DISTANCE EDUCATION POLICY

The Health Science Center’s commitment to academic excellence includes consistency between traditional classroom instruction and distance education. The purpose of this operating policy is to provide a framework for the development, implementation, and maintenance of formal degree and certificate programs and courses offered via distance education for academic credit.

The school-specific administration is responsible for the administration of distance education programs and course delivery. The school-specific deans report to the President.

All schools of the Health Science Center shall have an opportunity to participate in providing distance education courses and/or programs and shall be encouraged to provide distance education as appropriate. Through the schools, the Health Science Center shall ensure that all academic programs, including those delivered through distance education, are afforded an adequate resource support structure.

The Health Science Center utilizes the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) definition for distance education for its policy. Distance education is defined as a formal educational process in which the majority (more than 50%) of the instruction (interaction between students and instructors and among students) in a course occurs when the student and instructor are not in the same place. Instruction may be synchronous or asynchronous. A distance education course may employ correspondence study, or video, audio or computer technologies.

For more information on the Distance Education Policy, please see Policy 2.6.5 (http://uthscsa.edu/hop2000/2.6.5.pdf) in the Health Science Center Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP).