



The Midwest Student Exchange Program

State Participation Agreement

The Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) is an arrangement among interested Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) member states through which states may list undergraduate and graduate programs (including professional programs) or institutions in which they are prepared to enroll students from other MHEC states, within specified numbers if desired, at a reduced proportion of the institution's regular tuition charge.

The program, involving reciprocal reduction of tuition by the participating states, expands educational opportunities for students and facilitates more efficient use of resources at the institution or the program level. At a time when conservation of resources and avoidance of needless duplication are of concern in all states, reciprocal arrangements provide a tool for use in both institutional and state-level academic planning.

For these reasons, the State of _____, acting through its _____, joins with other states through the Midwestern Higher Education Compact in creating the Midwest Student Exchange Program. This action attests to the State's interest in the creation of an agreement through which Midwestern states may maintain or expand the range of educational programs available to their residents and supplement enrollments in designated institutions or programs, as each state's needs, plans, and decisions indicate. This agreement does not commit the state to receive or to send students in the MSEP at any time; active exchange of students may occur when the state finds that to be advantageous. Bilateral agreements for exchange of students may exist.

The program will operate with reference to the following general conditions and responsibilities of the parties. It is to be expected that experience with the program will suggest modifications from time to time. Such modifications may become effective as agreed upon by the Council (see following section), except that the Council or MHEC staff will recommend to the Compact policies and procedures that in the judgment of either may have significant impact on the program. Notwithstanding any other review of MSEP that

may be undertaken, a thorough assessment of the program and its outcomes will be undertaken by MHEC and participating states each four years, with a report to the Compact.

General Conditions

1. MHEC will establish the Midwest Student Exchange Program Council, comprising one member designated by the appropriate postsecondary education authority in each state that elects to execute this Agreement, and four at-large members chosen by the Compact representing the doctoral research universities, regional universities and colleges, community and technical colleges, and the independent institutions. Each council member shall have one vote. The Council will be supported by a MHEC staff member designated by the President; this staff member will serve as Council chair. The Council will encourage and facilitate requests of participating states for the inclusion in MSEP of degree programs to which such states desire access for their students; prepare a listing of programs and institutions ready to receive MSEP students in the following year; assess the operation of the program; and recommend policies and procedures to support the administration of the agreements set forth herein.

2. Programs in public institutions designated by the participating states shall be open to MSEP students at 150 percent of the regular tuition* charged resident students in the same program/institutions. Independent institutions are encouraged to participate as well, and may do so by making programs available to MSEP students at a reduction from their regular tuition of at least 10 percent. In certain high cost professional fields, as approved by the Council, admission as an MSEP student may entail payment, by the student's home state or by the student, of an additional amount. These tuition policies for MSEP students may be changed by the Compact upon recommendation of the MSEP Council, for any academic year beginning at least one calendar year from the date of the Compact action.

3. MSEP tuition is to be available to admitted students while the student continues in the program in which admitted as a MSEP student. Change to another program (in the same or a different institution) may be made at the reduced tuition level only if the new program is also open to MSEP students and the change is approved by the institution.

4. MSEP programs in public institutions shall be available to students only at the degree level at which the student's home state agrees to receive MSEP students--i.e., a student may enroll in a public institution at the associate, baccalaureate, or graduate level only if his/her home state agrees to receive MSEP students from other participating states at the same level.

* For purposes of this program, "tuition" is defined as the basic, comprehensive multipurpose educational charge all students are required to pay as a condition of enrollment. This charge may or may not be known as "tuition." Other designations may include educational fee, registration fee, incidental fee, or perhaps others. "Tuition" does not include special fee charges such as student activity and required insurance assessments.

5. Admission of students to designated programs is exclusively a decision of each participating institution. However, in determining eligibility for MSEP tuition, any differences of view that cannot be resolved between institution and student will be resolved at the state level under procedures established by the state (normally, by the state postsecondary education authority).

Responsibilities of States

1. In each state the appropriate postsecondary education agency will designate a single person as MSEP liaison and as a member of the MSEP Council. A state may identify additional persons to work with the designated liaison; it may send such persons to Council meetings as observer-participants, without vote. Council members will be expected to participate in meetings of the Council. Council members may, however, provide for an authorized representative, with vote, if unable to attend.

2. Through procedures established by each state, the liaison will identify institutions and/or programs that will admit MSEP students. While normally, institutions will admit MSEP students to the eligible programs on a "space available" basis, institutions/ states may provide for limitations of numbers at the program, institution, or statewide level. The state liaison will be prepared to submit information concerning institutions/programs that will receive MSEP students, and any limitations, annually as required in the operation of the program.

3. Each participating state is encouraged to identify fields, programs, and institutions in other participating states to which it would like to have access for its residents. The MSEP liaison person should be informed concerning such requests or inquiries; he/she in turn will so advise the MHEC program coordinator and liaison persons in the other affected states, at the earliest possible time. MHEC will take all steps appropriate to encourage inclusion of such requested programs in the Exchange.

4. Each participating state is responsible for publicizing throughout the state the opportunities available to its residents through MSEP. Among other means, the state will distribute widely to school counselors, parents and students an annual catalog describing MSEP and listing institutions and programs available to its residents, as well as instructions as to how interested students may apply (applicants simply indicate "MSEP Applicant" on their admissions applications). The annual listing of available institutions and programs will be compiled by MHEC.

5. The state will take steps to assure necessary institutional record-keeping and reporting to enable the appropriate state agency, through the MSEP liaison, to provide MHEC each fall a list and report of MSEP students by state of their residency, institution and program in which enrolled, and year of MSEP status (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th). Where state higher education structure makes different reporting arrangements appropriate, the MSEP liaison will negotiate arrangements with MHEC staff that are mutually acceptable.

6. The state agrees that the MSEP tuition status of any student will be continued during that student's satisfactory progress or approved leave status in the program in which admitted, without regard to termination of MSEP participation by either the sending or the receiving state.

Responsibilities of MHEC

1. MHEC will convene the MSEP Council annually or as MHEC or the Council deem necessary to review operations, policies, and procedures and to formulate recommendations for the Program. The MHEC staff coordinator will provide the Council information and support appropriate for its monitoring role and its role in advising the MHEC President and Compact of any problems, needed changes, etc.

2. MHEC will compile the annual listing of institutions/ programs and conditions applying thereto, and will make the relevant information available to each participating state either in print or in computer-usable form.

3. Annually, MHEC will survey liaisons (or other persons designated by the state, as agreed upon by MHEC) for all MSEP enrollment information to be summarized and reported to the MSEP Council and others for assistance in monitoring and evaluating the program.

This instrument shall be effective upon signature by the state and MHEC. Participating states may send and/or receive students in the Midwest Student Exchange Program at any time under the policies and procedures stated above.

Adopted by Midwest Student Exchange Program Council
January 19, 1993

For the Midwestern Higher

For the State of _____

Education Compact:

President

Date: _____

Date: _____

Midwestern Higher Education Compact
1300 South Second Street, Suite 130
Minneapolis, MN 55454-1079
Phone: (612) 626-1602
Fax: (612) 626-8290
mhec@mhec.org
www.mhec.org