

Teach Out Agreement Between Siena Heights University and Bluffton University

Siena Heights University, an institution of higher learning accredited by the Higher Learning Commission located at 1247 E Siena Heights Dr, Adrian, MI 49221, and Bluffton University, an institution of higher learning accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and located at 1 University Dr, Bluffton, OH 45817, are entering into a teach-out agreement effective as of 4/1/2026 (the "Teach-Out Agreement"). This Teach-Out Agreement provides for the fair and equitable treatment of current Siena Heights University students and a reasonable opportunity for these students to complete their program of study.

Whereas, Siena Heights University seeks receiving institutions for teach-out agreements that are well-aligned with Siena Heights University in mission and values; in relationship-centered learning practices, with a low student-to-faculty ratio; in academic program portfolio; and in athletic program characteristics and team array;

Whereas, Bluffton University offers on-campus and/or online programs that are well-aligned with most programs offered by Siena Heights University;

Whereas, Bluffton University serves a student population of similar racial and economic diversity;

Whereas, like at Siena Heights University, many on-campus undergraduate students Bluffton University choose to attend Bluffton University for the opportunities to play their chosen sports, and the array of sports offered at Bluffton University includes many of those offered at Siena Heights University;

Whereas, Bluffton University administration, staff, and faculty have experience in, and human and facility capacity for, successfully partnering with closing institutions and in supporting their students in completing their programs through teach-out and other creative partnerships;

Therefore, Siena Heights University and Bluffton University hereby agree to the following:

Responsibilities

Bluffton University agrees to:

1. All credits of all currently enrolled Siena Heights University students will be accepted toward an equal or comparable degree for the programs listed on **Schedule A** (the "Programs") at Bluffton University for purposes of this Teach-Out Agreement. Bluffton University will accept 100% of all credits granted or accepted as a transfer by Siena Heights University and guarantee admission to Bluffton University, provided that the qualifying students are in good standing at Siena Heights University, and meet the admissions standards of the specific program to which they seek entry.
2. Bluffton University will waive admissions, application, and residency requirements for qualifying Siena Heights University students.

3. Bluffton University will use all bona fide financial aid offers, scholarships, or other financial aid packages previously awarded or promised by Siena Heights University to assemble clear and transparent financial aid offers.
4. Whenever possible, Bluffton University will match the percent of aid awarded at Siena Heights University, proportional to Bluffton University awards for the same or similar activities or accomplishments. As an NCAA DIII institution, Bluffton University cannot offer athletic financial aid but may be to offer institutional aid as replacement. Bluffton University will individually meet with each student to review their financial aid offer.
5. Bluffton University will consider this Teach-Out Agreement as an Educational Partnership, meeting all criteria of Bluffton University's Education Partner Program, where undergraduate students who will receive a conferred degree from Siena Heights University at the end of the spring academic semester can be eligible for a 20% tuition discount on Bluffton University's degree-seeking master's programs, including the Master of Business Administration, Master of Social Work, and Master of Arts in Education. Current undergraduates who transfer to Bluffton University will be eligible for the 20% Bluffton University alumni discount. Current graduate students at Siena Heights University can also complete their eligible master's degree at Bluffton University with a 20% tuition discount.
6. Siena Heights University students who transfer to Bluffton University will be treated in an equitable manner and will be provided with academic, administrative, and student support services and assistance to ease their transition from Siena Heights University to Bluffton University. Siena Heights University students who transfer to Bluffton University will have full access to all Bluffton University facilities and will otherwise have the full rights and privileges of all Bluffton University students.
7. Bluffton University will match Siena Heights University courses to Bluffton University requirements whenever possible, providing reasonable flexibility to support student progress toward a degree and keep them on track for graduation in the same timeframe as would have been the case if they had remained at Siena Heights University.
8. Bluffton University will make reasonable accommodations to students who wish to live on campus or nearby designated housing.
9. Bluffton University is open to Siena Heights University students who participate in intercollegiate athletics program at the discretion of the coaches of each sport.
10. Bluffton University will undertake its obligations described herein at no cost to Siena Heights University.

