part of the course approval process.

Why is a consortium important?
Consortium membership allows institutions to:
• Review syllabi, faculty credentials, and assessment of student learning data as part of the course approval process;
• Activate mid-term interventions;

How much does this cost?
The fees charged by Acadeum to CIC-OCSC members are guaranteed to be the lowest available for Acadeum’s Academic Sharing Platform™. The list of courses is updated and expanded continuously.

What experience does Acadeum bring to the CIC Online Course Sharing Consortium?
Acadeum’s methodology and technology power the CIC-OCSC and have already been used successfully by several statewide consortia of colleges, including CIC State Councils in North Carolina and Texas.

Which courses are available to Consortium members?
• CIC-OCSC members may review and select for approval all their institution’s online courses offered by any CIC-OCSC Teaching Institution.

How does this work?
Our solutions allow students who may have eligibility challenges even when they can’t apply for federal aid due to younger age, seasonal work, or other personal circumstances, to pursue a degree at an accredited institution.

What is the cost?
Our students who meet eligibility requirements for federal aid can qualify for federal grants to pursue a degree through the Consortium.

Why is a consortium important?
The Consortium leverages the collective strength of its members to provide a wide range of online courses at an affordable cost.

How much does this cost?
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CIC Online Course Sharing Consortium

Seamless, Affordable Online Course Options

The CIC Online Course Sharing Consortium (CIC-OCSC) enables colleges and universities to offer one another a wide range of online courses to meet curricular needs and to help students stay on track or get ahead for timely program and degree completion.

Through an arrangement with Acadeum, a technology company that developed a platform for course registrations, the Consortium helps colleges address course availability issues; improve retention and degree completion; streamline payments and reporting; and increase institutional revenue.

Academic leaders can quickly implement strategies to improve student retention and graduation rates while maintaining complete control of the institution’s curriculum and digital transfer of credits and financial aid.

Institutions can participate in the Consortium as Home Institutions, as Teaching Institutions, or as both Home and Teaching Institutions. Revenue sharing between the Home and Teaching Institutions benefits both financially. Course development and faculty approval processes mirror typical course adoption practices on campus to ensure that shared courses are of the highest quality and meet institutional standards.

Consortium members can:

- Help students regain good academic standing;
- Provide more options for summer progress;
- Support student-athletes’ eligibility;
- Guide early graduation “walkers” to completion;
- Use a winter term to help students recover and save spring scheduling pressures;
- Activate mid-term interventions;
- Optimize scheduling efficiency with an expanded curriculum;
- Bring back “stop-outs” to degree completion;
- Access accelerated, online developmental courses; and
- Fill gaps in degree completion programs;
- Streamline program transitions with student-friendly course tools.

By sharing courses, institutions can:

- Review syllabi, faculty credentials, and assessment of student learning data as part of the course approval process.
- Avoid the complicated procedures that usually are necessary to approve credit for transfer courses;
- Count the course as part of a full-time load; and
- Offer specialized courses not available at the Home Institution.
- Record the course, credit hours, and grade on the student’s Home Institution transcript (thereby avoiding the complicated procedures that usually are necessary to approve credit for transfer courses);
- Bring back “stop-outs” to degree completion;
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How can institutions assure the quality of the online courses offered by other Consortium participants?

Each Consortium member can:

- Approve every course and every institution with whom they share, as well as every individual student enrollment; and
- Review syllabi, faculty credentials, and assessment of student learning data as part of the course approval process.

Why is a consortium important?

Consortium membership allows institutions to:

- Apply financial aid to the online consortium course;
- Allow motivated students to pursue a major or topic of personal interest;
- Apply financial aid to the online consortium course;
- Count the course as part of a full-time load; and
- Share revenue between the Home and Teaching Institutions.

What does this cost?

- The fees charged by Acadeum to CIC-OCSC members are guaranteed to be no more than 15% of the lowest available for Academic’s services.
- A Home Institution pays for the Academic platform access fee of $1,000 plus annual platform teaching fee to cover maintenance of coursework materials and interactions on the platform.
- A Home Institution charges the participating student its normal tuition, or reduced tuition in a non-traditional term such as a January term. Using the Academic platform, the Home Institution then transfers the portion of tuition charged by the Teaching Institution for the course. Because the student’s enrollment makes use of an empty “seat,” the Teaching Institution can charge less than its usual full tuition, and the Home Institution can retain the difference. The Teaching Institution receives 25 percent of the tuition it charges and Academic receives 25 percent. CIC receives a modest revenue share from Academic’s portion that helps to fund member programs and services.

Our student-athletes who may have eligibility challenges especially benefit from the Consortium, as our coaches work directly with faculty academic advisors to help students remain eligible. In addition, we are planning to use winter term courses to give spring term student-athletes options to ease the pressure created by spring sports travel.

—Dr. Susan Burns, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, Clarke University

Solutions for Students and Institutions

With many preapproved online courses available, institutions that are members of the CIC Online Course Sharing Consortium can help students get back on track or get ahead for timely program and degree completion.

More than 100 institutions have joined the Consortium to address several persistent issues that most colleges and universities face, and they have identified a set of proven strategies that other institutions can implement and refine for timely results.

Frequently Asked Questions

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- A Teaching Institution pays Academic the annual platform access fee of $1,000 plus an additional $2,000 annual platform teaching fee to cover maintenance of coursework materials and interactions on the platform. Teaching Institutions recoup this additional fee in the first term of participation.
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- All payments are automatically transferred through the Academic Shared Platform™ and do not require additional institutional billing.
Seamless, Affordable Online Course Options

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Retention, and Program Support

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