

How the SREB HBCU-MSI Course Sharing Consortium Increases Student and Institutional Success

A FOCUS ON COLLABORATION & ACCESS

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) partnered with Acadeum in March 2022 to establish the SREB HBCU-MSI Course Sharing Consortium to enable HBCUs and MSIs to increase access to online courses and create new pathways to college completion. As a result, students attending historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions can access an expansive network of courses and stay on track to graduate through this partnership.

Currently, the SREB HBCU-MSI Course Sharing Consortium has 24 members and has more than doubled its membership within the first year. In the first year, the consortium shared 1,461 seats, enabling students to access classes unavailable at their Home Institution. This collaborative effort has helped solve over 775 course availability roadblocks for students, increasing the ability of member schools to retain students in their current academic program. In addition, by utilizing courses at partner institutions, HBCUs and MSIs were able to save \$907,919 in adjunct instructional costs by leveraging capacity at peer institutions within the consortium. By working together, HBCUs and MSIs can achieve more as a critical higher education sector and enable more students to succeed.

SREB

Southern Regional
Education Board

1,460+

seats shared at
member schools to
access classes not
available at their
Home Institution

775+

course availability
roadblocks solved

"When course sharing helps a student get the class she needs for graduation or broadens her study with a class from a different college, that's a win for all of us."

-Stephen L. Pruitt, President, Southern Regional Education Board

Collaboration Creates Impact

As an inaugural member of the HBCU-MSI Course Sharing Consortium, Benedict College, an HBCU located in Columbia, South Carolina, has been making an impact through course sharing since 2020. Benedict has strategically utilized course sharing in a variety of ways, taking a student-centered approach rooted in wraparound support. Most notably, Benedict used course sharing to offer an accelerated 2022-23 winter term that helped 49 students progress and set them up to graduate on time. "Completion is top of mind for our students...they cannot afford to spend extra time and money trying to finish up their coursework. Course sharing provides a timely opportunity to earn credits year-round, thereby creating a steady path forward for students," notes Jamila Lyn, Director of Specialized Programming at Benedict College.

Institutional collaboration and increased access to online courses through course sharing also made an impact for Justin Fitts, a senior at Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina. "Course sharing helped fulfill two chemistry courses I needed to graduate. The support I received through my Home and Teaching Institutions allowed me to succeed in both courses. Now, I can focus on preparing for graduation in May and completing graduate school applications to fulfill my dream of getting my master's degree and becoming a pediatric nurse," stated Mr. Fitts.

"The options that course sharing provides us, from extending our catalog to offering courses for students year-round, is helping us meet student needs.

-Dr. Gee Sigman, Associate Vice President, Institutional Planning and Assessment, Allen University

The SREB HBCU-MSI Consortium uses course sharing to meet student needs and build pathways for HBCUs and MSIs to collaborate. It:

- + Helps students overcome barriers to completion by increasing access to online courses
- + Provides new intersession opportunities to ensure students don't have to wait another year to complete their degree
- + Reduces under-enrolled courses and recovers summer enrollments for home institutions
- + Improves student outcomes through academic recovery while ensuring academic rigor and quality