

Articulation Agreement
Valley City State University
and
MBA Research—MBA High School of Business

Introduction

The purpose of this articulation agreement between **Valley State University (VCSU)** and **MBA Research and Curriculum Center** is to facilitate progress toward educational and career goals by enhancing the transition for students from MBA High School of Business (HSB) curriculum to VCSU. The guarantees and limitations below describe the minimum requirements to which all participating parties have agreed.

MBA Research, a non-profit corporation organized and existing under Ohio law, located at 1375 King Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43212, and **Valley City State University**, a state assisted institution of higher education established and existing under the laws of the State of North Dakota, located at 101 College St SE, Valley City, ND 58072. Valley City State University (VCSU) will become an affiliate with MBA Research pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

Introduction of Affiliates

Valley City State University

Mission: Valley City State University is a public, regional university offering exceptional programs in an active, learner-centered community that promotes meaningful scholarship, ethical service, and the skilled use of technology. As an important knowledge resource, the University offers programs and outreach that enrich the quality of life in North Dakota and beyond. Through flexible, accessible, and innovative baccalaureate and master's programs, VCSU prepares students to succeed as educators, leaders, and engaged citizens in an increasingly complex and diverse society.

High School of Business Member Schools

Member Schools are those high schools that offer the High School of Business™ program. It is in serving the students at these schools that MBA Research and VCSU find their missions are similar. Both strive to provide educational experiences that result in individuals who are fully

prepared for the next step in their future, whether it is going on to college or going into the workforce.

Purpose of Affiliation

VCSU, HSB and the Member Schools all earnestly seek excellence in education with the desired result being highly marketable, professional, college business graduates. In a spirit of collaboration, each affiliate strives to bypass mediocrity, challenging students to exceed minimal expectations, developing leadership and business knowledge to mold their future. Collaboration among the affiliates recognizes that the educational experience is a process, best served with a common path to attain a common goal.

Contribution of Affiliates

High School of Business (HSB)

Design and maintain high-quality high school curricula with many learning outcomes drawn from post-secondary level courses.

Ensure uniform curriculum and teacher training across all Member Schools

Nationwide status provides a connection to potential students beyond VCSU's traditional recruitment borders

Steady program growth translates into potential connections with larger numbers of high schools, teachers, and students

Train high school teachers to deliver high-quality curriculum using a primarily project-based learning pedagogical style.

Public recognition of VCSU as a national partner

Provide insight into high school classrooms as well as students' needs and wants

VCSU

Promotional support of HSB through VCSU website

Provide unique opportunities to graduates of the HSB program

Opportunity for faculty/administrative involvement as requested by HSB and member schools

Member Schools

Prepare students earnestly interested in a business career for a college education

Communicate information about VCSU and the benefits available there to HSB students

Expectations of each Affiliate

HSB

Students who successfully complete HSB will benefit from an affiliation with VCSU as outlined in the Responsibilities section of this document.

Opportunities to collaborate with VCSU faculty with regard to improvement in course content

Increased program recognition gained through VCSU's recognition of the affiliation

VCSU

Increased program recognition through affiliation with national program for high school students

Increased program recognition gained through HSB's recognition of the affiliation

Increase in enrollment of students meeting desirable incoming student profile

Increase in overall retention rate of students meeting desirable incoming student profile

Member Schools

Students graduating from the HSB program may receive VCSU college credit, as follows:

- A 60 or above on the Business Economics test earns credit for ECON 202.
- A 65 or above on the Principles of Management test earns credit for MGMT 270.
- A 70 or above on the Business Strategies test earns credit for BUSI 214.

