



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 25, 2011

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President
Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan:

I am writing to notify the Commission on Colleges of the university's intent to offer accelerated online completion courses leading to a Bachelor of Science in University Studies (BSUS).

In June 2009, The University of Texas at Arlington (UT Arlington) received approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to award the Bachelor of University Studies on the UT Arlington campus. The degree designation was changed to Bachelor of Science in University Studies in November 2009.

Beginning in Fall 2011, UT Arlington plans to offer the BSUS online, in collaboration with schools in the University of Texas System's Shared Services Alliance. The collaborative program is known as the Bachelor's Accelerated Completion (BAC) program.

The BAC program will be comprised of a number of seven- and eight-week accelerated courses available online. The structure of UT Arlington's BA in University Studies available through the collaborative program remains identical to the curriculum previously approved by THECB. Students must select three Areas of Concentration and complete 15 hours in each, for a total of 45 hours. In each Area of Concentration, at least six of the fifteen hours must be at the 3000/4000 level. Of the total 45 hours in the major, no more than nine hours may bear the same course prefix. Students enrolled in the collaborative BAC program may choose courses offered by UT Arlington or by partner institutions via a consortium agreement.

All the courses in the BAC program follow the Principles of Best Practices outlined by SACS and the THECB. The University of Texas System Shared Services Alliance will maintain support of the TeleCampus Information System (TIS), providing students with a combined portal to find the online courses related to the degree. This system will also provide the offices of the Registrar and Financial Aid at each campus with information to help expedite and report student enrollment.

Distance Education at UTA is supported by the coordinated efforts of the Office of Academic Affairs, college and school academic deans, and the Center for Distance

Education which assure that program and course rigor and oversight are maintained. Qualified faculty provide appropriate oversight of online course development and delivery, in consort with the Center, which ensures the support and appropriate use of learning management technology. Distance Education students have reasonable and adequate access to a range of retention and student services including digital library access and other vital learning resources such as tutoring and writing center support. The institution has a decades-long, demonstrable commitment to ongoing support, both financial and technical, for Distance Education and for distant students to successfully complete online courses and programs.

Please notify us if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Spaniolo".

James D. Spaniolo, President

c: Stephen Sheeley
Donald R. Bobbitt
Michael Moore
Pete Smith
Pam Haws