

# THORNTON CATALOG 2018 – 2020

Altierus Career College, Thornton Campus 9065 Grant Street Thornton, CO 80229 Phone: (303) 457-2757 Fax: (303) 457-4030

www.Altierus.edu

# 2018 – 2020, Volume I, Version I

Publishing Date October 25, 2018

Copyright © 2018 Zenith Education Group, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

Effective Date October 25, 2018 through November 2, 2020

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We would like to welcome you to Altierus College, a school that provides a friendly, small-campus atmosphere where our dedicated staff can take a personal interest in the progress of each student. This caring attitude, combined with progressive curricula, affords our students a meaningful higher education experience, as well as effective preparation for a wide variety of careers.

Obtaining a postsecondary education gives our graduates a competitive edge in their career field. Our programs are designed for employment in the state of Colorado as well as other progressive areas throughout the country.

Our goal is to provide our students with quality instruction, a sense of professional responsibility, a desire for lifelong learning, and the essential skills and abilities to qualify them for their chosen career.

We have made every effort to fulfill our obligations to those who have entrusted their educational and career goals to Altierus. We invite all interested parties, therefore, to visit our campus and review our programs. Our experienced admissions officers will assist in the important process of identifying the program best suited for the candidate's special interests, talents, and goals.

Carissa Seger Executive Director

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT ALTIERUS COLLEGE 1
ZENITH EDUCATION GROUP 1
THE ZENITH COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS 1
MISSION1
OBJECTIVES 2
SCHOOL HISTORY AND FACILITIES 2
FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT 2
LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER 2
ACCREDITATIONS, APPROVALS AND
MEMBERSHIPS 2
GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT DISCLOSURES
ADMISSIONS INFORMATION 4
REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES 4
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND screening 4
PROGRAM SPECIFIC ADMISSIONS
REQUIREMENTS 4
Surgical Technologist Program4
ACADEMIC COUNSELING AND READINESS
ACADEMIC POLICIES
ALTIERUS REGULATIONS7
DEFINITION OF CREDIT
MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE
EXTERNSHIPS
OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS
TRANSFER OF CREDIT INTO ALTIERUS
Academic Time Limits
Required Grades
Maximum Transfer Credits Accepted
Coursework Completed At Foreign Institutions 8
Transfer Credit for Learning Assessment
Transfer Credit for Proficiency Examination 8 Experiential Learning Portfolio
Notice Concerning Transferability of Credits and
Credentials Earned at Our Institution
Transfers to Other Altierus Locations
Altierus Consortium Agreement
Transfer Center Assistance
BLENDED LEARNING
DIRECTED STUDY
GRADING SYSTEMS AND PROGRESS REPORTS 9
GPA AND CGPA CALCULATIONS
STANDARDS OF SATISFACTORY and ACADEMIC
PROGRESS (SAP/AP) 11
Evaluation Periods for SAP/AP 11
Satisfactory Academic Progress Tables
Application of Grades and Credits to SAP 11
Academic Guidance
Academic Probation 12
Rate of Progress toward Completion
Maximum Time Frame to Complete
Financial Aid Warning 12
Financial Aid Probation12
Notification of Financial Aid Probation
Academic Plan 13
Evaluation of Progress 13
SAP MET Status 13
AP/SAP Not Met Status and/or Dismissal
SAP Re-Entry
Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Violation
Appeals14
Retaking Passed Coursework

ADD/DROP POLICY (DEGREE PROGRAMS ONLY)	
IMPACT OF ADD/DROP ON FINANCIAL AID CALCULATION	
Full Term Courses	
Mini-Term Courses	
ATTENDANCE POLICY	
Establishing Attendance/Verifying Enrollment 15	
Monitoring Student Attendance	
Consecutive Absence Rule	
Make-Up Attendance	
Violations of Percentage Absence Rules	
Date of Withdrawal	
Date of Determination (DOD)	
Attendance Records	
LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY 17	
Leave Of Absence Requests	
Re-Admission Following a Leave of Absence 18	
Extension of Leave of Absence	
Failure to Return From a Leave of Absence 18	
Possible Effects of Leave Of Absence	
EXTERNSHIP TRAINING	
WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES 19	
MAKE-UP WORK	
REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION	
VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS 19	
Prior Credit for Education and Training	
Benefit Overpayments 19	
Academic Standards for Students Receiving VA	
Benefits	
APPEALS POLICIES	
Student Academic Appeals Policy	
Assignment/ Test Grades 20	
Final Course Grades 20	
Attendance Violation Appeals	
FINANCIAL INFORMATION 22	
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OBLIGATION	
FINANCIAL GOOD STANDING 22	
TUITION AND FEES 22	
TEXTBOOKS23	
ADDITIONAL FEES AND EXPENSES	
VOLUNTARY PREPAYMENT PLAN 23	
BUYER'S RIGHT TO CANCEL	
OFFICIAL WITHDRAWALS	
DATE OF WITHDRAWAL VERSUS DATE OF	
DETERMINATION (DOD)	
FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID RETURN POLICY 24	
Student Financial Aid (SFA)	
Return of Title IV Funds Calculation and Policy . 24	
Title IV Credit Balances	
Effect of Leaves of Absence on Returns	
Time Frame within which Institution is to Return	
Unearned Title IV Funds	
REFUND POLICIES	
Policy	
POLICY	
EFFECT OF LEAVES OF ABSENCE ON REFUNDS	
TIME FRAME WITHIN WHICH INSTITUTION IS TO	
ISSUE REFUNDS	
Colorado Refund Policy	

	Postponement	26
	STUDENTS CALLED TO ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY	Y
	Newly Admitted Students	
	Continuing Students	
	Continuing Modular Diploma Students	
	STUDENT FINANCING OPTIONS	
	Financial Assistance	
	Student Eligibility	
	Federal Financial Aid Programs Federal Work Study	
	GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS	27
	Altierus American Dream Scholarship	27
	Zenith Student Grant	20
	Workforce Scholarships and Grants, Including	20
	Youth, Adult and Displaced Workers	29
	Military Scholarships	
	Veteran's Assistance Programs	
A	DMINISTRATIVE POLICIES	31
	STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION	31
	CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE	
	DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION PROCEDURE	31
	DISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES	
	CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT	
	Conduct Affecting On- Campus Safety	32
	Conduct Affecting Student Learning	
	Limitations on Students with Pending Disciplinar	
	Matters	
	Inquiry by the Campus Director	33
	Conduct that does not Result in Suspension or	~~
	Dismissal	33
	Conduct Resulting in Suspension or Dismissal.	33
	ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE STATEMEN	
	STUDENT USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOG	
	RESOURCES POLICY	
	COPYRIGHT POLICY	
	SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY	34
	SANCTIONS	
	APPEAL PROCESS	
	RECORD OF DISCIPLINARY MATTER	
	STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE	35
	DRESS CODE	35
	NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA	36
	STUDENT RECORDS	
	TRANSCRIPT AND DIPLOMA RELEASE	37
	CAMPUS SECURITY AND CRIME AWARENESS	
	POLICIES	37
	DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS POLICY	
	STATISTICAL INFORMATION	38
	CAMPUS COMPLETION RATE REPORTS	
51	FUDENT SERVICES ORIENTATION	
	HEALTH SERVICES	
	HOUSING	
	TUTORING	
	STUDENT ADVISING	
	ALTIERUS CARE PROGRAM	
	PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE	
PR	ROGRAM OFFERED	
01	JARTER-BASED PROGRAM	41
30	SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST	
CC	OURSE DESCRIPTIONS	
	JITION AND FEES	
	ENITH EDUCATION GROUP	

	STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP	
Y DUTY	ADMINISTRATION	
	CATALOG SUPPLEMENT	
	ACADEMIC CALENDARS	49
	OPERATING HOURS	
	APPENDIX A	
26		

# ABOUT ALTIERUS COLLEGE

## ZENITH EDUCATION GROUP

Altierus College is part of the Zenith Education Group, a nonprofit provider of career school training. Above all, we are driven to promote the long-term success of our graduates—measured in strong program completion and job placement rates. We are working to help our students access the high-quality education necessary to enter into prosperous and fulfilling careers.

# THE ZENITH COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS

At Zenith Education Group, we are committed to operating with integrity, provide honest, accurate advertising and complying with laws, regulations, accreditation standards, policies and our company values. Upholding these commitments is essential to fulfilling our mission to help students succeed in their pursuit of an educational experience that prepares them for the workforce.

We commit to:

- Tell the truth about
  - Educational program content
  - Instructor qualifications
    - Program enrollment requirements
    - Cost of education
    - o Educational program financing options and obligations
    - Program completion rates
    - Verifiable and accessible job placement and salary information
  - Projected lifetime earnings versus the cost of the student's education
- Be transparent with our students, each other, our regulators and the public regarding our
  - Ethical standards
  - Commitment to students
  - Program objectives and outcomes
  - Marketing and student recruiting initiatives and materials
  - Ongoing support for students' educational goals
  - Accreditation and regulatory compliance
- Provide marketing and recruiting information and materials that are
  - Clearly written and understandable
  - Focused on the prospective student's career goals
  - Presented to suitable student prospects
  - Honest about the student's responsibilities that lead to completion and placement
  - Respectful of competing schools' programs
- Be innovative through
  - Fostering an environment that supports creative educational approaches in support of program objectives and outcomes
  - Engaging our students and faculty in creating "learning laboratories" to test dynamic career education concepts
  - o Continually learning and improving upon our innovative approaches
  - o Reinvesting materially in enhancing student programs
  - Providing the student an affordable education
- Develop transformative education models based on meaningful collaboration with
  - o Students
  - Employees
  - o Employers
  - o Educators
  - o Program Advisory Committees
  - Thought Leaders, Foundations and other Engaged Communities

# MISSION

Altierus is dedicated to the provision of an interactive learning environment created to support the professional career development of our students. The school was established to provide quality education and training designed to meet the needs of both students and employers. The school serves a diverse student population focusing on adults seeking to acquire the education and skills necessary to enter their chosen career field. To achieve this, the school is committed to excellence in the following areas:

- The utilization of effective technology and teaching methods.
- The presentation of relevant career focused educational programs.

- Ongoing collaboration with businesses, employers and professional associations in the design, delivery and evaluation of effective programs.
- The provision of career development support services to students and graduates which assists them in securing employment in their chosen field.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

In order to ensure continued fulfillment of its mission, the College has established the following goals:

- The College is committed to provide quality teaching and excellence in education. This means the College will seek out qualified faculty who will bring excitement to the classroom and stimulate enthusiasm and eagerness for learning in the students.
- The College will seek to train its students in essential skills, competencies and attitudes. This will result in students who have successful careers and are committed to continued learning.
- The College will seek out both traditional and nontraditional students and will continually improve its educational process by working with employers, other educational institutions and education professionals. The College's success in realizing these goals will be measured by regularly surveying students, graduates and employers.
- The College will strive to develop all students in their intellectual potential, resulting in their independent thinking and intelligent decision-making.
- The College is committed to maintaining a strong link to the communities it serves by including the community and business leaders in surveys and evaluations of its academic programs and graduate job performance. By achieving this goal, the College, the students, the community, and all citizens of the region served will be better prepared for the technical, social and economic changes that will occur.

# SCHOOL HISTORY AND FACILITIES

The Altierus College campus at Thornton was formerly known as Parks College, which was founded by W. T. Parks in 1895 under the name "Modern Business School." The school was located in downtown Denver at 14th and Curtis Street. In July 1923, the school was relocated to 1450 Logan Street and was renamed "Parks School of Business Administration." Parks School of Business Administration was the only private business school in Denver to be accredited according to college and university standards. As an accredited member of the American Association of Commercial Colleges, Parks trained public school teachers to instruct in or chair commercial and business departments before this training was available in other colleges and universities. Even during the Great Depression of the 1930's, Parks remained a thriving institution, continuing to train students for business education. In response to a growing student body, the school moved to 1968 Pennsylvania Street, and in the late 1970's, to a suburban location on North Broadway.

In 1987, the college relocated to its present site at 9065 Grant Street, Thornton, in northern metropolitan Denver, to better serve students throughout the metropolitan area. In August of 1995, Parks Junior College changed its name to "Parks College" as approved by the Colorado Department of Higher Education, Division of Private Occupational Schools. On October 17, 1996, Parks College was acquired by Rhodes Colleges, Inc. In June of 2006 the school changed its name to Altierus College.

In February 2015, Zenith Education Group purchased the school from Corinthian Colleges, Inc. and transitioned it from a for-profit college into a dynamic nonprofit learning institution. In August 2017, Altierus College changed its name to Altierus Career College.

#### FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The Thornton campus is located in the northern suburban Denver community of Thornton. The college is located at 9065 Grant Street, overlooking Interstate 25. The facility, built in 1987, houses classrooms, computer laboratories, medical laboratories, library, student lounge, and Administrative Offices.

Altierus College, the facility it occupies and the equipment it uses comply with all federal, state and local ordinances and regulations, including those related to fire safety, building safety and health.

#### LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

The Learning Resource Center is designed to support the programs offered at the campus. Students and faculty have access to a wide variety of resources such as books, periodicals, computers and on-line resources to support its curriculum. The Learning Resource Center is staffed with trained professionals to assist in the research needs of students and faculty, and it is conveniently open to accommodate class schedules.

#### ACCREDITATIONS, APPROVALS AND MEMBERSHIPS

 Altierus Career College Thornton is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). This school is one of multiple campuses owned by Zenith Education Group. For further information on ACCSC, please contact them at 2101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 302, Arlington, VA, or call 703-247-4212, or visit their website at <u>www.accsc.org</u>.

- Approved and regulated by the Colorado Department of Higher Education, Private Occupational School Board.
- Approved for the training of veterans and eligible person under the provisions of Title 38, United States Code.
- The Medical Assisting diploma program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (<u>www.caahep.org</u>) upon the recommendation of the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB). Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, 25400 US Highway 19 North, Suite 158, Clearwater, FL 33763, 727-210-2350, <u>www.caahep.org.</u>
- The Surgical Technologist program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (<u>www.caahep.org</u>) upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA). Further information can be obtained by contacting the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, 25400 US Highway 19 N., Suite 158, Clearwater, FL 33763, 727-210-2350, <u>www.caahep.org</u>.

Copies of accreditation, approval and membership documentation are available for inspection at the campus. Please contact the Campus Director to review this material.

# GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT DISCLOSURES

For more information about the educational debt, earning and completion rates of students who attended this school, please visit our website at <a href="https://www.altierus.edu/disclosures">https://www.altierus.edu/disclosures</a>

# ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

All admissions materials, including program disclosures and enrollment agreements are presented in English only, since all programs are taught in English. Each admissions representative conducts interviews with prospective enrollees in English only as the method to determine that the prospective enrollee understands and can function in English. We do not make any accommodations to present materials or instruct courses in any other language. No English as a second language courses are offered by the campus.

# **REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES**

- High school diploma or a recognized equivalent such as the GED is required for admittance.
- Applicants are informed of their acceptance status within 15 days after all required information is received and the applicants' qualifications are reviewed.
- Upon acceptance into the school, applicants who are enrolling will complete an enrollment agreement.
- Students may apply for entry at any time. Students are responsible for meeting the requirements of the catalog in effect at the time of enrollment.
- Re-entry students are subject to all program requirements, policies, and procedures as stated in the school catalog in effect at the time of re-entry. All re-entering students must sign a new enrollment agreement.

# **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND SCREENING**

- Students enrolled in certain programs may be subject to a criminal background check prior to enrollment to
  ensure they are qualified to meet occupational or employment requirements, clinical or internship/externship
  placement requirements or licensure standards for many programs, including but not limited to those in the
  allied health fields.
- Students may not be enrolled if the background check identifies items such as a criminal conviction, pending case, or unresolved deferral/diversion that the School considers likely to negatively impact the student's chances of employment.
- A student's inability to obtain criminal background clearance may prohibit opportunities for program completion and job placement. It is the student's responsibility to contact the agency to verify conditions. The school cannot contact the background check agency.
- All re-entering students are subject to the same background check requirements as a new student.

# PROGRAM SPECIFIC ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

# Surgical Technologist Program

- High School graduate or have a GED.
- Complete a personal interview with the Surgical Technologist Director or designee.
- Complete and pass a criminal background check.
- Complete and pass a drug screening which shows no evidence of illegal drug usage under federal or state law.

#### Prior to clinical the following need to be completed:

- Meet the outlined Essential Skills and Functional Ability Standards and have physical examination clearance by a physician.
- Provide proof of current immunizations as required by clinical affiliates.

**Note:** To the extent that the Surgical Technology program-specific policies or procedures in this Surgical Technologist Handbook conflict with general campus policies as stated in the campus catalog, this Handbook will govern.

# ACADEMIC COUNSELING AND READINESS

Incoming prospective students, prior to enrollment, must provide evidence demonstrating their level of academic readiness as demonstrated by a high school diploma or recognized equivalent. Prior to course registration, prospective students must also provide evidence demonstrating their level of academic readiness as described below. If evidence cannot be provided by meeting the benchmarks below, the student must take the required assessment.

Acceptable measures of academic readiness that do not require counseling or remediation include:

- Recent high school academic performance: A high school cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.6 or higher on a 4 point scale (80% or higher on a numeric scale), with a date of high school graduation 4 years or less prior to the date of admission. High school seniors who have not yet graduated may use cumulative GPA at the end of 7 high school semesters.
- **Prior postsecondary performance:** An English Composition or writing-intensive general education course with a grade of C or higher, taken from a nationally or regionally accredited postsecondary institution, which suggests readiness level for reading and writing, and College Algebra with the same criteria, which suggests readiness level for mathematics. Developmental courses (generally noted as remedial or pre-college on a transcript and not calculated into a college GPA) do not qualify. Review and approval of previous college experience to be completed by office of the Registrar.
- **Recent standardized test scores:** Test scores at or above the thresholds below on tests administered 4 years or less prior to the date of admission:

Assessment Method	Composition	Math
SAT Scores (Completed before 3/16)	460	460
SAT Scores (Completed after 3/16)	Reading—25 Writing—27 Evidence—520	500
PSAT Scores (taken prior to December of 2014)	Reading—46 Writing—46 Total CR+W—92	46
PSAT Scores (taken after January of 2015)	Reading—46 Writing—46 Total CR+W—92	52
ACT Scores	Reading—18 Writing—22	22
MRT Scores	70%	70%
External Institution ACCUPLACER (1 <sup>st</sup> Generation)	80+Sentence Skills 76+Reading	74 Elementary Algebra
ACCUPLACER (Next Generation)	263+Reading 263 + Writing	263+ Arithmetic
Compass	85+ Reading 74+ Writing	50+Math

If evidence of Academic Readiness cannot be provided as described above, the student must take the required assessment. For diploma students, the MyReadinessTest, a non-proctored, web-based assessment of fundamental math, reading, and writing skills must be taken. For Degree students, including Nursing and Surgical Technology students, ACCUPLACER, a proctored, nationally-normed web-based assessment of fundamental math, reading, and writing skills must be taken.

#### Academic Readiness for Nursing and Surgical Technology Programs

All Nursing and Surgical Technology Programs require administration of Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS). The TEAS is an entrance exam intended to predict the success of students in nursing and Surgical Technology programs. Documentation that a nursing associate degree or surgical technology student has met the applicable requirements above must be retained and present in the student's file prior to enrollment.

# Nursing, Associate in Science Degree

Applicants must achieve a composite score of 66 or higher on the TEAS to be considered for entrance to the Associate Degree Nursing Program.

- If first time test taker fails (below 75%), must wait 7 days to retest.
- If second time test taker fails (below 75%), must wait 90 days to retest.

• If third time test taker fails again, must wait a year to retest.

#### Surgical Technology, Associate in Science Degree

Applicants must achieve a composite score of 60 or higher on the TEAS to be considered for entrance to the Associate Degree Nursing Program.

- If first time test taker fails (below 75%), must wait 7 days to retest.
- If second time test taker fails (below 75%), must wait 90 days to retest.
- If third time test taker fails again, must wait a year to retest.

#### **Academic Readiness Interventions**

Diploma students scoring below 70% on the MyReadinessTest (MRT) must meet with an advisor who will place students in the specific intervention based on program of study and modality, prior to enrollment.

Degree students scoring below 263 in reading, writing, and arithmetic must meet with an advisor to discuss the required academic support course(s).

#### **Online Readiness**

Prospective students are required to complete an Online Readiness Assessment (ORA) prior to enrollment. Students who score below 40 points on the Online Readiness Assessment (ORA) will be required to meet with an advisor to discuss his/her scores.

#### **Retaking Assessments**

All incoming applicants with the exception of Nursing Associate Degree and Surgical Technology programs are not permitted to retake an assessment for six months from the date of the initial assessment, unless approved by an academic advisor due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., compromised assessment environment).

All incoming Nursing Associate Degree and Surgical Technology program applicants who do not achieve the minimum required score on the assessment must refer to the program handbook for details on retesting.

Re-entering students will not be required to retake the academic readiness assessment if all required benchmark evidence, exam results, and advising and remediation documentation are in the student's permanent academic file and recorded in the system of record as per the above criteria.

# ACADEMIC POLICIES

## **ALTIERUS REGULATIONS**

Each student is given access to an electronic school catalog, which sets forth the policies and regulations under which the institution operates. Upon the request the student will be provided with an electronic copy or print copy of the catalog. It is the responsibility of the student to become familiar with these policies and regulations and to comply accordingly. Ignorance of or lack of familiarity with this information does not serve as an excuse for noncompliance or infractions.

Altierus reserves the right to change instructors, textbooks, accreditation, schedules, or cancel a course or program for which there is insufficient enrollment. The student will receive a full refund for courses or programs that are cancelled. The school also reserves the right to change course curricula, prerequisites and requirements upon approval by the school's accrediting agency and state licensing board.

# **DEFINITION OF CREDIT**

Altierus awards credit in the form of quarter credits. One quarter credit is equivalent to a minimum of 10 clock hours of theory or lecture instruction, a minimum of 20 clock hours of supervised laboratory instruction, or a minimum of 30 clock hours of externship/internship practice.

### MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE

To provide instruction and training, classes are limited in size. The maximum class size is 24 students. Lab classes have a maximum class size of 24 students unless required to be smaller in compliance with any programmatic accreditation requirements.

#### **EXTERNSHIPS**

All externships required for the completion of any program shall be uncompensated, with no payment to the student, monetary or otherwise.

# **OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

- Students in degree programs should expect to spend approximately two hours outside of class completing homework for every hour of in class lecture.
- Students in all programs will be expected to complete assigned homework and other out-of-class assignments in order to successfully meet course objectives as set forth in the course/program syllabi. Homework and outof-class assignments will be evaluated by faculty.

# TRANSFER OF CREDIT INTO ALTIERUS

Altierus has constructed its transfer credit policy to recognize both traditional college credit and non-traditional learning. In general, Altierus considers the following criteria when determining if transfer credit should be awarded:

- Accreditation of the institution;
- The comparability of the scope, depth, and breadth of the course to be transferred; and
- The applicability of the course to be transferred to the student's desired program. This includes the grade and age of the previously earned credit.

If the learning was obtained outside a formal academic setting, through a nationally administered proficiency exam, an IT certificate exam, or military training, Altierus will evaluate and award transfer credit using professional judgment and the recommendations for credit issued by the American Council on Education (ACE).

#### Academic Time Limits

The following time limits apply to a course being considered for transfer credit:

- College Core and General Education course indefinite;
- Major Core course except health science course within ten (10) years of completion; and
- Military training, Proficiency exams (e.g. DANTES, AP, CLEP, Excelsior, etc.) and IT certificate exams the same academic time limits as College Core, General Education, and Major Core courses.

**Note:** Due to certain programmatic accreditation criteria, health science courses must be transferred within five (5) years of completion.

#### **Required Grades**

For diploma, associate, and bachelor degree programs, a letter grade of C (70%) or better is required for transfer credit to be awarded.

# **Maximum Transfer Credits Accepted**

Students enrolled in a diploma program must complete at least 25% of the program in residency at the institution awarding the degree or diploma. The remaining 75% of the program may be any combination of transfer credit, national proficiency credit, Altierus developed proficiency credit, or prior learning credit.

#### **Coursework Completed At Foreign Institutions**

All coursework completed at a foreign institution must be evaluated by a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) or a member of the Association of International Credentials Evaluators (AICE).

#### **Transfer Credit for Learning Assessment**

Altierus accepts appropriate credits transferred from the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DANTES subject testing, and certain other professional certification examination programs. Contact the Campus Director or Academic Dean for the current list of approved exams and minimum scores required for transfer.

#### **Transfer Credit for Proficiency Examination**

Undergraduate students may attempt to challenge the requirement to certain selected courses by demonstrating a proficiency level based on special qualifications, skills, or knowledge obtained through work or other experience that is sufficient to warrant the granting of academic credit for a course through a Proficiency Examination. Similarly, Altierus may award some credits toward undergraduate, associate, and diploma level courses for achievement of professional certifications e.g. CNE, MCSE, etc. For more information, please contact the Campus Director or Academic Dean.

#### **Experiential Learning Portfolio**

Students may earn credit for experiential learning through the Prior Learning Assessment program. This program is designed to translate personal and professional experiences into academic credit. No more than 25% of the units required for a degree shall be awarded for prior experiential learning. Procedures for applying for credit through experiential learning are available in the Campus Director or Academic Dean's office.

#### Notice Concerning Transferability of Credits and Credentials Earned at Our Institution

The transferability of credits earned at Altierus is at the complete discretion of an institution to which a student may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the degree, diploma or certificate earned in the program in which the student is enrolling is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which a student may seek to transfer. If the credits or degree, diploma or certificate that was earned at this institution are not accepted at the institution to which a student seeks to transfer, the student may be required to repeat some or all of his/her coursework at that institution. For this reason, the student should make certain that attendance at this institution will meet his/her educational goals. This may include contacting an institution to which a student may seek to transfer after attending Altierus to determine if the credits or degree, diploma or certificate will transfer. It is the student's responsibility to confirm whether or not credits will be accepted by another institution of the student's choice. School does not guarantee the transferability of its credits to any other institution unless there is a written agreement with another institution.

#### **Transfers to Other Altierus Locations**

Students in good standing may transfer to another Altierus campus location. Transfer students are advised that they will be subject to the minimum residency requirements at the new campus for the program in which they are enrolled. Students may transfer applicable credits from Altierus coursework in which a C or higher was earned; however, those credits will be treated as transfer credits and will not count toward fulfilling residency requirements at the new location.

#### **Altierus Consortium Agreement**

The Altierus Consortium Agreement enables students to attend a limited number of classes (a maximum of 49% of credit hours) at an Altierus campus location other than their home campus. In addition, students nearing completion of their program of study may finish their degree at another Altierus campus location through the Consortium Agreement (a minimum of 51% credit hours must be completed at the Home campus). Complete details on the Altierus Consortium Agreement are available in the Campus Director or Academic Dean's office.

#### **Transfer Center Assistance**

Any questions regarding the transfer of credit into or from Altierus should be directed to the Central Registrar's Office at (877) 727-0058 or email transfercenter@zenith.org.

#### **BLENDED LEARNING**

Altierus offers some programs in a blended format. Blended learning combines a hands-on classroom experience with online education. Courses offered in the blended format are not self-paced and must be completed as prescribed in the course outline. Each week in the blended format, students will divide their time between coming to class at the

campus and spending time completing assignments using the online modality. For example, in a 4 hour/five days per week module, students attend class three days and spend two days working in the online environment. Both the onsite and online portions of the module are taught by the same instructor. Please refer to the Programs section of the catalog to determine which programs are offered in the blended learning format.

In a blended course, all of the content of the course is contained within an online shell via Canvas, the learning management system. This shell contains the syllabus, a gradebook, and all of the assignments and assessments that will be required throughout the course/module, both onsite and online. The onsite instructor will guide students through the in-class and online assignments and activities. Attendance will be taken by the instructor and recorded for the days the student is required to attend the onsite class, and attendance will be recorded through Canvas when the students complete the assigned online activities on two separate days during the week.

For students to maximize success in the online portion of the course/module, they must have available to them a computer with a system profile that meets or exceeds the following:

PC, Windows 7 or newer Mac OS X 10.6 or newer, min 1GB of Ram

Supported Browsers Include: Internet Explorer 11 Safari 9-10 Chrome Firefox

Minimum Internet Speed of 512kbps

In addition, students must:

- ✓ Have Internet access and an established email account;
- ✓ Verify email account/address with the instructor for the course/module;
- ✓ Participate in both the onsite and online coursework and complete learning and graded activities weekly throughout the course/module.

Students who do not have access to a computer or the internet, may participate in the online coursework by utilizing a computer in one of the school's computer labs.

#### DIRECTED STUDY

- Students unable to take a specific required course due to work schedule conflicts, emergency situations, or course scheduling conflicts may request permission to complete a course through directed study.
- Associate degree students may apply a maximum of 8.0 quarter credit hours earned through directed study to the major core of study.
- Students may not take more than one directed study course in a single academic term.
- Diploma students are not eligible for Directed Study.

# **GRADING SYSTEMS AND PROGRESS REPORTS**

The student's final grade for each course or module is determined by the average of the tests, homework, class participation, special assignments and any other criteria indicated in the grading section of the syllabus for the course or module. Final grades are reported at the completion of each grading term and are provided to each student. If mailed, they are sent to the student's home address. Failed courses must be repeated and are calculated as an attempt in Satisfactory Academic Progress calculations.

Grade	Point Value	Meaning	Technical Programs Scale	
А	4.0	Excellent	100-90	
В	3.0	Very Good	89-80	
С	2.0	Good	79-70	
D*	1.0	Poor	69-60	
F**	0.0	Failing	59-0	
Fail	Not Calculated	Fail (for externship/internship)		
Pass	Not Calculated	Pass (for externship/internship or thesis classes only)		
L	Not Calculated	Leave of Absence (allowed in modular programs only)		
EL	Not Calculated	Experiential Learning		
IP	Not Calculated	In Progress (for externship/internship or thesis courses only)		
PE	Not Calculated	Proficiency Exam		
PF	Not Calculated	Preparatory Fail		

PP	Not Calculated	Preparatory Pass
W	Not Calculated	Withdrawal
WZ	Not Calculated	Withdrawal for those students called to immediate active military duty. This grade indicates that the course will not be calculated for purposes of determining rate of progress
TR	Not Calculated	Transfer Credit

\*Not used in modular programs.

\*\*For modular programs, F (Failing) is 69-0%.

# Treatment of Grades in the Satisfactory Academic Progress/Rate of Progress Calculation

Grade	Included in GPA calculation?	Counted as attempted credits?	Counted as earned credits?
A	Y	Y	Y
В	Y	Y	Y
С	Y	Y	Y
D	Y	Y	Y
F	Y	Y	N
Fail	Ν	Y	N
Pass	N	Y	Y
IP	Ν	Y	N
L	Ν	N	N
EL	N	Y	Y
PE	Ν	Y	Y
PF	Ν	N	N
PP	Ν	N	N
W	Ν	Y	N
WZ	Ν	N	N
TR	Ν	Y	Y

# **GPA AND CGPA CALCULATIONS**

- The Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated for all students. The GPA for each term and Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) are calculated on courses taken in residence at Altierus.
- The Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated at the end of each evaluation period by dividing the quality points earned by the total credits attempted for that evaluation period.
- The Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) is calculated by dividing the total cumulative quality points earned by the total cumulative credits attempted for cumulative evaluation periods.
- The number of quality points awarded for each course is determined by multiplying the points listed for each letter grade by the number of credits of the course.

# STANDARDS OF SATISFACTORY AND ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP/AP)

Students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and adequate academic progress (AP) in order to remain eligible as regularly enrolled students and to continue receiving federal financial assistance. The accreditor, federal and state regulations require that all students progress at a reasonable rate toward the completion of their academic program. Satisfactory and adequate academic progress is measured by:

- The student's cumulative grade point average (CGPA)
- The student's rate of progress toward completion (ROP)
- The maximum time frame (MTF) allowed to complete the academic program (150% for all programs).

**For clock hour modular programs**, students must also maintain a satisfactory rate of attendance. The student may not have absences in excess of 10% of the scheduled hours in a payment period, measured at the nearest full module. The maximum time frame allowed to complete if 150% of total number of weeks in the program of study (MTF).

# **Evaluation Periods for SAP/AP**

Satisfactory academic progress is measured for all students at the end of each payment period. Academic progress is measured for all diploma students every eight weeks.

SAP and AP are evaluated as outlined in the tables below. All students with a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) and/ or rate of progress (ROP) below the required academic progress standards as stated in the school's catalog will move into SAP or AP NOT MET status. Students not meeting SAP or AP will be issued a SAP or AP Not Met letter and be advised that unless they improve their CGPA and/or rate of progress toward completion, they may be withdrawn from their programs and potentially lose eligibility for federal financial aid. An academic appeal will be required for those students whose academic progress is not met.

# Satisfactory Academic Progress Tables

60 Quarter	60 Quarter Credit Hour Program. Total credits that may			
	be attempt	ed: 90 (150%		
Total Credits Attempted	Academic Progress Not Met if CGPA is below	Academic Progress Not Met if Rate of Progress is Below	SAP Not met if CGPA is below	SAP Not Met if Rate of Progress is Below
12-17	2.0	66.67%	-	-
24-29	2.0	66.67%	-	-
30-35	-	-	2.0	66.67%
36-41	2.0	66.67%	-	-
48-53	2.0	66.67%	-	-
54-90	-	-	2.0	66.67%

94 Quarter Credit Hour Program. Total credits that may be attempted: 141 (150% of 94)				
Total Credits Attempted	FA Warning if CGA is below	SAP Not met if CGPA is below	FA Warnin g if the Rate of Progre ss is Below	SAP Not Met if Rate of Progress is Below
1-16 (1 <sup>st</sup> Term)	2.5	-	66.67%	-
1-141	-	2.0	-	66.67%

# Application of Grades and Credits to SAP

- Grades A through F are included in the calculation of CGPA and are included in the Total Number of Credit Hours Attempted.
- Transfer credits (TR) are not included in the calculation of CGPA but are included in the Total Number of Credit Hours Attempted and Earned in order to determine the required levels for CGPA and rate of progress.
- Courses with grades of Pass, EL and PE are not included in the CGPA calculation but do count as credit hours successfully completed for the rate of progress calculation.
- For calculating rate of progress, F grades and W grades are counted as hours attempted but are not counted as hours successfully completed. Grades of IP will also be counted as hours attempted but not as hours successfully completed.
- When a course is repeated, the higher of the two grades is used in the calculation of CGPA, and the total credit hours for the original course and the repeated course are included in the Total Credit Hours Attempted (in the SAP charts) in order to determine the required rate of progress level. The credit hours for the original attempt are considered as not successfully completed.
- When a student returns from a leave of absence and completes the course from which the student withdrew, the hours for which the student receives a passing grade are counted as earned; the grade, hours, and attendance for the original attempt prior to the official leave of absence are not counted for purpose of the rate of progress toward completion calculation and the original grade is not counted in the CGPA calculation.
- When a student transfers between programs, all attempts of courses common to both programs are included in the CGPA and ROP of the new program.

- Students graduating from one program and continuing on to another will have all successfully completed courses common to both programs included in the SAP calculations of the new program. Courses not in the new program, including grades of W or F, are excluded from all SAP calculations.
- Non-punitive grades are not used and non-credit and remedial courses are not factor into CGPA or ROP.

#### Academic Guidance

A non-SAP status identifying students with a CGPA of a 2.5 to 2.0 and providing a student with information or guidance that can lead to improvement of the student's Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) and Rate of Progress (ROP) toward program completion, including informing that failure to improve may result in unsatisfactory academic progress, a dismissal from the program and potential loss of Financial Aid (FA) eligibility. Students will receive notification of their status after final grades post and will be contacted by the students' academic team to discuss appropriate Academic Guidance. In addition, diploma students who have a CGPA below a 2.0 at the end of modules 1, 3, and 7 will receive the notification and will be placed on an Academic Plan.

#### **Academic Probation**

For diploma students, at the end of each Academic Progress evaluation period the student's AP status is calculated. Academic Progress Not Met is assigned to a student who falls below the required academic progress standards (CGPA, ROP, or MTF) for the program. Students will be notified with an AP NOT MET letter indicating that they will be placed on an academic plan and will be withdrawn unless they successfully appeal by written request within five (5) calendar days after the notification in accordance with the Academic Appeals Policy. If the appeal is accepted the student is placed on Academic Probation and is put on an Academic Plan to exceed 3 mods or 3 terms.

#### **Rate of Progress toward Completion**

The school catalog contains a schedule designating the minimum percentage or amount of work that a student must successfully complete at the end of each evaluation period to complete their educational program within the maximum time frame (150%). The Rate of Progress percentage is determined by dividing the number of credits earned by the number of credits attempted. Credits attempted include completed credits, transfer credits, withdrawals, and repeated courses. Non-credit remedial courses have no effect on the student's ROP.

#### **Maximum Time Frame to Complete**

The maximum time frame for completion of all programs below the master's level is limited by federal regulation to 150% of the published length of the program. For a program measured in credits, MTF is 150% of the published length of the program, measured in credits. For a program measured in clock hours, MTF is 150% of the published length of the program, measured by the total number of clock hours in the program. All credit hours attempted, which include completed credits, transfer credits, withdrawals, and repeated classes, count toward the maximum number of credits allowed to complete the program. Non-credit remedial courses have no effect on the student's maximum time frame.

For clock hour modular programs, a student is not allowed to attempt more than 1.5 times or 150% of the weeks in the program.

#### **Financial Aid Warning**

The Campus Director or Academic Dean (or designee) must provide the written notice of FA Warning status to all degree students who earn a (CGPA) of 2.5 or below while attempting their first 16 credits. Note that students can only remain in FA Warning for one term.

- Students must receive the notification by the first day of the term;
- Must be advised within seven (7) calendar days (excluding Holidays) after the term start; and
- Student will complete the Academic Advising Questionnaire

#### **Financial Aid Probation**

At the end of each term following a SAP evaluation, students with a SAP NOT MET according to the academic progress standards stated in this catalog, will be notified with a SAP NOT MET letter indicating that they will be withdrawn unless they successfully appeal by written request within five (5) calendar days after the notification in accordance with the Academic Appeals Policy. If the appeal is accepted the student is placed on Financial Aid Probation and is put on an Academic Plan not to exceed 3 mods or 3 terms.

#### Notification of Financial Aid Probation

FA Probation is the term for which the student's appeal has been accepted and progress is monitored under an Academic Plan. During the period of FA probation students will continue to be eligible for financial aid.

While on FA probation, unless students improve their CGPA and /or rate of progress toward completion, in accordance with their Academic Plan, they will be withdrawn from their program and become ineligible for further financial aid. All students on FA probation must be placed on an Academic Plan. A student will remain on FA probation

as long as he or she is meeting the requirements of his or her Academic Plan when evaluated at the end of each evaluation period on the Plan which is not to exceed 3 mods or 3 terms.

#### Academic Plan

Students on AP Probation, FA Probation or students in a modular program during non- SAP/AP modules with a CGPA of below a 2.0 must agree to the requirements of an Academic Plan if he/she can meet the CGPA/ROP standards as outlined in the catalog within 3 mods/terms. If not the students shall be dismissed from the institution. Each student shall receive a copy of his or her Plan. A copy of each student's Plan shall be kept in the student's permanent academic file.

The Plan may extend over one (1) or multiple terms not to exceed 3 mods/terms. At the end of the first evaluation period on the Plan, the student will meet with the Academic Dean (or designee) for an evaluation of progress of the plan's requirements. If on a single-term plan and the student has met the requirement(s) of the plan, the student must be in SAP Met status, and the student's Plan shall be considered fulfilled and closed. If on a multi-term plan and the student has met the requirements will be set and the student will be placed manually into (S)AP Meeting Plan Status and will adhere to the subsequent term requirements of the Plan.

If at the end of any SAP or AP evaluation period on the Plan the student does not meet the plan's requirement(s), the student will receive a dismissal letter and will be dismissed from the program. Additionally, a student is deemed to have not met the plan's requirements by earning a failing grade ("F") in any course while on the Plan.

Students who have violated their AP Probation or FA Probation and have been dismissed from a program are not eligible for readmission to that program if they have exceeded, or may exceed, the maximum time frame of completion until they re-establish appropriate Satisfactory Academic Progress standing.

#### **Evaluation of Progress**

At the end of each evaluation period encompassed by the Plan, the student will meet with the Campus Director/Academic Dean of Education (or designee) for an evaluation of progress of the plan's requirements. Determination of the student's success at meeting the Plans requirement(s) must be completed no later than the first (1<sup>st</sup>) calendar day of the module or term.

#### **SAP MET Status**

If the student has met the requirements of a one-term plan, the student must be in SAP MET status and the student's Academic Plan shall be considered fulfilled and closed. The student will be provided with either a Return to Academic Good Standing Letter.

The Campus Director or Academic Dean (or designee) must provide a written notice of Return to Academic Good Standing status. The following timelines apply for all students placed on SAP Met status:

- For degree programs with an Add/Drop period:
  - o Students must receive the notification by the first day of the term; and
  - Must complete the Evaluation of Progress form within fourteen (14) calendar days after the notification.

NOTE: For terms without a break week, students must receive the notification within seven (7) calendar days after the term start and must complete the Evaluation of Progress form within twenty-one (21) calendar days after the notification.

- For diploma programs:
  - Students must receive the notification by the third (3) business day of the subsequent module; and
  - Must complete the Evaluation of Progress form within seven (7) calendar days after the notification.

#### **AP/SAP Not Met Status and/or Dismissal**

If on a multi-term plan, it is likely the student will remain AP or SAP NOT MET for the second (and ensuing) evaluation periods. At the end of each evaluation period, the student will be notified, evaluated for progress, and if the AP Plan requirements are met, will be manually assigned (S)AP Meeting AP Plan status and continue on the Plan. New requirements for the second (or ensuing) evaluation period will be defined using the Evaluation of Progress form.

The Campus Director or Academic Dean (or designee) must provide a written notice of SAP NOT MET status. The following timelines apply for all students placed on SAP NOT MET status:

• For degree programs with an Add/Drop period:

- Students must receive the notification by the first day of the term; and
- Must complete the Evaluation of Progress form within fourteen (14) calendar days after the notification.

NOTE: For terms without a break week, students must receive the notification within seven (7) calendar days after the term start and must complete the Evaluation of Progress form within twenty-one (21) calendar days after the notification.

- For diploma programs:
  - Students must receive the notification by the third (3) business day of the subsequent module; and
  - Must complete the Evaluation of Progress form within seven (7) calendar days after the notification.

If the student does not meet the Plan's requirements at the end of an evaluation period, the student will be dismissed from the program. If the student has not met the benchmark, the student must be dropped with the correct DOD (no later than second calendar day of module or term). The student must be notified of dismissal no later than the second calendar day of module or term.

NOTE: If the student has make-up work, and the campus is willing to accept it, it must be completed within four (4) calendar days of grades being entered (as long as this doesn't extend beyond ten (10) calendar days after mod- or term-end), or the student must be dropped with the correct DOD.

### SAP Re-Entry

Students who have violated FA Probation and have been dismissed shall not be readmitted if they cannot complete the program within the maximum time frame or re-establish appropriate Satisfactory and Academic Progress (SAP/AP) standing.

#### Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Violation Appeals

SAP appeals must be submitted by the:

- Eighth calendar day of the subsequent module for Diploma programs and
- Sixth calendar day of the subsequent term (by the fourteenth calendar day if there is no break week) for Degree programs.

A SAP appeal may be granted if the student is able to complete the program within the maximum time frame allowed and with the required minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA). The student must also demonstrate that the failure to maintain the required CGPA or rate of progress (ROP) was caused by:

- Death of a family member
- Illness or injury suffered by the student or
- Special circumstances which are not likely to recur.

If the SAP appeal is approved, the student must agree to meet the requirements of an Academic Plan and the student will be placed on FA probation.

#### **Retaking Passed Coursework**

Students in degree programs may repeat a previously passed course one time. Students in diploma programs may not retake previously passed coursework unless the student has successfully passed all classroom modules. Each repeated attempt counts in the calculation of the students' rate of progress and maximum time frame. All repeated courses will appear on the student's transcript, but only the highest grade earned will be included in the calculation of their cumulative grade point average.

#### **Retaking Failed Coursework**

Students must repeat all failed courses that are required for graduation from the program. Students in diploma programs may not exceed three attempts of courses. Students in degree programs must request permission to repeat a course after the second attempt to pass. Each attempt counts in the calculation of the students' rate of progress and maximum time frame. All repeated coursework will appear on the student's transcript, but only the highest grade earned will be included in the calculation of their cumulative grade point average. If a student doesn't pass a course after three attempts in a diploma program or if a course retake request is denied for a required course in a degree program, the student will be dismissed due to their inability to meet the program requirements for graduation.

Veterans Affairs (VA) students are not eligible for VA funding for repeating passed coursework.

# ADD/DROP POLICY (DEGREE PROGRAMS ONLY)

Continuing students may register for classes prior to the start of the 12-week term. Once the term has started, students may add or drop courses during the add/drop period without academic penalty upon obtaining approval from Academic administration and the Financial Aid Office.

The taking of attendance of new and re-entering students who enroll during the add/drop period will begin the first scheduled class session following the student's enrollment. The add/drop period for full term (12-week) courses is the first 14 calendar days of the term, excluding holidays. For either the six-week 1 or six week 2 courses, the add/drop period is the first seven calendar days of the course, excluding holidays.

Students who enroll in a 12-week course during the add/drop period must attend class by the **earlier** of the 21<sup>st</sup> calendar day of the term or the 14<sup>th</sup> calendar day after enrollment, or be unregistered from the course. Students who enroll in 6-week courses during the add/drop period must attend class by the 14<sup>th</sup> calendar day of the 6-week course, or be dropped from the course.

#### IMPACT OF ADD/DROP ON FINANCIAL AID CALCULATION

Adding or dropping a course may impact a student's enrollment status and the amount of financial aid for which the student is eligible. If the student adds or drops a course, the Financial Aid Office will advise the student of the

financial consequences. Financial Aid Office Support and Student Accounts will process any adjustments to a student's charges or financing due to adding or dropping courses.

For 6-week 2 courses to be considered in the determination of a student's enrollment status for Pell grant purposes only, a student must register for the courses by the close of business on day 14 of the start of the full term (i.e., prior to the Census date).

#### **Full Term Courses**

The add/drop period for full term courses is the first fourteen (14) calendar days of the term, excluding holidays and regularly scheduled breaks. The taking of attendance of students who enroll during the add/drop period shall begin the first scheduled class session following the student's enrollment. Therefore, students who enroll in a full-term course during the add/drop period must attend class by the earlier of the 21st calendar day of the term or the 14th calendar day after enrollment, or be dropped from the course.

#### Mini-Term Courses

The registration period for six-weeks 2 mini-term courses occurs well in advance prior to the start of the six-weeks 2 mini-term. Continuing students, who are already enrolled in full term courses, should complete registration for upcoming six-weeks 2 mini-term courses by the close of business on day twenty (20) of the full-term.

Once the mini-term has begun, the add/drop period for mini-term courses is the first seven (7) calendar days of the term, excluding holidays and regularly scheduled breaks. The taking of attendance of students who enroll during the add/drop period shall begin the first scheduled class session following the student's enrollment. Students who enroll in mini-term courses during the add/drop period must attend class by the 14th calendar day of the mini-term, or be dropped from the course.

#### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance in class is critical to student academic success. This policy sets standards that provide for the withdrawal and dismissal of students whose absences exceed a set rate. Normally, a student is considered present if he or she is in the assigned classroom for the scheduled amount of time, i.e., neither late for class (tardy) nor leaving before the end of class (leave early). However, an instructor may consider a student present who does not attend the entire class session if (a) the criteria used to make the determination are stated in the course syllabus and (b) the amount of time missed does not exceed 50% of the class session.

**In clock hour modular programs**, the student is awarded one hour of attendance for each 50-mintue academic hour attended (there is a 10-minute administrative grace period).

#### **Establishing Attendance/Verifying Enrollment**

Campus Faculty must take attendance each class session beginning with the first day of scheduled classes.

- For programs with an add/drop period, the taking of attendance for a student enrolling during the add/drop period begins with the first scheduled class session following the student's enrollment.
- In programs without an add/drop period, new students registered for a class must attend by the second scheduled class session or be withdrawn.

#### Monitoring Student Attendance

The School will monitor student attendance on the basis of both consecutive absences (the "Consecutive Absence Rule") and absences as a percentage of the hours (minus externship hours) in the term/program (the "Percentage Absence Rule"). A student may appeal an attendance dismissal pursuant to the Student Academic Appeals Policy.

If an appeal is granted, the student is not dismissed. If an appeal is not granted, the student must be withdrawn from all courses and dismissed from school, and will not be charged for attending while the appeal was pending. Any student dismissed due to an attendance violation may not be readmitted unless the student reapplies for admission.

In clock hour modular programs, the "Percentage Absence Rule" (identifying attendance violations) measure absences as a percentage of the hours in a module/payment period.

#### **Consecutive Absence Rule**

When a student is absent from school for fourteen (14) consecutive calendar days excluding holidays and scheduled breaks, the faculty must notify the Executive Director (or Academic Dean/Campus Director) who, on the date of violation, must determine whether the student plans to return to school or has withdrawn. This determination must follow these guidelines:

- All students who state they will not return to school shall be promptly withdrawn;
- All students who state they will return must:
  - 1. Attend class the next scheduled class after the violation and must post positive attendance the next scheduled class after the violation
  - 2. File an appeal within five (5) calendar days after the date of violation;
  - 3. Have perfect attendance while the appeal is pending.

Failure to comply with one or more of the requirements listed above will result in the student being withdrawn from all courses and dismissed from school.

For degree programs, the consecutive absence rule is applied to consecutive days missed in a single term. For diploma programs, the consecutive absence rule is applied to one or more sequences of 14 consecutive days missed during the total program.

# Percentage Absence Rules

#### **Diploma Programs:**

For students who have not previously violated the attendance policy:

Percentage	Action Taken
15% of the total classroom hours missed	Attendance warning letter sent
20% of the total classroom hours missed	Withdrawn from the module and dismissed from school

For students who **have** been dismissed for violating the attendance policy, or would have been dismissed but for a successful appeal, the following rule shall apply:

Percentage	Action Taken
15% of the remaining classroom hours missed	Attendance warning letter sent
20% of the remaining classroom hours missed	Withdrawn from the module and dismissed from school

#### **Degree Programs:**

For students who have not previously violated the attendance policy:

Percentage	Action Taken
25% of the total hours for all courses in a term	Attendance warning letter sent
40% of the total hours for all courses in a term	Withdrawn from all courses and dismissed from school

For students who **have** been dismissed for violating the attendance policy, or would have been dismissed but for a successful appeal, the following rule shall apply:

Percentage	Action Taken
25% of the total remaining hours for all courses	Attendance warning letter sent
in a term	
40% of the total remaining hours for all courses	Withdrawn from the module and dismissed from school
in a term	

# **Clock Hour Programs**

Percentage	Action Taken	
10% of the total hours in each module or remaining hours in a module – second	Attendance warning letter sent	
occurrence in a payment period	Student is advised and required to make up attendance	
10% of the total hours in each module or remaining hours in a module – third occurrence,	Withdrawn from the module and dismissed from school.	
and those that occur beyond the third	Student has the opportunity to appeal the dismissal, and will be required to agree to an attendance plan that requires make-up attendance	
More than 10% of the total hours in each payment period – occurring prior to	Attendance warning letter sent	
measurement of payment period completion for disbursement	Student is advised and required to make up attendance	
More than 10% of the total hours in each payment period at the point of measurement of	Withdrawn from the module and dismissed from school.	
payment period completion for disbursement	Student has the opportunity to appeal the dismissal and will be required to make up attendance - prior to the end of the first payment period, or outside of regularly- scheduled hours in the second payment period classes. Note: The appeal shall not be approved and entered in CampusVue until the student has made up	

attendance sufficient to achieve 90% or more
attendance for the payment period hours.

#### Make-Up Attendance

In clock hour modular programs, students may choose to, or be required to, make up attendance. Make-up attendance is quantifiable time that the student is at the campus engaged in meaningful and applicable work with staff supervision. The make-up work must be related to the module in which the absences, attendance violation and / or appeal applied. Make-up attendance may be voluntary (at the student's request), or mandatory (as part of an advising or appeal process.)

Make-up attendance must occur outside of regularly scheduled class time, and the quantity of make-up attendance per module cannot exceed the amount of absence in that module. Make-up attendance will be defined in fifteen (15) minutes blocks, rounded down to the nearest fifteen (15) minutes. There are no breaks or "grace" periods. Make-up attendance may be made up only until the fourteenth (14th) calendar day after module end.

Make-up time can be overseen by appropriate Academics staff, unless content-based, in which case it must be administered by staff qualified to teach in the applicable program. The make-up activities may occur in a class other than the student's own (lab only), or at separate, designated make-up times. When making up hours all applicable ratios and maximums will apply as outlined in this catalog.

Qualified make-up activities include, but are not limited to the following academic activities:

- Taking or re-taking a quiz or test
- Performing lab practice or check-offs
- Facilitated content review
- Facilitated / demonstrable study
- Engaging in a study group or group project
- Tutoring
- Completing in-class or homework assignments

The make-up attendance process will apply in all cases, and includes an approval process, a required Make-up Attendance Form, and a secure process for managing quizzes, tests, and any other work requiring grading.

#### Violations of Percentage Absence Rules

When a student violates the applicable percentage absence rule, the faculty will notify the Executive Director (Academic Dean/Campus Director) who, on the date of violation, must determine whether the student plans to return to school or has withdrawn. This determination must follow these guidelines:

- All students who state they will not return to school shall be promptly withdrawn;
  - All students who state they will return must:
    - 1. Attend class within five (5) calendar days of the violation;
    - 2. File an appeal within five (5) calendar days after the date of violation;
    - 3. Have perfect attendance while the appeal is pending.

Failure to comply with one or more of the requirements listed above will result in the student being withdrawn from all courses and dismissed from school.

#### Date of Withdrawal

• When a student is withdrawn for consecutive or percentage absences within the term or module, the date of the student's withdrawal shall be the student's last date of attendance (LDA).

**NOTE:** The Date of Withdrawal shall be the earlier of a violation of the Consecutive Absence Rule or the Percentage Absence Rule.

#### Date of Determination (DOD)

The Date of Determination (DOD) shall be the date the school determined the student would not return to class. This is the date used to determine the timeliness of the refund. The DOD is the earliest of the following three (3) dates:

- The date the student notifies the school (verbally or in writing) that s/he is not returning to class;
- The date the student violates the published attendance policy; or
- No later than the 14<sup>th</sup> calendar day after the LDA

#### Attendance Records

The computer attendance database is the official record of attendance. On the 14th calendar day following the end of the term/module, the computer attendance database shall be considered final.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY

Altierus permits students to request a leave of absence (LOA) as long as the leave does not exceed a total of 180 days during any 12-month period (for program with 200 hours or more but less than 600 hours, the total number of

days of leave granted may not exceed 60 calendar days), starting from the first day of the first leave, that there is a reasonable expectation that the student will return, and as long as there are documented, legitimate extenuating circumstances that require the students to interrupt their education, an LOA will not be granted for any of the following reasons:

- a) The courses that the student needs are available, but the student declines to take them;
- b) An externship/internship site is not available for the student;
- c) A student is unable to pay tuition;
- d) The student is failing a course(s); or
- e) To delay the return of unearned federal funds.

# Leave Of Absence Requests

Students requesting an LOA must submit a completed Leave of Absence Request Form prior to the beginning date of the leave.

For approved LOA requests in diploma programs, the student starting leave prior to the end of a module will receive a grade of "L" (Leave). The course will not be included in the calculation of Rate of Progress (ROP), Maximum Time Frame (MTF) or attendance. For degree students, an LOA can only begin once the 12 week term has ended.

If circumstances of an unusual nature that are not likely to recur prevent the student from submitting the request in advance, the leave may still be granted, but only if:

- a) the school documents the unforeseen circumstances and the Executive Director or Academic Dean/Campus Director determines that these circumstances meet the exception requirements (i.e., "of an unusual nature and not likely to recur"), and
- b) the student submits a completed Leave of Absence Request Form by the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) calendar day of the leave.

#### **Re-Admission Following a Leave of Absence**

- Upon return from leave, the student will be required to repeat the module, if it had been interrupted, and receive final grades.
- The student will not be charged any fee for the repeat of any module from which the student took leave or for re-entry from the leave of absence.
- The date the student returns to class is normally scheduled for the beginning of a module.
- When a student is enrolled in a modular program, the student may return at any appropriate module, not only the module from which the student withdrew.

# Extension of Leave of Absence

A student on an approved LOA may submit a request to extend the LOA without returning to class. Such a request may be approved by the Campus Director or Academic Dean provided:

- The student submits a <u>completed</u> LOA Extension Request Form before the end date of the current leave.
- There is a reasonable expectation the student will return.
- The number of days in the leave as extended, when added to all other approved leaves, does not exceed 180 calendar days in any twelve (12) month period calculated from the first day of the student's first leave.
- Appropriate modules required for completion of the program will be available to the student on the date of return.

If the extension request is approved, the end date of the student's current leave will be changed in the official student information system to reflect the new end date. If the request is denied, the student will be withdrawn and the withdrawal date will be the student's last date of attendance (LDA).

#### Failure to Return From a Leave of Absence

A student must return from a LOA on the first day of any appropriate module or prior to the scheduled date of return.

If the student does not return from LOA as defined above, the student will be withdrawn. The withdrawal date will be the student's last day of attendance (LDA). The "L" grade in the LOA course(s) will be changed to "W" (withdraw). The course(s) having a grade of "W" will be included as an attempt in the calculation of ROP and MTF. A Title IV refund calculation will be completed and use the last date of attendance prior to the start of the LOA.

The academic consequences of failing to return from an LOA will be explained to the student by the Campus Director/Academic Dean prior to the beginning of the leave. Consequences include the effect on the student's:

- Loan repayment terms including the grace period
- Rate of progress
- Maximum time frame for completion

# **Possible Effects of Leave Of Absence**

Students who are contemplating an LOA should be cautioned that one or more of the following factors may affect the length of time it will take the student to graduate.

- Students returning from a LOA are not guaranteed that the module required to maintain the normal progress in their training program will be available at the time of reentry
- They may have to wait for the appropriate module to be offered
- Financial aid may be affected

#### **EXTERNSHIP TRAINING**

Upon successful completion of all classroom requirements, students are expected to begin the externship portion of their programs within 14 calendar days (excluding holidays and regularly scheduled breaks). If a student does not begin externship training within 14 calendar days, he/she must be dropped from the program. A leave of absence (LOA) may only be approved if the student's reason meets the criteria of the LOA Policy. Students may only miss 14 consecutive calendar days once they start externship or they must be dropped from the program.

Each student has approximately 120 calendar days to complete their externship. Any modular student who does not complete externship training within 120 calendar days should meet with the Campus Director or Academic Dean to approve the time remaining to complete the externship.

Students who drop from externship either prior to starting or during externship and/or delay the completion of their externship for more than 30 days from the last days of attendance must have their skills evaluated by a program instructor or director/chair prior to re-entry to ensure they are still competent to perform skills safely in the externship setting.

All externships required for the completion of any program shall be uncompensated, with no payment to the student, monetary or otherwise, including any externship in any MAERB-accredited program, such as the Medical Assisting and/or Surgical Technologist programs.

#### WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

- Students who intend to withdraw from school are requested to notify the Campus Director or Academic Dean by telephone, in person, by email or in writing to provide official notification of their intent to withdraw and the date of withdrawal.
- Timely notification by the student will result in the student being charged tuition and fees for only the portion
  of the payment period or period of enrollment that he/she attended as well as ensuring a timely return of
  federal funds and any other refunds that may be due.
- Students requesting a withdrawal from school must complete a financial aid exit interview.
- Students who have withdrawn from school may contact the school's Education Department about reentry.

#### **MAKE-UP WORK**

At the instructor's discretion, make-up work may be provided to students who have missed class assignments or tests. Make-up work must be completed within ten (10) calendar days after the end of the term/module.

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION**

- Successfully complete all courses in the program with a 2.0 (70%) cumulative grade point average within the maximum time frame for completion as stated in the school catalog.
- Successfully complete all externship requirements (if applicable).
- Meet any additional program specific requirements as stated in the catalog.

Commencement exercises are held at least once a year. Upon graduation, all students who are current with their financial obligation to the school shall receive their diploma.

# VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS

#### **Prior Credit for Education and Training**

All VA beneficiaries are required to disclose prior postsecondary school attendance, military education and training, and provide official transcripts for such education and training. The student is responsible for ensuring that all transcripts are submitted to the school. The school is responsible for evaluating official written transcripts of previous education and experience, granting credit where appropriate, notifying the student, and shortening the program certified accordingly.

Prior credit must be evaluated within the first two terms of the enrollment period. The VA will not pay VA education benefits past the third term of enrollment, if prior credit has not been evaluated.

#### **Benefit Overpayments**

Schools are required to promptly report changes in the enrollment status of all students receiving VA education benefits in order to minimize overpayments. Generally overpayments of VA benefits are the responsibility of the student.

However, there are instances under the Post 9/11 GI Bill ® when an overpayment is created on a school and funds need to be returned to the VA.

#### Academic Standards for Students Receiving VA Benefits

Students receiving Veterans education benefits are subject to the same academic standards applicable to all students at the school. To receive VA education benefits, a student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress, attendance standards and adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

# APPEALS POLICIES

# **Student Academic Appeals Policy**

A student may submit an appeal based on one of three adverse determinations:

- Attendance policy violation
- Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) violation or
- Final grade(s).

Formal academic appeals must be submitted within five calendar days of the date the student is considered to have received notice of the adverse determination.

Appeals must include a completed, dated and signed Academic Appeal form and a letter from the student that includes the:

- Specific academic decision at issue and
- Resolution sought by the student.

A SAP or Attendance violation appeal must include an explanation of the circumstances that:

- Led to the violation and
- Will improve achievement going forward.
- For a final grade appeal, the student will include the informal steps taken to address the disagreement.

Once a formal appeal is filed, the campus will take no action regarding the adverse academic decision, and financial aid disbursements will be suspended until the appeal process is concluded.

The appeal committee decision is final and no further appeals for the same adverse academic decision are permitted. If the appeal is denied, the date of determination is the date of the adverse academic decision after which the student will not be charged for any attendance.

#### Assignment/ Test Grades

Students who disagree with an assignment/test grade should discuss it with the instructor upon receipt of the grade. Assignments/test grades are reviewed at the instructor's discretion. If the instructor is not available, the matter should be discussed with the Program Director/Department Chair. Only final course grades are eligible for appeal.

#### Final Course Grades

Final grade appeals must be submitted by the:

- Eighth calendar day of the subsequent module for Diploma programs; and
- Sixth calendar day of the subsequent term for Degree programs.

A final grade appeal may be approved, and the grade corrected, if it is determined that the final grade was influenced by any of the following:

- A personal bias or arbitrary rationale
- Standards unreasonably different from those that were applied to other students
- A substantial, unreasonable, or unannounced departure from previously articulated standards or
- The result of a clear and substantial mistake in calculating or recording grades or academic progress. A student may appeal more than one final grade while active in a program.

