

**A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
AMONG INSTITUTIONS FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION
IN THE FIELD OF STATISTICS
(Revised and approved October 8, 2010)**

INTRODUCTION

This document sets out procedures and conditions for regional cooperative efforts in statistics through the Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCOS), historically affiliated with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB).

I. Framework and Background

The memorandum was originally drawn up under the general framework of operation of the SREB. The SREB, a compact of southern states¹ with staff offices permanently located in Atlanta, Georgia, is devoted to the task of assisting states, institutions and agencies concerned with higher education in their efforts to advance knowledge and to improve the social and economic level of the southern region.

In aiding such states, institutions, and agencies the Board shall explore fully, recommend where desirable, and develop where needed, interstate collaboration in the support, expansion or establishment of regional services or schools for graduate, professional and technical education.²

One of the functions of the SREB is to "Serve as an administrative device for carrying out interstate arrangements for regional educational services. . ."³

II. Meaning of the Term: "Memorandum of Agreement"

The Memorandum of Agreement is an administrative enabling act which binds the signatory organizations to Council action in an area of collaboration which is generally described in the memorandum. Authority for cooperative action then rests with the Council, except in that such action must be within the means of, and not at variance with the regulations or policies of cooperating organizations.

FOOTNOTES

1. SREB states in the Southern Region include: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.
2. From Article I, By-Laws, Southern Regional Education Board.
3. Ibid.

THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL ON STATISTICS.

I. History of SRCOS

In the post-World War II period of economics and educational expansion it was recognized that the developing subject of statistics would be a cornerstone to research and graduate education in many fields. Accordingly, to promote regional cooperation and sharing of limited educational resources in the field, a regional committee on statistics was organized under an SREB memorandum of agreement in 1955, with representation from eleven educational institutions. The memorandum was renewed in 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001 and again in 2006. The SRCOS consists of representatives from educational institutions in the states noted in footnote 1 plus Missouri. The SRCOS is thus a long-standing and cohesive group. The activities of the SRCOS, in addition to the exchange of ideas and discussion of problems at council meetings, have included sponsorship of research conferences, informational brochures and services, regional graduate summer sessions in statistics, guidelines on common organizational problems and a forum on training needs. As indicated above, the SRCOS has been the administrative instrument for initiating such programs, with the responsibility for execution ultimately residing with the institutions which were parties to the agreement.

II. Mission of SRCOS

The mission of SRCOS is to promote the improvement of post secondary education in the statistical sciences, assist in the development of high quality statistics instruction in elementary and high schools, and promulgate educational activities which improve the quality of statistical practices.

SRCOS fulfills this mission by fostering and facilitating cooperation among institutions in its membership region concerned with statistics education. Specific current examples of SRCOS activities in fulfilling its mission are providing forums for communication on effective approaches to solving common problems with statistical training, sponsoring (joint with the American Statistical Association) annual summer research conferences, and maintaining an electronic network for sharing statistical information among its members.

III. Need for the Memorandum of Agreement in the Field of Statistics

SRCOS has been instrumental in supporting the growth of education in statistics in the Southern Region since the original Memorandum of Agreement in 1955. There are many issues still facing the statistical community that are best resolved by cooperative efforts and the sharing of ideas among institutions. Some issues of common concern include educating the public as to the correct use and interpretation of statistics, increasing student awareness of the career opportunities that exist for statisticians in the Southern Region and elsewhere, creating innovative and interdisciplinary educational programs that draw students in the South to the study of statistics, and promoting interdisciplinary research.

Such issues deserve and receive attention by national societies and agencies. However, SRCOS and the signatory institutions and organizations have a tradition of cooperative action at a grassroots level involving long-standing associations and commitments and the participation of an interstate agency, the SREB. These organizations provide more manageable and appropriate units for addressing regional concerns than do larger and more formal bodies.

SRCOS addresses regional issues effectively through its annual business meetings and follow-up work done throughout the year by the institutional representatives, and through its annual summer research conferences held at geographically diverse locations in the South.

TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT

An institution, or a program within an institution which is party to this agreement does hereby agree, for as long as it is pledged to this agreement and within the reasonable and practicable limits circumscribed by resources and circumstances, to accept the following obligations;

- I. To maintain active representation on the SRCOS, subscribing to the general purpose, functions and operation of the SRCOS as described in its BY-LAWS hereinafter set forth;
- II. To support the policies relating to, and to participate in when feasible, certain current and continuing programs being operated by the SRCOS;
- III. To cooperate to the extent possible in activating such projects as the SRCOS might in the course of its deliberations recommend for meeting the problems currently addressed by the SRCOS or such other problems as may pre-empt the attention of the SRCOS.

DURATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

This agreement becomes binding upon a party at the time of signing, except not before January 1, 2011, and it shall continue in effect until this memorandum is revised, except that said party may withdraw from this agreement at any time having due cause and so notifying the President of SRCOS.

PROCEDURES FOR RATIFYING THE AGREEMENT

Attached to this memorandum is an execution of memorandum of agreement page which, when signed by an appropriate institutional/program officer and returned to the President of the SRCOS, will constitute acceptance of the terms of this agreement.

Signatory organizations will be given a list of all parties to the agreement.

EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

The foregoing Memorandum of Agreement shall become binding upon a party at the time of signing, except not before January 1, 2011. It shall continue in effect until it is revised. However, any SRCOS member institution may withdraw from this agreement at any time by notifying the President of SRCOS.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the signature of this institution's officer is affixed below.

Please Print or Type:

(Designated Faculty Representative)

(Institution)

By _____

Title _____

Date _____

Signature _____