FALL '21 CONTINGENCY GUIDE
Supporting Students with Flexible Options

POWERED BY Acaedium
Unlock Flexible Solutions

The "near-normal" semester institutions and students were looking forward to this fall may not take shape as expected.

According to a recent story in The Chronicle, colleges are reconsidering their fall plans as Covid-19 infections surge due to the more transmissible Delta variant.

Given the mounting uncertainty leading into fall, we've developed this Course Share Contingency Guide to:

- Help campuses proactively prepare for disruptions caused by the Delta variant
- Provide targeted recommendations where course sharing can help offer flexible options for students in need

Why Course Sharing Now?

To combat the uncertainty of the months ahead, campus leaders are prioritizing plans centered on student safety and flexibility.

Course sharing is a nimble, flexible solution to support students, and getting started doesn't require significant funding or resources. Even if your school needs to pivot quickly this fall, Acadeum's expansive online course sharing network can be part of your campus' strategy.

Pairing in-person experiences with online courses ensures that no matter where students are, your institution can meet their needs.

"We had never offered online learning until a pandemic hit. Course sharing allowed us to retain our students, and help those who needed remote learning accommodations, or who faced hurdles due to [reduced] classroom capacity."

- Leigh-Ann Gomes, Springfield College
Ramp Up with Course Sharing
Keep students on the path to success

Through Academum’s course sharing network, institutions can provide students vetted courses from like-minded colleges and universities to avoid disruption to their studies.

*This process of becoming a "Home Institution" ensures your institution maintains quality control and oversight of courses, and retains a portion of tuition dollars.*

"Before the pandemic, we offered courses online...but not at scale. We helped students remain at home, and managed faculty workloads, by offering [courses] through Academum."

- Robert Mitchell, Jr., Dillard University

We recommend the following strategies to support your students this fall:

- Offer students equivalent courses from partner schools if their chosen course is at capacity, ensuring they stay on track to completion.
- Provide online courses to open up scheduling flexibility, so students can get the credits they need, even if Covid-19 restrictions make it impossible for them to return to campus.
- Expand your online catalog to win back students considering a leave of absence.
- Approve a large volume of courses from partner schools, so your students can get up and running quickly when challenges arise.
Ramp Up with Course Sharing
Set the foundation for institutional growth

While student needs are front and center, course sharing can help your campus support institutional growth and establish critical relationships with partner schools, during difficult times.

*Institutions can generate revenue by offering open seats in courses on the Acadeum network, and by retaining their own students, which brings tuition dollars back to campus.*

"Course sharing has changed the way we look at retention, academic recovery, and how we look at online education. After starting two years ago, we saw a 9% increase in retention for freshmen and sophomores."

- Dr. Sandra Via, Ferrum College

The following approaches benefit everyone on campus and contribute to financial stability:

- Become a “teaching institution” in the Acadeum network: offer open seats in courses to like-minded institutions to provide partner schools help when their students need it most, and fill gaps in your under-enrolled courses.

- Retain struggling students. Allow them to re-take a class to regain good academic standing, or suggest online courses that are prerequisites for their major.

- Faculty, too, can benefit from course sharing. Use course sharing to help faculty reach course minimums, earn additional compensation, and teach areas of specialty across a range of institutions.
How to Get Started

If you're new to course sharing:
- Read our "Introduction to Course Sharing" blog for a quick overview and to answer any initial FAQs.
- Schedule a meeting with a course sharing expert by emailing courseshare@acadeum.com. We'll recommend the right strategies, given your unique goals.
- You'll join Acadeum's course sharing network and attend a short onboarding training to get up and running.

If you're already a member and want to increase your impact:
- Identify courses that tend to be over-enrolled, or, courses where students performed poorly last term. Then, find and vet comparable online courses on Acadeum's network.
- Pre-approve courses in bulk to increase availability.
- Develop a plan to ensure international students, and other students off-campus, don't fall behind.
- Talk to your account manager about bespoke strategies.

Looking to the Future

A 2021 Inside Higher Ed survey of College and University Business Officers captures a sense of positive momentum among campus leaders in recent months:

“They believe that their institution's response to the pandemic... positioned them well for the future, causing them to implement ‘positive, long-lasting changes’ (78% agree) and pushing them to ‘think outside of the box’ in ways that will benefit the institution in the long run (96% agree).”
Course Sharing Solutions

READY TO GET STARTED?
courseshare@acadeum.com

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