Only final grades are eligible for appeal. Assignment/test grades are reviewed at the instructor's discretion, consistent with the grade policy and syllabus guidelines.

#### Attendance Violation Appeals

Attendance violation appeals must be submitted within five calendar days after the date of violation. For an attendance appeal to be considered the student must maintain perfect attendance while the appeal is pending. Depending on the type of violation, the student must:

- Percentage Absence (program or term) post positive attendance ("present") within five calendar days of the date of violation and
- Consecutive Day Absence post positive attendance the next scheduled class session after the violation.

Violations occurring at the end of the degree term when there is no opportunity to attend until the next term are not subject to these requirements.

Subject to applicable state requirement, an attendance appeal may be granted if the student demonstrates that the absence was caused by:

- Death of a family member
- Illness or injury suffered by the student or
- Special circumstances which are not likely to recur.
- A student may be eligible for more than one attendance violation appeal while active in a program.

The Appeal Committee may, as a condition of granting the appeal, require the student to make up assignments and develop an Academic Advising Plan in conjunction with his or her advisor.

**For clock hour modular programs**, as a condition of granting the appeal, the Committee may require the student to make-up attendance.

# Faculty Academic Freedom

Altierus respects the academic freedom of faculty to function as scholars in the interpretation and application of theories and ideas, within the context of Altierus's mission, policies, and procedures. Altierus further supports the right of faculty to be active participants in the development and evaluation of curriculum, creation of assessment standards, and other academic matters.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

A student who has applied, is accepted, and has begun classes at Altierus assumes a definite financial obligation. Each student is legally responsible for his or her own educational expenses for the period of enrollment. A student who is enrolled and has made payments in full or completed other financial arrangements and is current with those obligations, is entitled to all the privileges of attending classes, taking examinations, receiving grade reports, securing course credit, being graduated, and using the Career Services Office.

Any student who is delinquent in a financial obligation to the school, or any educational financial obligation to any third party, including damage to school property, library fines, and payment of tuition and fees, is subject to exclusion from any or all of the usual privileges of the school. Altierus may, in its sole discretion, take disciplinary action on this basis, including suspension or termination of enrollment.

# FINANCIAL GOOD STANDING

Students meeting their financial obligations and remaining in good financial standing throughout their course of instruction and after graduation contributes to their success.

For a student to be considered in good financial standing the student must:

- Complete required financial aid applications to assist in satisfying all anticipated direct costs of the selected program including tuition, books and required fees for each of the academic and award years within time frames required
- Have an outstanding earned Accounts Receivable balance less than:
  - \$2,500 or one term of instruction (whichever is greater) if enrolled full time in a degree program,
  - o \$3,000 or one module of instruction (whichever is greater) if enrolled in a diploma program

Students who were actively attending as of February 1, 2016, and who have an outstanding balance from a previously completed academic year, may qualify for continued enrollment if the student meets the following criteria:

- Within 30 days of the policy notification completes all financial aid documentation requirements for the current academic year
- Maintains good financial standing status as outlined above for each subsequent term

Failure to remain in good financial standing may result in:

- A hold on registration for subsequent terms for degree students, or
- Dismissal from the program of study.

If a student is unable to remain in good financial standing, the student may be dropped from his or her course of instruction and not be allowed to reenroll in any Zenith program until the student account is back in good financial standing.

Students have the right to request reconsideration and exception to the dismissal decision for failure to maintain good financial standing by contacting the Academic Dean/Education Director.

#### **TUITION AND FEES**

Tuition and fee information can be found in "Tuition and Fees" section of the catalog. Modular programs are offered throughout the year on a schedule independent of the standard quarter calendar. When a student begins enrollment in a modular program, tuition will be charged in the full tuition amount, or in increments based on state policy, for each academic year.

Quarter-based programs will be charged for the student's first quarter (or mini-term quarter start) in attendance. Tuition and fees for subsequent quarters will be charged at the published rate in effect at the beginning of that quarter. The minimum full-time course load is 12 credits per quarter for undergraduate programs. Textbook costs per quarter are dependent upon the classes for which the student is registered. All credits for which a student is registered are charged at the current rate, including any courses being repeated. The student's total tuition for a given quarter is determined by multiplying the number of credit hours for which the student is registered at the end of the Add/Drop period by the then current tuition rate for that number of credit hours.

Students' financial obligations will be calculated in accordance with the refund policy in the Enrollment Agreement and this school catalog. For modular programs, the Enrollment Agreement obligates the student and the school for the entire program of instruction. For quarter-based programs, the Enrollment Agreement obligates the student and the school for tuition by quarter.

Student may make payments by cash or by the following accepted credit cards: Visa, MasterCard or Discover.

#### **TEXTBOOKS**

Textbooks and workbooks are sold through the bookstore in accordance with Altierus policies. At the time of issuance, textbooks become the responsibility of the students. Altierus is not responsible for replacing lost textbooks; however, students may purchase replacements from the campus bookstore. Students are responsible for the cost of their textbooks and the cost of any shipping charges.

#### ADDITIONAL FEES AND EXPENSES

Charges for textbooks, uniforms and equipment are separate from tuition. The institution does not charge for books, uniforms and equipment until the student purchases and receives the items. Incidental supplies, such as paper and pencils are to be furnished by the students.

# VOLUNTARY PREPAYMENT PLAN

The school provides a voluntary prepayment plan to students and their families to help reduce the balance due upon entry. Details are available upon request from the Financial Aid Office.

#### **BUYER'S RIGHT TO CANCEL**

The applicant's signature on the Enrollment Agreement does not constitute admission into the school until the student has been accepted for admission by an official of the school. If the applicant is not accepted by the school, all monies paid will be refunded.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Student may withdraw your enrollment agreement at any time within five business days from the date you sign the agreement, make an initial payment, or first visit the school, whichever is later. If student do so, all payments made by student or on your behalf will be refunded. Withdrawal can be effectuated by personally appearing at your school to withdraw, depositing a withdrawal letter in the mail to your school at the address provided in the agreement (in which case, the withdrawal will be considered effective as of the postmark date), sending an electronic message to withdrawals@zenith.org, or providing an oral withdrawal notice to phone number (888) 236 9614. In event of dispute over timely notice, the burden to prove service rests on the applicant.

- a. The student applicant will also be returned all monies paid if:
  - 1. The school rejects the applicant;
  - 2. The enrollment of the student was procured as the result of any misrepresentation through advertising, promotional materials of the school, or representations by the owner or representative of the school;
- 3. The school cancels the student's program.

#### **OFFICIAL WITHDRAWALS**

An official withdrawal is considered to have occurred on the date that the student provides to the school official notification of his or her intent to withdraw. Students who must withdraw from the school are requested to notify the office of the Campus Director or Academic Dean by telephone, in person, or in writing, to provide official notification of their intent to withdraw. Students will be asked to provide the official date of withdrawal and the reason for withdrawal in writing at the time of official notification. When the student begins the process of withdrawal, the student or the office of the Campus Director or Academic Dean will complete the necessary form(s).

Quarter-Based Programs: After the cancellation period, students in quarter-based programs who officially withdraw from the school prior to the end of the school's official add/drop period will be dropped from enrollment, and all monies paid will be refunded.

**Modular Programs:** Although there is no add/drop period in modular programs, for students who officially withdraw within the first five class days (or for weekend classes within seven calendar days from the date they started class, including the day they started class), all monies paid will be refunded.

#### DATE OF WITHDRAWAL VERSUS DATE OF DETERMINATION (DOD)

The date of withdrawal, for purposes of calculating a refund, is the student's last date of attendance. The date of determination (DOD) is the earlier of the date the student officially withdraws, provides notice of cancellation, or the date The School determines the student has violated an academic standard. For example, when a student is withdrawn for violating an academic rule, the date of the student's withdrawal shall be the student's last date of attendance. The DOD shall be the date The School determines the student has violated the academic rule, if the student has not filed an appeal. If the student files an appeal and the appeal is denied, the date of determination is the date the appeal is denied. If the student ceases attendance without providing official notification, the DOD shall be no more than 14 days from the student's last date of attendance.

# FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID RETURN POLICY

### Student Financial Aid (SFA)

The School is certified by the U.S. Department of Education as an eligible participant in the Federal Student Financial Aid (SFA) programs established under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended (Title IV programs). The School is required to determine earned and unearned portions of Title IV aid for students who cancel, withdraw, drop out, are dismissed, or take a leave of absence prior to completing 60% of a payment period or term.

## **Return of Title IV Funds Calculation and Policy**

The School is required to determine earned and unearned portions of Title IV aid for students who cancel, withdraw, drop out, are dismissed, or take a leave of absence prior to completing 60% of a payment period or term. The Return of Title IV Funds calculation (Return calculation) is based on the percentage of earned aid using the following calculation: Percentage of payment period or term completed equals the number of days completed up to the withdrawal date divided by the total days in the payment period or term. (Any break of five days or more is not counted as part of the days in the term.) This percentage is also the percentage of earned aid.

Funds are returned to the appropriate federal program based on the percentage of unearned aid using the following formula: Aid to be returned equals (100% of the aid that cloud be disbursed minus the percentage of earned aid) multiplied by the total dollar amount of aid that could have been disbursed during the payment period or term.

The school must return the lesser of:

- 1. The amount of Title IV program funds that the student did not earn; or
- 2. The amount of institutional charges that the student incurred for the payment period or period of enrollment multiplied by the percentage of funds that were not earned.

The student (or parent, if a federal PLUS loan) is required to repay the difference between the amount of unearned aid and the amount returned by the School. If the student's portion of the unearned aid includes federal grants, the student is required to return the grant amount: (1) if the grants overpayment is greater than \$50; and (2) only the extent that the grant amount exceeds 50% of the original amount received for the payment or period of enrollment.

The School must return the Title IV funds for which it is responsible in the following order:

- 1. Unsubsidized Direct Stafford loans (other than PLUS loans)
- 2. Subsidized Direct Stafford loans
- 3. Federal Perkins loans
- 4. Direct PLUS loans
- 5. Federal Pell Grants for which a return of funds is required
- 6. Academic Competitiveness Grants for which a return of funds is required
- 7. National Smart Grants for which a return of funds is required
- 8. Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) for which a return of funds is required

If a student withdraws after the 60% point-in-time, the student has earned all Title IV funds that he/she was scheduled to receive during the period and, thus, has no unearned funds; however, the school must still perform a Return calculation. If the student earned more aid than was disbursed to him/her, the student may be due a postwithdrawal disbursement. If the Return calculation determines that the student is due a post-withdrawal disbursement, upon the permission of the student (or parent, if a Federal PLUS loan), the institution may seek to disburse the corresponding loan funds. Any postwithdrawal disbursement must be paid within 180 days of the DOD. If a student earned less aid than was disbursed, The School would be required to return a portion of the funds, and the student may be required to return a portion of the funds. Any outstanding student loans that remain are to be repaid by the student according to the terms of the student's promissory notes.

#### Title IV Credit Balances

After a Return calculation has been made and a state/institutional refund policy, if applicable, has been applied, any resulting credit balance (i.e. earned Title IV funds exceed institutional charges) must be paid within 14 days from the date that The School performs the Return calculation and will be paid in one of the following manners:

1. With the student's (or parents, if a Federal PLUS loan) permission, reduce the student's Title IV loan debt (not limited to the student's loan debt for the period of enrollment)

2. Return to the student.

# Effect of Leaves of Absence on Returns

If a student does not return from an approved leave of absence on the date indicated on the written request, the withdrawal date is the student's last day of attendance. For more information, see the Leave of Absence section in The School catalog.

#### Time Frame within which Institution is to Return Unearned Title IV Funds

The School must return the amount of unearned Title IV funds for which it is responsible within 45 days after the DOD.

# **REFUND POLICIES**

If a state refund policy can provide a larger refund to the student than The School's Institutional Pro Rata Refund Calculation and Policy, the student will be given the benefit of the refund policy that results in the larger refund to the student.

#### Institutional Pro Rata Refund Calculation and Policy

When a student withdraws, The School must determine how much of the tuition and fees it is eligible to retain. The Pro Rata Refund Calculation and Policy is an institutional policy and is different from the Federal Financial Aid Return Policy and Return calculation; therefore, after both calculations are applied, a student may owe a debit balance (i.e. the student incurred more charges than he/she earned in Title IV funds) to The School.

The School will perform the Pro Rata Refund Calculation for those students who terminate their training before completing the period of enrollment (i.e. students who receive a final grade of "W" or "WZ"). Under the Pro Rata Refund Calculation, The School is entitled to retain only the percentage of charges (tuition, room, board, etc.) proportional to the period of enrollment completed by the student. The period of enrollment for students enrolled in modular programs is the academic year. The period of enrollment for students enrolled in quarter-based programs is the quarter. The refund is calculated using the following steps:

- 1. Determine the total charges for the period of enrollment.
- 2. Divide this figure by the total number of calendar days in the period of enrollment.
- 3. The answer to the calculation in step 2 is the daily charge for instruction.
- 4. The amount owed by the student for the purposes of calculating a refund is derived by multiplying the total calendar days in the period as of the student's last date of attendance by the daily charge for instruction and adding in any book or equipment charges.
- 5. The refund shall be any amount in excess of the figure derived in step 4 that was paid by the student.
- 6. TIME FRAME WITHIN WHICH INSTITUTION IS TO ISSUE NON-TITLE IV REFUNDS

Non-Title IV refunds will be issued within 30 days of either the date of determination or from the date that the applicant was not accepted by The School, whichever is applicable.

# TEXTBOOK AND EQUIPMENT RETURN/REFUND POLICY

A student who was charged for and paid for textbooks, uniforms, or equipment may return the unmarked textbooks, unworn uniforms, or new equipment within 30 days following the date of the student's cancellation, termination, or withdrawal. The School shall then refund the charges paid by the student. Uniforms that have been worn cannot be returned because of health and sanitary reasons. If the student fails to return unmarked textbooks, unworn uniforms or new equipment within 30 days, The School may retain the cost of the items that has been paid by the student. The student may then retain the equipment without further financial obligation to The School.

# EFFECT OF LEAVES OF ABSENCE ON REFUNDS

If a student does not return from an approved leave of absence (when applicable) on the date indicated on the written request, monies will be refunded. The refund calculation will be based on the student's last date of attendance. The date of determination is the date the student was scheduled to return.

# TIME FRAME WITHIN WHICH INSTITUTION IS TO ISSUE REFUNDS

Refunds will be issued within 30 days of either the date of determination or from the date that the applicant was not accepted by The School, whichever is applicable.

#### **Colorado Refund Policy**

The School will make refund determinations for all tuition and fees paid for the charging period in accordance with the following schedule. If the education program for which the student has enrolled is discontinued prior to the student's expected graduation date, the student is entitled to a full refund. The granting of credit for previous training shall not impact the refund policy.

A Student Who Withdraws or Is Terminated	Is Entitled to a Refund of	The Institution Is Eligible to Retain
Within the first 10% of the charging period	90% Tuition	10% Tuition
After completion of 10% of the charging period, but prior to completion of 25%	75% Tuition	25% Tuition
After completion of 25% of the charging period, but prior to completion of 50%	50% Tuition	50% Tuition
After completion of 50% of the charging period, but prior to completion of 75%	25% Tuition	75% Tuition
After completion of 75% of the charging period	0%	100% Tuition

# Postponement

Postponement of a starting date, whether at the request of The School or the student, requires a written agreement signed by the student and The School. The agreement must set forth:

- a. Whether the postponement is for the convenience of The School or the student, and;
- b. A deadline for the new start date, beyond which the start date will not be postponed.

If the course is not commenced, or if the student fails to attend by the new start date set forth in the agreement, the student will be entitled to an appropriate refund of prepaid tuition and fees within 30 days of the deadline in accordance with The School's refund policy and all applicable laws and rules concerning the Private Occupational Education Act of 1981.

# STUDENTS CALLED TO ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY

# **Newly Admitted Students**

Students who are newly admitted to the school and are called to active military duty prior to the first day of class in their first term/module shall receive a full refund of all tuition and fees paid. Textbook and equipment charges shall be refunded to the student upon return of the textbooks/unused equipment to the school.

# **Continuing Students**

Continuing students called to active military duty are entitled to the following:

 If tuition and fees are collected in advance of the withdrawal, a strict pro rata refund of any tuition, fees, or other charges paid by the student for the program and a cancellation of any unpaid tuition, fees, or other charges owed by the student for the portion of the program the student does not complete following withdrawal for active military service ("WZ").

#### **Continuing Modular Diploma Students**

Continuing modular diploma students who have completed 50% or less of their program are entitled to a full refund of tuition, fees, and other charges paid. Such students who have completed more than 50% of their program are entitled to a strict institutional pro rata refund.

# STUDENT FINANCING OPTIONS

The school offers a variety of student financing options to help students finance their educational costs. Detailed information regarding financing options available and the Financial Aid process can be obtained from the school's Student Financial Planning Brochure. Information regarding other sources of financial assistance such as benefits available through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Veterans Assistance and State Programs can be obtained through those agencies.

### **Financial Assistance**

Financial assistance (aid) in the form of grants and loans is available for those who qualify who have the ability and desire to benefit from the specialized program/training offered at the school.

#### **Student Eligibility**

- To receive financial assistance you must:
- 1. Usually, have financial need;
- 2. Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen;
- 3. Have a social security number;
- 4. If male, be registered with the Selective Service (if applicable);
- 5. If currently attending school, be making Satisfactory Academic Progress;
- 6. Be enrolled as a regular student in any of the school's eligible programs;
- 7. Not be in default on any loan made under any title IV program, not have obtained loan amounts that exceed annual or aggregate loan limits made under any title IV loan program, not have property subject to a judgment lien for a debt owed to the United States, and not be liable for a grant or Federal Perkins loan overpayment.
- 8. Have a high school diploma or its equivalent or have completed homeschooling at the secondary level as defined by state law.
- 9. Not be enrolled in either an elementary or secondary school;
- 10. Satisfy the title IV program specific loan requirements
- 11. Have not been convicted of an offense under any Federal or State law involving the possession or sale of illegal drugs for conduct that occurred during a period of enrollment for which the student was receiving title IV program funds, unless eligibility has been regained.
- 12. If previously convicted of, or pled nolo contendere or guilty to, a crime involving fraud in obtaining title IV program funds, has completed repayment of such assistance

# **Federal Financial Aid Programs**

The following is a description of the Federal Financial Aid Programs available at the school. Additional information regarding these programs, eligibility requirements, the financial aid process and disbursement of aid can be obtained through the school's Student Financial Planning Brochure, the school's Financial Aid Office, and the U.S. Department of Education's Guide to Federal Student Aid, which provides a detailed description of these programs. The guide is available online at: https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Federal Work Study (FWS)
- Federal Direct Stafford Loans (FDSL)
- Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

#### **Federal Work Study**

The Federal Work Study (FWS) Program is a federally subsidized, self-help financial aid program that allows students with financial need to earn FWS funds through employment with authorized FWS employers. FWS encourages students to earn their funds while performing work in community, public interest or student services and work related to their course of study.

FWS jobs may be on or off-campus. Off-campus FWS jobs with federal, state, or local public agencies or private nonprofit organizations must be in the public interest. Off-campus FWS jobs with private, for-profit organizations must be academically relevant to the maximum extent possible. **Please contact your Financial Aid representative for more information.** 

#### **Requirements for FWS Students**

Students must meet all eligibility criteria required for receipt of federal aid, including:

- Maintaining satisfactory academic progress (SAP)
- Maintaining at least half-time enrollment

Additional requirements include:

- Students may hold only one FWS position at any time.
- FWS earnings are not considered income when calculating financial aid (FA) eligibility.
- FWS earnings are taxable income as reported on federal and state tax returns.
- FWS students are paid only for hours actually worked and are not paid for lunch, sick days, or other hours not actually worked.
- Students may not earn FWS funds in excess of their FWS award.
- Students may work no more than 25 hours per calendar week.
- Students are allowed to work during periods of non-attendance (e.g., vacations, breaks, etc.) provided sufficient work-study allocations exist.
- Any student who falsified a time sheet will be referred to the appropriate campus authority for investigation and may be referred to law enforcement authorities.

#### **GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

#### **Altierus American Dream Scholarship**

The Altierus American Dream Scholarship is a multimillion-dollar institutional scholarship program for students who attend an Altierus institution. The program features a limited number of scholarships available at each campus for new students.

#### **New Students**

New students who first enroll in an Altierus institution on or after **September 18, 2017** and were referred by a leader in the local community are eligible to apply for the **Altierus American Dream New Student Scholarship up to \$2,000.** 

#### To be eligible a student must:

- Be independently recommended (not student-solicited) by a leader in the student's community
- Complete an essay answering the question "How will Altierus Help Me Fulfill My American Dream?" see guidelines
- Meet application guidelines and deadlines

Winners will be selected based on quality of the recommendation, originality, creativity, adherence to the theme and overall quality of the essay submission as noted below. Scholarships will be awarded on a monthly basis. Student scholarship winners will be notified within 45 days of the scholarship application submission date by the Campus Director or other campus official.

#### Selection criteria will include:

- Written reference from a leader in the community
  - Examples of leaders of the community include but are not limited to: coaches, teachers, principals, counselors, advisors, pastors, doctors, employers, support service professionals, law enforcement officer etc.
  - Community leader providing reference must certify that the student is being recommended on the leader's own initiative, and that the student did not solicit the recommendation.
  - Review of the Written Essay submitted
    - Logical interpretation of the subject and adherence to topic
    - o Originality, Innovation and Creativity
    - o Adherence to overall guidelines and deadlines applicable

#### **Scholarship Funds**

Altierus American Dream Scholarships may be used in order to cover the direct cost of attendance for the program in which the student is enrolled (tuition, books and fees).

The scholarship will be credited on a student's account upon award of the scholarship. Scholarships are nontransferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. Scholarships can only be used to reduce the institutional direct cost of the program (tuition, books and fees) and cannot be utilized for indirect costs or living expenses.

Scholarship funds will be disbursed on a pro-rata basis per pay period, and will be limited, per pay period, to the amount by which tuition, books, and fees exceed the amount of Title IV and other funds available, such that application of the scholarship cannot create a credit balance or otherwise result in a stipend paid to the student.

#### Zenith Student Grant

The Zenith Student Grant is a multimillion-dollar institutional grant program awarded on an annual basis to students of Altierus and WyoTech schools owned by Zenith Education Group who demonstrate financial need. This institutional grant is available for new and continuing students enrolled on or after July 25, 2016 for current and future academic periods. The amount and source of the grant, which can be up to \$10,000 per academic year, may vary by student based on the demonstrated financial assistance needed, and institutional grant funding availability.

The grant may be used to cover any confirmed remaining unmet financial need once Title IV and all other available funding sources have been exhausted up to the direct cost of attendance for the program in which the student is enrolled. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified within 45 days of the grant application submission date by the Campus Director or other campus official.

#### Eligibility

To be eligible, the student must:

- Apply each academic year
- Meet all application deadlines
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress throughout his/her course of study
- Be eligible to receive federal Title IV financial aid.

#### **Obtaining grant funds**

The grant will automatically be credited to student's account upon completion of the financial aid application processes and award confirmation. The grant is non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash.

#### Renewing the grant

- Students must reapply each academic year by the institutional deadline and meet eligibility requirements in order to be considered for the Zenith Education Grant. The grant amount may change each year based on the student's:
- Determined financial need
- Enrollment
- Timeliness of his/her financial aid application

# Workforce Scholarships and Grants, Including Youth, Adult and Displaced Workers

This campus is recognized by many public and non-profit organizations as an approved institution to support state and local workforce education and employment initiatives. As educational benefit programs become available, the campuses seek eligibility with the funding organizations. Therefore, if you are unemployed, under employed, or otherwise eligible youth or adult, you may qualify for various workforce educational benefit programs. Eligibility criteria for workforce educational assistance and benefits available vary by state, community and school, so check with the funding organization to see whether you qualify.

### **Military Scholarships**

**Military Scholarship:** Military personnel serving in components of the Armed Forces, which include the US Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Activated Guard/Reserve and US Coast Guard, Military spouses of active military personnel serving in components of the Armed Forces, which include the US Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Guard/Reserve and US Coast Guard, and Veterans using VA Education Benefits are eligible to apply for the Military Scholarship. Additionally, dependents using VA Education Benefits are eligible to apply for the Military Scholarship.

The scholarship includes a quarterly tuition award applied as a credit to the student's account. Scholarship funds are set at the beginning of each fiscal year and are awarded on a continuing basis until funds for the fiscal year are depleted. Scholarship awards may not exceed 50% of tuition charged for the term. The scholarship is non-transferrable and non-substitutable and cannot be combined with any other program. The scholarship or program with the greatest benefit to the student will be applied.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must meet entrance requirements for program of study. Applicants must be a US military service member, or a dependent or spouse of a US military service member, and provide proof by submitting a copy of official military documentation prior to the start of the term. Documents include valid military ID card, Leave and Earnings Statement, DD214, etc. The scholarship may be renewed from quarter-to-quarter so long as the recipient remains enrolled, maintains satisfactory academic progress, and maintains a 2.50 cumulative grade point average.

#### Payment Schedule:

Member Status	Military Scholarship Amount	
US Military Service Member (All Programs) - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Activated National Guard, and Reservists	50% Military Scholarship	
<b>Military Spouse</b> - spouses of active duty military personnel serving in components of the Armed Forces, which include the US Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and US Coast Guard	10% Military Scholarship	
Veteran - veteran using VA education benefits	10% Military Scholarship	
Military Dependents - using VA education benefits	10% Military Scholarship	

#### Veteran's Assistance Programs

The VA administers education programs for veterans and their eligible dependents. The VA determines student eligibility and assists students with utilizing these benefits.

For information about U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits for veterans and their families, call (888)-GI-BILL-1 (888-442-4551) or visit <u>http://www.gibill.va.gov</u>. VA education benefits include but are not limited to the following:

- Post-9/11 GI Bill ® (Chapter 33) http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911\_gibill.asp
- Transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill 
   Benefits to Dependents (TEB)
   <u>http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911\_transfer.asp</u>
- Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow\_ribbon.asp
- Montgomery GI Bill 
   <sup>®</sup> Active Duty (Chapter 30) http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibil/mgib\_ad.asp
- Montgomery GI Bill ® Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR / Chapter 1606) http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib\_sr.asp
- Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP / Chapter 32) <u>http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/veap.asp</u>
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP / Chapter 1607)\* http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/reap.asp
- Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA / Chapter 35)
   <u>http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor\_dependent\_assistance.asp</u>

- ٠
- National Call to Service Program (NCS) <u>http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/national\_call\_to\_service.asp</u> Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31) <u>http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/eligibility\_and\_entitlement.asp</u> •

\*Only applies to existing recipients through 2019

# ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

## STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Altierus does not and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, disability, sex, pregnancy (including childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, and recovery therefrom), sexual orientation, national origin, citizenship status, gender identity or status, veteran status, actual or potential parental, family or marital status in the administration of its educational and admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, or other school-administered programs. For information on discrimination-related grievances, please see the Discrimination Grievance Procedures section.

### **CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE**

Altierus complies with federal laws including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, all as amended from time to time. The Campus Director has been designated as the Civil Rights Coordinator and will coordinate the efforts of Altierus to comply with all relevant civil rights laws. Inquiries should be directed to this person at the campus contact information located in this catalog.

# DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION PROCEDURE

Altierus's disability accommodation procedure is a collaborative and interactive process between the student and the Civil Rights Coordinator. The student will meet with the Civil Rights Coordinator on campus to request and submit an Accommodation Request form and discuss disability related needs. The Civil Rights Coordinator is available to the student to assist with questions and provide assistance in filling out the Accommodations Request form. The student will provide a completed Accommodations Request form and documentation of their medical condition to the Civil Rights Coordinator for review. The documentation of a medical condition may be from a licensed medical doctor, psychologist, audiologist, speech pathologist, registered nurse, licensed clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, rehabilitation counselor, physical therapist, learning disability specialist, or other appropriate health professional. This documentation should verify the medical condition and suggest appropriate accommodation(s) suggested the Campus Director (the Civil Rights Coordinator) will work with the student to determine how the accommodation(s) can be provided. The accommodation(s) will depend on the needs of the particular student and the accommodation(s) suggested or recommended, and can include but are not limited to the following examples: extended time on exams, quiet environment for testing, a reader for exams, oral exams, note taker/faculty notes, eBooks/Software reader, and ASL interpreter.

If the request for an accommodation is denied, the student is informed of their right to appeal the decision and the necessary steps to file an appeal. To file an appeal the student should supply documentation and/or other evidence to substantiate the need for the denied accommodation(s). The evidence is submitted to the Civil Rights Coordinator with a new accommodation form marked appeal.

# **DISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

A student initiates the Discrimination Grievance Procedure by contacting the Civil Rights Coordinator for all disability-related complaints and all other complaints alleging discrimination carried out by employees, other students, or third parties. The Civil Rights Coordinator and Campus Director can be reached at the campus contact information located in this catalog. A student's participation in any informal resolution procedures is voluntary and he/she may pursue this formal grievance procedure at any time. The Civil Rights Coordinator or Campus Director or his/her designee will explain the complaint procedures and assist the student in filing a complaint. The complaint need only be a written letter containing allegations that specifically identify the discriminatory conduct, the person(s) who did it, and all witnesses the student believes can support the allegations. A complaint should be made as soon as the student believes he/she has been discriminated against, but no later than within 180 days of the date that the alleged discrimination occurred, or the date on which the student could reasonably have learned of the discrimination.

When a complaint is filed, the Civil Rights Coordinator or Campus Director or his/her designee begins an investigation within 14 days. The student, the accused, and any witnesses they identify are interviewed. Any relevant documents identified by these persons are reviewed. Within 45 days of the complaint, the Civil Rights Coordinator or Campus Director or his/her designee will inform the student and accused in writing of sufficient or insufficient evidence to confirm the student's allegations, state the key facts, reasons why that conclusion was reached, and outline any proposed resolution or corrective action if applicable, subject to any applicable privacy constraints. The student is also notified of the right to appeal the investigation conclusion. An appeal must be made in writing to the Director of Academic Services, who may be reached at the Student Help Line number or email address below within 15 days of receiving notice about the investigation conclusion. Within 15 days of receiving the appeal, the Director of Academic Services will review the matter and provide a decision in writing.

Complaints are investigated in a manner that protects the privacy and confidentiality of the parties to the extent possible. No employee or agent of the School may intimidate, threaten, coerce or otherwise discriminate or retaliate

against any individual because he or she has filed a complaint or participated in the complaint resolution process. If a student believes any such retaliation has occurred, a complaint of retaliation should be filed according to the procedure described above. Altierus makes every effort to prevent recurrence of any finding of discrimination and corrects any discriminatory effects on the grievant and others, if appropriate.

If the Civil Rights Coordinator or Campus Director is the subject of the grievance, the student should contact the Student Services Manager at the Student Help Line at (800) 874-0255 or via email at <u>StudentServices@zenith.org</u>. The Student Helpline in consultation with the appropriate Academic Services team member(s) will provide guidance to the student for initiating and submitting their grievance in writing to <u>StudentServices@zenith.org</u>.

#### CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Altierus seeks to create an environment that promotes integrity, academic achievement, and personal responsibility. All Altierus schools should be free from violence, threats and intimidation, and the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests must be protected at all times.

To this end, Altierus Code of Student Conduct sets forth the standards of behavior expected of students as well as the process that must be followed when a student is accused of violating those standards. Reasonable deviations from the procedures contained herein will not invalidate a decision or proceeding unless, in the sole discretion of the School, the deviation(s) significantly prejudice the student.

The Executive Director or Campus Director is responsible for appropriately recording and enforcing the outcome of all disciplinary matters.

#### **Conduct Affecting On- Campus Safety**

Altierus will take all appropriate actions to protect the safety and security of our campus community. Every student has the right to fair and reasonable treatment. No one may be excluded on the basis of disability, race, ethnicity, national origin, creed, gender, age, sexual orientation, economic status, or other protected status. A student whose conduct threatens property or the health/safety of any person may be immediately suspended. Examples of such conduct may include:

- Possessing alcohol or other intoxicants, drugs, firearms or other weapons, explosives, dangerous devices, or dangerous chemicals on school premises
- Theft
- Vandalism or misuse of the school's or another's property
- Harassment or intimidation of others, including bullying or cyberbullying
- Endangering yourself or others, infliction of physical harm
- Any other behavior deemed inappropriate by the school

#### **Conduct Affecting Student Learning**

Disciplinary action, including suspension/dismissal, may be initiated against any student based upon reasonable suspicion of involvement to commit any of the following:

- Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication or other forms of academic dishonesty
- Falsifying, or altering documents; misusing documents, funds, or school property
- Disruptive actions, including:
  - Use of cell phones or other electronic devices for voice or text communication in the classroom, unless permitted by the instructor
  - Use of any device to make an audio, video, or photographic record of any person while in class, on campus, at off-campus sponsored activities or events, and housing without that person's prior permission
- Failure to comply with school policies or directives
- Any action that interferes with the learning environment or the rights of others

While students have the right to freedom of expression, including the right to dissent, protest, or articulate exception to the material and assessments offered in any course, this expression cannot interfere with the rights of others, hinder instruction, or disrupt the process of the school. Students have a responsibility to express ideas in a safe and respectful manner.

#### Limitations on Students with Pending Disciplinary Matters

Any student with a pending disciplinary matter shall not be allowed to:

- Graduate or participate in graduation ceremonies; or
- Engage in any other school-related activities determined by the school

Additionally, if a student withdraws from school at any point during the disciplinary process, the student is not eligible for readmission or transfer to another campus prior to resolving the outstanding disciplinary issue. Disciplinary matters are addressed in accordance with written policies and procedures and follow accreditor standards and expectations.

#### Inquiry by the Campus Director

If the Campus Director (or designee), in his or her sole discretion, has reason to believe that a student has violated the Code of Student Conduct, the Campus Director (or designee) shall conduct a reasonable inquiry and determine an appropriate course of action. If the Campus Director (or designee) determines that a violation has not occurred, no further action shall be taken.

#### Conduct that does not Result in Suspension or Dismissal

If the school determines that the student's behavior may have violated this Code, but does not warrant a suspension or dismissal, the school will promptly provide the student with a written warning. Multiple written warnings may result in a suspension or dismissal.

#### **Conduct Resulting in Suspension or Dismissal**

If the school determines that a student's behavior should result in a suspension or dismissal, the school will promptly provide the student with a written notice of:

- The conduct resulting in the suspension or dismissal;
- The specific penalty being imposed;
- The student's right to submit a written appeal within five calendar days following the date of the school's suspension or dismissal determination

#### ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE STATEMENT

Altierus does not permit or condone the use or possession of marijuana, alcohol, or any other illegal drug, narcotic, or controlled substance by students. Possession of these substances on campus is cause for dismissal.

#### STUDENT USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES POLICY

IT resources may only be used for legitimate purposes, and may not be used for any other purpose which is illegal, unethical, dishonest, damaging to the reputation of the school, or likely to subject the school to liability. Impermissible uses include, but are not limited to:

- Harassment;
- Libel or slander;
- Fraud or misrepresentation;
- Any use that violates local, state/provincial, or federal law and regulation;
- Disruption or unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications;
- Disruption or unauthorized changes to the configuration of antivirus software or any other security monitoring software;
- Unauthorized copying, downloading, file sharing, or transmission of copyright-protected material, including music;
- Violations of licensing agreements;
- Accessing another person's account without permission;
- Introducing computer viruses, worms, Trojan Horses, or other programs that are harmful to computer systems, computers, or software;
- The use of restricted access computer resources or electronic information without or beyond a user's level of authorization;
- Providing information about or lists of Zenith users or students to parties outside Zenith without expressed written permission;
- Downloading or storing company or student private information on portable computers or mobile storage devices;
- Making computing resources available to any person or entity not affiliated with the school;
- Posting, downloading, viewing, or sending obscene, pornographic, sexually explicit, hate related, or other offensive material;
- Academic dishonesty as defined in the Code of Student Conduct
- Use of Zenith logos, trademarks, or copyrights without prior approval;
- Use for private business or commercial purposes.

#### **COPYRIGHT POLICY**

It is the intention of Altierus to strictly enforce a policy of zero tolerance for copyright violations and to comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Any student who engages in the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, is subject to disciplinary actions by the school, or any applicable actions in conjunction with federal and state law.

#### SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Altierus is required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and 34 C.F.R. Part Sec. 106.9.not to discriminate on the basis of sex in the educational programs and activities which it operates. Altierus strives to provide a safe working and learning environment at all its schools and is committed to creating and sustaining a positive learning environment, free of discrimination, including sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. Such behaviors are prohibited both by law and School policy, and will not be tolerated on any Altierus campus. The School will respond promptly to reports of sexual harassment and sexual violence and will take appropriate action to prevent, to correct, and when necessary, to discipline behavior that violates School policy.

Refer to Appendix A for further information.

#### SANCTIONS

Sanctions should be commensurate with the nature of the student's conduct. All sanctions imposed should be designed to discourage the student from engaging in future misconduct and whenever possible should draw upon educational resources to bring about a lasting and reasoned change in behavior.

**Suspension** – A sanction by which the student is not allowed to attend class for a specific period of time. Satisfactory completion of certain conditions may be required prior to the student's return at the end of the suspension period. During a period of suspension, a student shall not be admitted to any other Zenith school.

**NOTE:** Student absences resulting from a suspension shall remain in the attendance record regardless of the outcome of any disciplinary investigation or the decision of the Student Conduct Committee.

**Dismissal** – A sanction by which the student is withdrawn from school. Such students may only reapply for admission with the approval of the Campus Director. Students dismissed from the school remain responsible for any outstanding balance owed to the school.

#### **APPEAL PROCESS**

Students are entitled to appeal any sanction which results in suspension or dismissal. The appeal must be in writing and filed within five (5) calendar days of the date of the written notice. If the student files a timely appeal, the Campus Director (or designee) shall convene a Student Conduct Committee to conduct the hearing. The Committee shall generally include the Campus Director the Academic Dean, a Program or Department Chair, the Student Services Coordinator, or a faculty member. The members of the Committee shall select a Chair. If the alleged violation involves allegations of sexual misconduct committed against faculty or staff, the Committee must include a representative from Corporate or Division Human Resources.

The Committee Chair shall timely schedule a hearing date, and provide written notice to the student. The notice must be mailed or otherwise delivered to the student at least two (2) calendar days prior to the scheduled hearing date, and include notice that the student may:

- Appear in person, but is not required to appear
- Submit a written statement
- Respond to evidence and question the statements of others
- Invite relevant witnesses to testify on his/her behalf
- Submit written statements signed by relevant witnesses

Attendance at the hearing is limited to those directly involved or those requested to appear. Hearings are not open to the public and are not recorded.

The Student Conduct Committee shall:

- Provide the student a full and reasonable opportunity to explain his/her conduct
- Invite relevant witnesses to testify or submit signed statements
- Reach a decision based upon the information submitted prior to the hearing and the testimony and information of the student and witnesses at the hearing
- If the student does not appear, or elects not to appear, the Committee may proceed in the student's absence and the decision will have the same force and effect as if the student had been present

The Student Conduct Committee shall issue a written decision to the student within five (5) calendar days of the date of the hearing which may:

- Affirm the finding and sanction imposed by the Campus Director (or designee)
- Affirm the finding and modify the sanction. Sanctions may only be reduced if found to be grossly disproportionate to the offense
- Disagree with the previous finding and sanction and dismiss the matter. A matter may be dismissed only if the original finding is found to be arbitrary and capricious

The decision of the Student Conduct Committee is final, and no further appeal is permitted.

#### **RECORD OF DISCIPLINARY MATTER**

All disciplinary files shall be kept separate from the student academic files until resolved. Disciplinary files for students who have violated the Code of Student Conduct shall be retained as part of the student's academic file and considered "education records" as appropriate, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Disciplinary records shall be retained in the student's academic file permanently and a note shall be included in the official student information system indicating the date of the disciplinary decision and the sanction imposed.

When circumstances warrant, disciplinary matters shall be referred to the appropriate law enforcement authorities. Additionally, disciplinary records shall be reported to third parties as applicable (e.g. Veteran's Administration).

#### STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

You may bring a complaint against the School and initiate the School's Internal Dispute Resolution procedure by filing a written complaint with your academic advisor. The academic advisor will attempt to provide a decision or resolution within 15 days. If you are not satisfied with your academic advisor's resolution of your complaint, you may appeal his/her decision to the Campus Director. You may then appeal the Executive Director's decision to the Provost of Zenith Education Group. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the internal dispute procedure, you have the option of submitting your claim to arbitration pursuant to the School's Dispute Resolution Policy that was provided at the time of enrollment. You may also obtain a copy of the Internal Dispute Resolution Policy from your academic advisor. You may also, or alternatively, contact the Student Helpline at any time, at (800) 874-0255 or email at studentservices@zenith.org. A student filing a grievance will not be subject to adverse or unfair actions by any school official as the result of initiating the grievance.

If a student feels that the School has not adequately addressed a complaint or concern, the student may also consider contacting the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools or Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges. All complaints considered by the Council must be in written form, with permission from the complainant(s) for the Council to forward a copy of the complaint to the school for a response. The complainant(s) will be kept informed as to the status of the complaint as well as the final resolution by the Council. Please direct all inquiries to:

Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges 2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 302 Arlington, Virginia 22201 (703) 247 4212 www.accsc.org

Students may also contact and file a complaint with the state's agency from the following mailing address.

Colorado Department of Higher Education	Attorney General		
Division of Private Occupational Schools	1300 Broadway, 10th Floor		
1600 Broadway, Suite 2200	Denver, CO 80203		
Denver, CO 80202	Phone: 720-508-6000		
Phone: (303) 862-3001	Consumer Line: 800-222-4444		
Website: https://highered.colorado.gov/dpos/	Fax: 720-508-6030		
	attorney.general@state.co.us		
	Website: http://www.coloradoattorneygeneral.gov/		

A person claiming pecuniary loss as a result of a deceptive trade or sales practice, pursuant to C.R.S. § 12-59-

117, must be filed within two years after the student discontinues training at the school, or any time prior to the commencement of training.

#### DRESS CODE

Students must adhere to the campus dress code standards and are expected to dress in a manner that would not be construed as detrimental to the student body, the educational process or wear any clothing that has expressed or implied offensive symbols or language. Students should always be aware of the first impression of proper dress code and grooming, and note that Altierus promotes a business atmosphere where instructors and guests are professionals and potential employers. In addition, students may be required to wear uniforms that present a professional appearance.

#### NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the institution receives a request for access.

A student should submit to the Registrar's Office a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The Registrar will make arrangements for access and will notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the Registrar, the Registrar shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

A student who wishes to ask the institution to amend a record should write to the Registrar, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed.

If the institution decides not to amend the record as requested, the institution will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the institution discloses personally identifiable information from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The institution discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the institution in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the institution has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using institution employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor or collection agent); a person serving the institution in an advisory capacity; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

Upon request, the institution also discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

Altierus is committed to the protection of student education information. Altierus does not publish a student directory, however, Zenith may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without a student's written consent, unless the student has advised Zenith to the contrary. Altierus expressly limits its designated directory information to students' names, addresses, phone numbers, graduation dates, programs of study, degrees, diplomas, certificates, dates of attendance and honors/awards received. A student who wishes to opt-out of the disclosure of this information must obtain a Directory Information Opt-out Form from the Registrar's Office and submit the completed form to the Registrar.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the institution to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202

#### STUDENT RECORDS

All student academic records are retained, secured, and disposed of in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations. Altierus maintains complete records for each student, including grades, attendance, prior education and training, placement, financial aid and awards received. Student records are maintained on campus for five years. Additionally, electronic transcripts are maintained permanently on campus.

#### TRANSCRIPT AND DIPLOMA RELEASE

Requests for transcripts must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar via the school electronic transcript service provider. Student records may be released only to the student or his/her designee as directed by the Family

Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Students will receive one free transcript at the time of graduation with their diploma. Additional transcripts are \$10.00 per copy.

Pursuant to Florida law, any student enrolled at or seeking an official transcript from a Florida campus will not be eligible to receive an official transcript if the student is determined to be in default in making legally required payments on any student loan made or guaranteed by the State of Florida or its agencies (such as the Florida Office of Student Financial Assistance ("OFSA")), including any OFSA scholarship loan, student loan, or guaranteed loan. Any such student may not receive an official transcript until the loan is paid in full or the default status has been removed.

Altierus is working with Parchment to provide electronic delivery of official transcripts to students. Students can request their transcript by going to https://www.altierus.edu/alumni or by contacting the Registrar office for assistance.

Transcripts will be delivered electronically to the student's destination of choice if:

Student has a record in the current student information system

Student is current with their financial obligation to the campus, and student owes the campus an outstanding balance of \$1,500 or less

Upon graduation, all students who are current with their financial obligation to the campus will receive their diploma. Note: Students who have outstanding balances above \$1,500 may receive an unofficial copy of their transcript.

#### CAMPUS SECURITY AND CRIME AWARENESS POLICIES

As required by Public Law 101-542, as amended by Public Law 102-325, Title II, Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990, Section 294, Policy and Statistical Disclosures, Altierus has established policies regarding campus security.

Altierus strives to provide its students with a secure and safe environment. Classrooms and laboratories comply with the requirements of the various federal, state and local building codes, with the Board of Health and Fire Marshal regulations. Most campuses are equipped with alarm systems to prevent unauthorized entry. Facilities are opened each morning and closed each evening by administrative personnel.

In emergency situations, students should call 911 for an immediate response from the local law enforcement agency. Thereafter, the crime should be reported to the Campus Director (or designee). In non-emergency situations, the crime should be reported as soon as possible to the Campus Director (or designee) and the local law enforcement agency. All students are encouraged to report all crimes and public safety incidents to the Campus Director (or designee) in a timely manner. The Campus Director (or designee) shall document each incident reported and determine an appropriate response based on the nature of the incident. All victims of crime that occur on campus shall be provided with the opportunity to report the incidents to the local law enforcement authority.

Students are responsible for their own security and safety both on-campus and off-campus and must be considerate of the security and safety of others. The school has no responsibility or obligation for any personal belongings that are lost, stolen or damaged, whether on or off school premises or during any school activities.

On May 17, 1996, the President of the United States signed Megan's Law into federal law. As a result, local law enforcement agencies in all 50 states must notify schools, day care centers, and parents about the presence of dangerous offenders in their area. Students are advised that the best source of information on the registered sex offenders in the community is the local sheriff's office or police department. The following link will provide you with a list of the most recent updated online information regarding registered sex offenders by state and county: <a href="https://www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/sex-offender-registry">https://www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/sex-offender-registry</a>

#### **DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS POLICY**

The Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, Public Law 101-226, requires institutions receiving Federal financial assistance to implement and enforce drug prevention programs and policies. Students shall receive a copy of the Drug-Free Schools/Drug-Free Workplace Annual Disclosure upon enrollment, and thereafter no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year they are enrolled. The information and referral line that directs callers to treatment centers in the local community is available through Student Services.

Altierus prohibits the manufacture and unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol by students on its property and at any school activity. If students suspect someone to be under the influence of any drug or alcohol, they should immediately bring this concern to the attention of the Campus Director or Academic Dean. Students who violate the school's prohibitions against alcohol, controlled substances, and drugs are subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the school. Information on the disciplinary process may be found in the school catalog. When circumstances warrant, a violation of this policy may also be referred to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

In certain cases, students may be referred to counseling sources or substance abuse centers. If such a referral is made, continued enrollment is subject to successful completion of any prescribed counseling or treatment program.

#### STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Altierus is required to report to students the occurrence of various criminal offenses on an annual basis. On or before October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the school will distribute a security report to students containing the required statistical information on campus crimes committed during the previous three years. A copy of this report is available to prospective students upon request.

