



## **CONSORTIUM POLICY**

### **Definition and Operational Characteristics of a Consortium**

A Consortium consists of two or more sponsoring entities formed by written agreement to undertake a common enterprise. The Consortium is considered a separate entity and has an organizational chart, a budget with designated funding, and a defined line of management.

At least one participant institution must be accredited by a U.S. Department of Education (USDE) recognized accrediting agency and hospitals must be accredited by the Joint Commission or meet equivalent standards as evidenced by accreditation by a similar healthcare institutional accrediting agencies. (The traditional arrangement of a sponsor for an academic program having one or more off-site clinical affiliates should not be described as a Consortium.)

A Consortium publishes and makes available to candidates, students, and others its identity, staffing, objectives, programs of education, curricula, policies, calendar, costs, and related information.

### **Non-Consortium Characteristics**

In surgical technology and surgical assisting education, a student may attend one or more separate institutions for prerequisite courses, and attend another institution for core courses. This does not meet the definition of a Consortium as established by this policy.

Articulation agreements between institutions solely for the transfer of credit do not establish a Consortium as defined by this policy.

### **General Characteristics of a Consortium**

A Consortium:

- 1) Demonstrates evidence of sound financial support of the educational program on a current and continuing basis.
- 2) Appoints faculty to the program based on established criteria for eligibility, including professional and academic qualifications.
- 3) Assumes primary responsibility for curriculum planning and selection of course content, in consultation with representatives of affiliating institutions if any.
- 4) Exercises primary responsibility in coordination of classroom teaching and supervised clinical experience in simulated as well as in actual clinical facilities.
- 5) Receives and processes applications for admission to the program.
- 6) Accepts applicants who are then enrolled as full or part-time students with all customary privileges for use of available student services and facilities.
- 7) Grants a degree, diploma or certificate of completion/competency as official evidence of completion of the program.

All applicants for program sponsorship (e.g.; solo institution, consortium) must demonstrate compliance with requirements for sponsorship approval specified in the latest version of the CAAHEP Policy and Procedure Manual ([www.caahep.org](http://www.caahep.org)) and this policy.

### **Procedures for Consortium Accreditation**

A Consortium applies for programmatic accreditation in the same manner as other sponsors and is subsequently responsible for supporting its educational programs in a similar fashion.

1. The Consortium, like all other sponsors, is responsible for maintaining teaching and learning integrity as defined by the CAAHEP Standards.
2. Innovative and experimental approaches to teaching and learning are encouraged and must be fully documented.
3. The Consortium must apply to the ARC/STSA for accreditation specifying all member organizations composing the Consortium and identify all sites of instruction.
4. The Consortium is required to document the purpose and goals for development of the Consortium by means of a Self-Study application. The documentation must include a justification of, and needs assessment for the program including potential students, employers, the profession, and the other communities of interest identified in the CAAHEP Standards.
5. A site visit to the Consortium facility and each Consortium member campus where instruction or program administration occurs is required.