

Appendix A.1

Graduate Deans Agreement

Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (Great Plains IDEA)
Adopted October 30, 2001, Updated March 18, 2003

The Graduate Deans of the Universities that are members of the Great Plains IDEA and that are participating in the Master's and graduate certificate programs offered through the Great Plains IDEA, on behalf of their respective Graduate Faculties, have agreed to the following principles and procedures in order to facilitate the development and delivery of inter-institutional graduate programs through their institutions.

Principle 1:

The participating Graduate Schools mutually respect the academic standards and quality of the academic departments involved in this joint program, therefore:

- 1.1 Courses approved for delivery by this program will be considered inter-institutional courses and will be exempt from transfer credit policies.
- 1.2 Faculty members who provide instruction in this program must carry graduate faculty status at their home institution; however, further documentation or approval will not be required by the other members of the Alliance.
- 1.3 Students admitted as degree-seeking students in Great Plains IDEA programs will be accepted automatically by all other members of the Alliance for enrollment in courses that are a part of the curricula of Great Plains IDEA programs. Admission to a Great Plains IDEA program will be based on the criteria established at each participating institution and program pre-requisites established for the Alliance Program to which admission is sought. Institutions are encouraged not to require the GRE.
- 1.4 The number of students that may be admitted to the program by each participating institution will be determined by agreement of the participating institutions.
- 1.5 The content of the curriculum will be determined by agreement of the participating institutions.

Principle 2:

The participating Graduate Schools recognize that the implementation of Great Plains IDEA programs at each institution may be best accomplished using procedures and practices that are inherent to those respective institutions, therefore:

- 2.1 The Great Plains IDEA programs may be stand-alone majors, emphases, options or some other designation as is appropriate to the respective Universities.

- 2.2 A student in a Great Plains IDEA program who is degree seeking will enroll in all cross-listed Alliance courses at the home institution. Elective courses within the program may or may not be cross listed.
- 2.3 The admissions procedures for students desiring to be degree seeking will be determined by their home institution within the standards and limitations on numbers agreed to by the participating institutions.
- 2.4 Each University is responsible for obtaining initial approval and approval of any changes in the program through the processes that are in-place and required by their respective institutions.
- 2.5 Each University, when serving as the home institution for a given student, will utilize the same deadlines and procedures as used for its other degree-seeking graduate students in areas not specifically addressed in this document. This would include, but not be limited to, the requirements for plans of study, approval of graduate committees and participation in graduation.
- 2.6 Each institution will transcript courses taught by faculty at partner institutions, as it deems appropriate, consistent with the guidelines indicated in Principle 1.

Principle 3:

The participating Graduate Schools commit to minimize the unique challenges and barriers for students that might otherwise occur in an inter-institutional distance education program to the extent possible, therefore:

- 3.1 A student will apply and be admitted to one Alliance institution that will become that student's home institution. All student services will be provided by the student's home institution. Students will enroll in all Alliance courses through their home institution.
- 3.2 Each institution will facilitate the exchange of information relative to courses completed and grades earned consistent with Federal regulations for the release of information.
- 3.3 A common database of student and course information will be established by the Great Plains IDEA to facilitate the transfer of student and course information between the home institution and the teaching institution.

Updated 03-18-2003