

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE  
STATE OF MISSOURI AND WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

The State of Missouri and Western Governors University (WGU) desire to establish WGU-Missouri in order to provide enhanced access for Missourians to enroll in and complete on-line, competency-based higher education degree programs with a particular focus on working adults.

In furtherance of this goal, the State of Missouri and WGU will take the following steps:

1. As an integral part of the establishment of WGU-Missouri, the Governor will issue an Executive Order that confirms the state's commitment to WGU-Missouri and directs:
  - A. The Missouri Department of Higher Education to 1) recognize, endorse, and support on-line, competency-based education as an important component of Missouri's higher education system; 2) eliminate any unnecessary barriers to WGU-Missouri's operation and delivery of such education programs; and 3) work with WGU-Missouri to integrate its academic programs and services into the state's higher education goals, policy and evaluation;
  - B. The Missouri Department of Higher Education to take all necessary steps now and in the future to ensure that WGU-Missouri students will be eligible to apply for and receive financial aid on the same basis as students at Missouri's public universities;
  - C. The Missouri Department of Higher Education to work with WGU-Missouri to create appropriate data sharing processes (including at the student record level), as required by state and federal guidelines for higher education providers, to assess WGU-Missouri's performance, and to evaluate the extent to which WGU-Missouri is helping the State achieve its higher education goals;
  - D. The Missouri Division of Workforce Development to explore methods for promoting on-line competency-based higher education opportunities like WGU-Missouri for dislocated workers and other Missourians in need of higher education credentials; and
  - E. Other state agencies whose assistance may be required, such as the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Economic Development, to facilitate the establishment and operation of WGU-Missouri.
2. WGU will undertake the following steps:
  - A. WGU-Missouri will establish an office in Missouri, including the position of Chancellor of WGU-Missouri, and will staff this office with Missourians in positions for which they are qualified;
  - B. WGU-Missouri will grant degrees under the current accreditation of WGU to Missouri students who successfully complete WGU's degree requirements;
  - C. WGU-Missouri will work with the community colleges in Missouri to provide for seamless transfer and articulation of community college graduates into WGU-Missouri;
  - D. WGU-Missouri will consult and collaborate with employers and employer organizations in Missouri to meet the future workforce needs of the State;
  - E. WGU will maintain its status as a private, accredited institution of higher education;
  - F. WGU will cooperate with the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, the Missouri Department of Higher Education, the State Board of Education, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and all other State agencies to assure that the objectives of Executive Order 13-04 and this MOU are achieved for the benefit of the citizens of Missouri; and
  - G. WGU will establish an advisory board whose members shall be appointed by WGU, in consultation with the Governor.

  
Western Governors University

  
Governor of the State of Missouri

Dated: 15 Feb 2013

Dated: 2/15/13