

FAQ: Definitions and Meaning of Terms

Featured Terms: Articulation, Articulation Agreement, Affiliation Agreement, Clinical (Training) Affiliation Agreement, and Memorandum of Understanding

Articulation

According to the U.S. Department of Education (2022), the articulation policies and practices include provisions to improve the efficacy and applicability with verified evidence involving the stakeholders' oversight that emerged across the sites. Articulation refers to the review process according to the policies associated with evaluated course(s) for transferability and/or designing course(s) in the roles to implement regarding to the agreed-on competencies. As mentioned by authors Roksa and Keith (2008), the main goal of articulation in practice is to define policies for adoption to enhance the learners' likelihood of transferring competencies within state higher education systems.

Articulation Agreement

In accordance to the U.S. Department of Education (2022), articulation agreement offers professionals to move seamlessly through and across recommended comprehensive pathways for development with a transition to observe specialized knowledge competencies and practices. The development of articulation agreements includes content area experts to promote the academic alignment of coursework across the institution of higher education (IHE). Whereas, the articulation agreements typically describe practices of what credits will transfer by specifying how the credits will be applied from the sending institution to the receiving institution.

Affiliation Agreement

An affiliation agreement from an IHE viewpoint will be a contractual observation between an institution and third-party entity/entities for purpose of providing an education opportunity to promote the learners' experiences with engagement in areas that include but not limited to training and development practices, fieldwork, workforce activities, internships, and experiential learning.

Clinical (Training) Affiliation Agreement

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) (2022), a clinical affiliation agreement means the agreement between the University and its health practice affiliates, outlining the commitments of the health practice. Clinical Training Affiliation Agreement is designed to (AAMC, 2022):

- “Spell out roles and responsibilities between a medical education program and its clinical affiliates;
- Comply with program accreditation standards
- Ensure an appropriate learning environment for the health program students; and
- Provide a consistent framework for managing and increasing number of students participating in clinical training away from their home institutions.”

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

On the report of the U.S. Department of Education (2022), a memorandum of understanding (MOU) is to establish a framework for collaboration to address the quality of education of participation or arrangements between parties. A MOU has been defined by the State of Maryland Courts (2022) as a document that expresses the mutual accord in a binding document between two or more government entities. A MOU must include the four (4) following terms (State of Maryland Courts, 2022): a) identify the contracting parties; b) spell out the subject matter of the agreement and its objectives; c) summarize the essential terms of the agreement; and d) be signed by the contracting parties

Reference:

Association of American Medical Colleges. (2022). <https://www.aamc.org>

Roksa, J., & Keith, B. (2008). Credits, time, and attainment: Articulation policies and success after transfer. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 30(3), 236–254.

State of Maryland Courts. (2022). <https://www.mdcourts.gov>

U.S. Department of Education. (2022). <https://www.ed.gov>