Sienna Heights University agrees to:

1. Provide Bluffton University with a list of potential transfer students as soon as practicable.

2. Transmit to Bluffton University all student educational records and all other related information necessary for Bluffton University to comply with its obligations under this Teach-Out Agreement, except for those students who have elected to enroll in an institution other than Bluffton University.
3. Promptly provide Bluffton University with an official copy of the student's transcript and a complete copy of the student's admissions, academic, conduct, and financial records for all current students electing to transfer to Bluffton University.
4. All records to be provided by Siena Heights University to Bluffton University shall be in digitized form which is readily searchable and cataloged by specific academic year or term. These records for transfer students shall be treated in a manner consistent with Bluffton University's policies for maintaining transfer student records.

Miscellaneous

1. Siena Heights University and Bluffton University agree to adhere to the Higher Learning Commission's requirements for Teach-outs and to work with each student individually to create an appropriate path to degree completion without substantially increasing each student's time to completion.
2. This agreement is consistent with all applicable state and federal regulations.
3. Bluffton University represents and warrants to Siena Heights University that (i) Bluffton University is not be subject to any of the circumstances that would require it to submit a provisional plan pursuant to the Higher Learning Commission's policies or applicable regulations and that (ii) Bluffton University is not be under investigation, subject to an action, or being prosecuted for an issue related to academic quality, misrepresentation, fraud, or other severe matters by a law enforcement agency.
4. The parties will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations respecting the confidentiality of student's educational records and personally identifiable information (collectively, "Student Records"), including, without limitation, the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act of 1974 ("FERPA"), the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPPA") and the Gramm-Leach Bliley Act (and the Federal Trade Commission's implementing regulations). For purposes of FERPA, Bluffton University shall be deemed a "school official" with a legitimate educational interest. Without limiting the foregoing, the parties covenant and agree to exercise diligence in protecting and safeguarding Student Records, as well as any other information protected from public disclosure by applicable federal or state law. Each party covenants and agrees it will not knowingly use, directly or indirectly, for its own benefit, or for the benefit of another, any Student Records, but instead will use that information only for the purposes contemplated hereunder. Further, each party covenants and agrees that it will not disclose any Student Records to any third party except as may be required in the course of

the Teach-Out Agreement hereunder and for a legitimate educational interest or as otherwise allowed or required by law.

Duration

Students may be admitted under the terms of this agreement at Bluffton University until January 30, 2027. After that date, Siena Heights University students applying to Bluffton University will need to abide by all policies, procedures, and requirements of Bluffton University.

The terms of the teach-out agreement will remain in effect for students who have been admitted under the agreement until individual students either graduate or stop out. Students who stop out may be readmitted under the policies, procedures and requirements of Bluffton University.

Signatures

For Siena Heights
Julie Barst, Provost

Date

For Bluffton University
Gayle Trollinger, VP and Dean of Academic Affairs

Date

Julie Barst 3/27/26

Gayle Trollinger 3/27/26

Schedule A

Siena Heights University – 2025-26 MAJORS	Bluffton University - CURRENT SIMILAR PROGRAMS
Accelerated (MBA)	Masters of Business Administration 4+1
Accounting (B.B.A.)	Accounting (B.A.)
Biology (B.S.)	Biology (B.A.)*
Business Administration (B.B.A.)	Business Administration (B.A.)
Chemistry (B.S.)	Chemistry (B.A.)
Communications (B.A.)	Communications and Media (B.A.)
Criminal Justice (B.A.)	Criminal Justice (B.A.)
Design (B.F.A)	Graphic Design (B.A.)
English (B.A.)	English (B.A.)
Environmental Science (B.S.)	Environmental science (B.A.)
Exercise Science (B.S.)	Exercise Science (B.A.)
History (B.A.)	History (B.A.)
Management (B.B.A.)	Management (B.A.)
Marketing (B.B.A.)	Marketing (B.A.)
Mathematics (B.S.)	Mathematics (B.A.)
Nursing (Pre-Licensure) B.S.N.	Nursing – Traditional B.S.N.
Nursing RN to B.S.N. (online)	Nursing B.S.N.
Pre-Dentistry	Pre-Dentistry
Pre-Medicine	Pre-Medicine
Pre-Physical Therapy	Pre-Physical Therapy
Pre-Veterinary	Pre-Veterinary Science
Psychology (B.A.)	Psychology (B.A.)
Religious Studies (B.A.)	Bible and Theology (B.A.)

Social Studies (B.A.)	History (B.A.)
Social Work (B.S.W.)	Social Work (B.A.)
Sports Management (B.B.A.)	Sports Management (B.A.)

* Seniors enrolling in Biology will need to have completed calculus or physics classes prior to entry in order not to have to take additional classes.