Responsibilities of each Affiliate

HSB

MBA Research will share information about the partnership directly with participating schools using the following methods:

- An annual email featuring the chart of all post-secondary partners and the information they provided in their overview form (above). This will be sent to all HSB teachers for distribution to HSB students and parents.
- A short video clip of each Partner Institution will be incorporated into the *Principles of Business* curriculum (first course in the HSB sequence)
- The one-page documents that describe procedures for gaining credit and other benefits available through Partner Institutions will be documented in appendix of every HSB course guide

MBA Research will recognize VCSU in the following locations throughout the duration of the partnership:

- Listed in these locations on MBA Research's website
 - MBA Research's partners section
 - HSB partners section
- Listed in the program distributed at MBA Research's annual Conclave Conference for Teaching
- Listed in the appendix of every *High School of Business* course guide

Additionally, MBA Research will recognize VCSU in these ways when an agreement is signed, renewed, or modified:

- Listed in these locations on MBA Research's website
 - Home page
 - HSB in the News

MBA Research will make available optional sponsorship opportunities for Partner Institutions to market to high school business administration teachers and, in doing so, support the work of MBA Research. For example:

- Sponsorships at Conclave Conference for Teaching
- Promotional items (e.g., t-shirts) for High School of Business teachers

VCSU

Promotional support of HSB through VCSU website

Offer nine college course credits to students who complete the program.

NOTE: HSB final exam scores are used to obtain credit. The scores are as follows:

- A 60 or above on the Business Economics test earns credit for ECON 202.
- A 65 or above on the Principles of Management test earns credit for MGMT 270.
- A 70 or above on the Business Strategies test earns credit for BUSI 214.

The student will have to enroll at VCSU and during the enrollment process they will indicate they were part of the HSB program. VCSU will prompt the student to provide test scores to the university. These undergo a reviewing process by the VCSU program coordinator and as students' test scores are verified the registers office is notified of the approved credits.

Member Schools

Maintain program certification status as outlined in the HSB application form for participating schools (see Appendix A)

Distribute VCSU materials received from MBA Research to HSB students. This includes information specific to the HSB/VCSU affiliation as well as general VCSU information.

Term

The term of this agreement will begin on the date of signing and end on June 30, 2017. The Agreement will be automatically renewed annually until June 30, 2021, unless either party terminates the Agreement by notice to the other party in writing by no later than April 30 preceding the commencement of the next contract year.

Indemnification and Responsibility

MBA Research (HSB) agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless, VCSU from any and all losses, expenses, costs, obligations, liabilities and damages, including interest, penalties, and

reasonable attorney's fees and expenses, that it may incur as a result of any negligent or willful act of MBA Research. VCSU agrees to be responsible to MBA Research for any liabilities and damages arising from the negligent acts or omissions of VCSU, or its officers, directors, faculty, employees, or agents.

The signatures below attest to this agreement

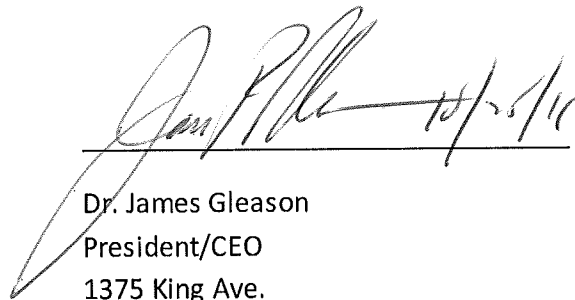
Signatures:

Valley City State University
Department of Business

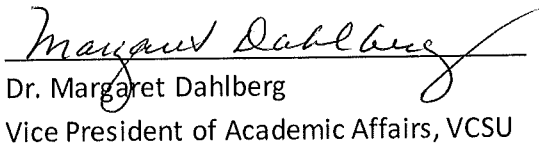
Handwritten signature of Amber Aberle in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature includes the date "10-6-16" at the end.

Amber Aberle
Program Coordinator, Business Ed and BPIM
101 College Street
Valley City, ND 58072
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MBA Research & Curriculum Center

Handwritten signature of Dr. James Gleason in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature includes the date "10/25/16" at the end.

Dr. James Gleason
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Gleason@MBAResearch.org

Handwritten signature of Dr. Margaret Dahlberg in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Margaret Dahlberg
Vice President of Academic Affairs, VCSU

Handwritten signature of Dr. Tisa Mason in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Tisa Mason
President, VCSU