#### **CAMPUS COMPLETION RATE REPORTS**

Under the Student Right to Know Act (20 U.S.C. § 1092(a)), Altierus is required to annually prepare completion or graduation rate data respecting the institution's first-time, full-time undergraduate students (34 CFR 668.45(a)(1)). Altierus is required to make this completion or graduation rate data readily available to students approximately 10 months after the 150% point for program completion or graduation for a particular cohort of students. This completion rate report is available to students and prospective students upon request.

#### FACULTY ACCESSIBILITY

Students may reach out to faculty outside of course regular schedule hours for any academic or course advising. The student and instructor can set up a time to meet before or after and through any sort of technology such as email, text or phone call throughout the period during which the course is offered. All instructors distribute their email and phone number contact information on the first day of every module or term to all students.

# STUDENT SERVICES

#### ORIENTATION

New students participate in an orientation program prior to beginning classes. This program is designed to acquaint students with the policies of the school and introduce them to staff and faculty members who will play an important part in the students' academic progress.

#### **HEALTH SERVICES**

Altierus does not provide health services.

#### HOUSING

Altierus does not provide on-campus housing. If you need assistance in locating suitable housing, please reach out to your advisor for options.

#### TUTORING

Tutoring is available to students as needed; a student needing tutoring should talk to their instructor or program director to set it up.

#### STUDENT ADVISING

Academic advising is coordinated by the Academic Dean and includes satisfactory academic progress, attendance, and personal matters. The Registrar and Academic Program Directors serve as advisors and assist students in course selection and registration, dropping and adding courses, change of major, and meeting graduation requirements.

#### ALTIERUS CARE PROGRAM

The Altierus CARE Student Assistance program is a free personal-support program for our students and their families. This program provides enrolled students direct and confidential access to professional counseling. For more information, please visit the website <u>https://www.altieruscares.com</u> or call (888) 852-6238.

#### PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE

Altierus maintains an active Career Services Office to assist graduates in locating entry-level, educationally related career opportunities. The Career Services Office works directly with business, industry, and advisory board members to assist all students with access to the marketplace. Altierus does not, in any way, guarantee employment. It is the goal of the Career Services Office to help all students realize a high degree of personal and professional development and successful employment. Specific information on job opportunities and basic criteria applicable to all students and graduates utilizing placement services is available in the Career Services Offices.

#### **TEMPORARY CAMPUS CLOSING WEATHER**

To provide continued services to students, it is Zenith's policy that all schools remain open according to their regular hours of operation. However, certain situations, such as holidays, special events, inclement weather, and emergencies, may arise that necessitate the temporary closure of a Zenith campus. In the event it becomes necessary for a location to temporarily close students will be notified using a notification software/system. Zenith will communicate site closures, delayed start, and early close. Campus leadership may also send notices about special events and other general reach out messages to communicate with students. The system will send notice via landline, cell phone—audio and text, and email. All students are required to keep their contact information current in CampusVue at all times in order to be reached with these important messages. The Campus Director reserves the right to schedule make up hours and/or assignments for hours missed due to any school closures. The students will be notified of these make up hours and be required to attend or be marked absent.

## **PROGRAM OFFERED**

# DEGREE PROGRAM Surgical Technologist\* \*Enrollments are no longer accepted in this program.

**Diploma Programs with Externships** – The total program length could be longer than the length indicated in the description of the diploma programs in this catalog. Externship schedules are determined by the student and the externship site, thus externship schedules are variable. To complete the program in the timeframe indicated, the student would have to schedule the externship for forty (40) hours per week. Students scheduling their externship for less than forty (40) hours per week will take more time to complete the program. All students are expected to complete their externship within approximately 120 days.

### QUARTER-BASED PROGRAM



SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST

Associate of Applied Science Degree 24 Months – 94 Credits

Surgical technologists are allied health professionals who are an integral part of the team of medical practitioners providing surgical care to patients in a variety of settings. They work under medical supervision to facilitate the safe and effective conduct of invasive surgical procedures. This individual works under the supervision of a surgeon to ensure that the operating room or environment is safe, that equipment functions appropriately, and that the operative procedure is conducted under conditions that maximize patient safety.

The surgical technologist possesses the appropriate expertise in the theory and application of sterile and aseptic technique and combines the knowledge of human anatomy, surgical procedures, and implementation tools and technologies to facilitate a physician's performance of invasive therapeutic and diagnostic procedures. The goal and objective of this 1350-hour program is preparation of the student to be a competent entry-level surgical technologist by achievement and demonstration of learning within the following three domains: cognitive (knowledge), affective (behavior) and psychomotor (skills). Students must complete a minimum of 120 cases prior to completion of Clinical Rotation II. Students must complete 30 cases in general surgery; 20 of those cases must be in the First Scrub Role (FSR); 10 is the maximum number of cases in the Second Scrub Role (SSR) that can be applied to the total 30 general surgery cases. Students must complete 90 cases in various surgical specialties: 60 of those cases must be in the FSR and evenly distributed between a minimum of 5 surgical specialties; 15 is the maximum number of cases that can be counted in any one surgical specialty; 30 is the maximum number of cases in the SSR that can be applied to the total 90 surgical specialties. Diagnostic endoscopy cases and vaginal delivery cases are not mandatory, but up to 10 diagnostic endoscopic cases and 5 vaginal delivery cases can be counted towards maximum number of SSR cases. Observation cases are to be documented but do not count towards the 120 cases. The clinical case requirements must meet the Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology, 6th Edition. Student activities associated with the curriculum must be educational. Students will be required to complete 500 hours of clinical rotation for completion of this program. The 500 hours cannot be completed in the work place of the student or in a work setting where the student is being compensated for the hours.

Upon successful completion of the entire course of study, students are eligible to take the national certification exam, sponsored by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) 30 days prior to program completion or 30 days post program completion. The NBSTSA is a nationally recognized certification exam for the surgical technologist. NBSTSA is located at 6 West Dry Creek Circle, Ste.100, Littleton, CO 80210. www.nbstsa.org, Phone (800) 707-0057 Fax (303) 325-2536. The NBSTSA awards certificates to those who demonstrate their theoretical and practical knowledge by passing the National Surgical Technologist (CST). To sit for the certification exam, the student must be a graduate of CAAHEP-(ARC/STSA) or ABHES accredited programs.

**Note:** This program requires clinical placement in contracted off campus sites. Sites must be identified and contracted to meet the enrollment numbers. This insures placement of the students and decreases the potential for over enrollment.

Course Number	Course Title	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Extern Hours	Clock Hours	Quarter Credits
College Core	e Requirements					
CGS 2060	Computer Applications	30	20	0	50	4.0
SLS 1317	Strategies for Health Care Professional Success	40	0	0	40	4.0
	College Core Totals	70	20	0	90	8.0
Major Core F	Requirements				•	•
STS 1001	Principles & Practices of Surgical Technology	40	0	0	40	4.0
BSC 1085	Anatomy & Physiology I	40	0	0	40	4.0
BSC 1086	Anatomy & Physiology II	40	0	0	40	4.0
HSC 1529	Diseases of the Human Body	40	0	0	40	4.0
MCB 2000	Microbiology & Infection Control	40	0	0	40	4.0
STS 2007	Surgical Pharmacology	40	0	0	40	4.0
STS 2171	Surgical Technology I	30	20	0	50	4.0
STS 2172	Surgical Technology II	30	20	0	50	4.0
STS 2173	Surgical Procedures I	40	40	0	80	6.0
STS 2174	Surgical Procedures II	40	40	0	80	6.0
STS 2175	Clinical Rotation I	0	0	150	150	5.0
STS 2176	Clinical Rotation II	0	0	350	350	11.0
STS 2200	Surgical Technologist Certification Examination Review	20	0	0	20	2.0
	Major Core Totals	400	120	500	1020	62.0
General Edu	cation Requirements					
ENC 1101	Composition I	40	0	0	40	4.0
ENC 1102	Composition II	40	0	0	40	4.0
EVS 1001	Environmental Science	40	0	0	40	4.0
MAT 1033	College Algebra	40	0	0	40	4.0
PSY 2012	General Psychology	40	0	0	40	4.0
SPC 2017	Oral Communications	40	0	0	40	4.0
	General Education Totals	240	0	0	240	24.0
	Program Totals:	710	140	500	1350	94.0

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### **COURSE NUMBERING SYSTEM**

This institution uses the following course numbering system:

- 000-099 Preparatory courses
- 100-2999 Lower division (first and second year) courses

Students enrolled in Associate Degree programs take courses in the lower division. The letters that accompany the numbering system normally refer to the course subject manner, such as MAN = management. The numbers that follow the course prefix increase in sequence to indicate a more in-depth and complex level of the particular subject area.

The following course descriptions are for all courses offered by the College. Each course is periodically reviewed to assure relevance and inclusion of current business practices. All courses are offered at least once per academic year ensuring their availability for students so that they may complete their programs and achieve their planned graduation date. Students who fail or withdraw from classes will have to complete required courses when next offered.

#### BSC 1085 - Anatomy and Physiology I

This course is a scientific study of the structure of the human body and its parts including relationships and functions of the integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous system, special senses and the endocrine systems. Prerequisite None Co-Requisite SLS 1317 (for ST students). Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 0.

#### BSC 1086 - Anatomy and Physiology II

This course is a study of the structure of the human body and its parts including relationships and functions of the cardiovascular, lymphatic, respiratory, digestive, urinary and reproductive systems. Prerequisites SLS 1317(For ST Students), BSC 1085 Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 0.

#### CGS 2060 - Computer Applications

This course introduces the essential concepts necessary to make effective use of the computer. Students achieve an understanding of what a computer can do, how it works, and how it can be used to create documents using word processing and spreadsheet applications for personal and business use. Prerequisite None. Lecture Hours 30. Lab Hours 20.

#### ENC 1101 - Composition I

This course provides instruction and practice in expository writing and emphasizes grammatical and mechanical accuracy and proper essay form. Emphasis is placed on clarity, logical organization, unity, and coherence of central ideas and supporting material. Prerequisite None. Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 0.

#### ENC 1102 - Composition II

4.0 Quarter Credits This course builds on the writing process and rhetorical strategies, including argumentative rhetoric, while devoting attention to critical thinking, and documentation of research and resources. Students will use a variety of research approaches and rhetorical strategies to compose an essay and other written communications. Prerequisite ENC 1101. Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 0.

#### EVS 1001 - Environmental Science

This course covers environmental issues and illustrates the importance of environmental science in students' daily lives. The relationship between humans and the environment is explored to demonstrate to students their role in the state of the environment. Environmental issues such as invasive species, climate change, pollution, and corrective actions will be studied. Prerequisite None. Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 0.

#### HSC 1529 - Diseases of the Human Body

4.0 Quarter Credits This course provides a study of the human body's diseases and disorders, including signs, symptoms, etiology, diagnosis, and treatment. Prerequisites BSC 1085, BSC 1086. Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 0.

#### MAT 1033 - College Algebra

The algebra of linear and guadratic equations, graphing, functions, inequalities, rational expressions, radicals, and system of equations. The course emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving skills. Prerequisite None. Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 0.

### MCB 2000 - Microbiology and Infection Control

This course is designed to provide the student with an overall understanding of basic microbiology, infection control, disease processes and the body's defenses against them, and wound healing, as well as the terminology associated with each of these areas of concentration. Prerequisite: SLS 1317(for ST students). Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 0.

#### 4.0 Quarter Credits

4.0 Quarter Credits

4.0 Quarter Credits

4.0 Quarter Credits

#### 4.0 Quarter Credits

#### 4.0 Quarter Credits

4.0 Quarter Credits

#### PSY 2012 – General Psychology

This course covers the fundamental theories and principles of human psychology with an emphasis on applying the concepts to life and work in order to promote effective critical thinking and learning, understanding of emotions and motivations, positive social and workplace interactions, and the importance of the roles played by the unconscious and subconscious minds. Beginning with the historical foundations of psychology, students will study the groundwork for more contemporary perspectives. Study of the brain and its developmental stages, cognitive, motivational, and emotional functions, as well as disorders and their treatment provide a holistic investigation of the human mind as we know it. Prerequisite None. Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 0.

#### SLS 1317 - Strategies for Health Care Professional Success

This course is designed to prepare students for transition in their health care professional education and life. The course includes introduction to the college and its resources, professionalism, study skills, test-taking skills, critical thinking, medical terminology, abbreviations, math review, communication, teamwork, information technology, learning styles along with written and personal resource management skills. Students will be actively involved in learning and integrating practical applications to promote success. Prerequisite None. Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 0.

#### SPC 2017 - Oral Communications

This course is designed to develop students' ability to communicate effectively. Emphasis is placed upon the basic elements of communication in order to strengthen students' interpersonal and professional speaking skills. Prerequisite None. Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 0.

#### STS 1001 - Principles and Practices of Surgical Technology

This course is designed to provide the student with an overall understanding and orientation to the field of surgical technology. Included in this course are professional responsibilities and relations, interpersonal relationships and communication skills, death and dying, legal and ethical responsibilities, the operating room environment, and safety. Prerequisite None. Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 0.

#### STS 2007 - Surgical Pharmacology

This course is designed to provide the student with an overall understanding of the theory and the hands-on applications involved in surgical pharmacology. Prerequisites SLS 1317, MAT 1033. Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 0.

#### STS 2171 - Surgical Technology I

This course is designed to provide the student with an overall understanding and the hands-on skills involved in following medical and surgical aseptic techniques and in providing basic pre-operative care to the surgical patient. Prerequisites SLS 1317, STS 1001. Lecture Hours 30. Lab Hours 20.

#### STS 2172 - Surgical Technology II

This course is designed to provide the student with an overall understanding of the theory and the hands-on applications involved in the use and maintenance of surgical instruments and equipment. Prerequisite STS 2171. Lecture Hours 30. Lab Hours 20.

#### STS 2173 - Surgical Procedures I

This course is designed to provide the student with an overall understanding of the theory and hands-on applications involved in general surgery, as well as specific surgical procedures involving the gastrointestinal system, the reproductive system and obstetrics, and the genitourinary system. Prerequisites BCS 1085, BSC 1086, HSA 1529, STS 2172, Lecture Hours 40, Lab Hours 40,

#### STS 2174 - Surgical Procedures II

This course is designed to provide the student with an overall understanding of the theory and the hands-on applications involved in surgical procedures of the ear, nose, and throat, ophthalmic surgery, plastic surgery, orthopedic surgery, surgery of the nervous system, thoracic surgery, and cardiovascular and peripheral vascular surgery. Prerequisite STS 2173. Lecture Hours 40. Lab Hours 40.

#### STS 2175 - Clinical Rotation I

This 150-hour course is designed to provide the student with supervised, practical hands-on and observational experiences in the clinical area. As part of the experience, students may rotate throughout various departments within the clinical area. Prerequisite STS 2174. Lecture Hours 0. Clinical Rotation Hours 150.

# 4.0 Quarter Credits

4.0 Quarter Credits

#### 4.0 Quarter Credits

6.0 Quarter Credits

#### 6.0 Quarter Credits

5.0 Quarter Credits

#### 4.0 Quarter Credits

# 4.0 Quarter Credits

4.0 Quarter Credits

#### 4.0 Quarter Credits

#### STS 2176 - Clinical Rotation II

#### 11.0 Quarter Credits

This course is a continuation of the skills practiced in STS 2175C with continued supervised, practical hands-on and observational experiences in the clinical area. During this rotation, students will rotate throughout the operating room, as well as other surgical and non-surgical departments, including the obstetrics delivery room, emergency room, and the out-patient surgery department. Prerequisites STS 2174, STS 2175. Lecture Hours 0. Clinical Rotation II Hours 350.

#### STS 2200 - Surgical Technologist Certification Examination Review

#### 2.0 Quarter Credits

This course is designed to guide students in the preparation for the Surgical Technologist Certification Examination. Test-taking strategies will be discussed and implemented with an in-depth review of application level questions that require critical thinking skills. A review will be provided of the Surgical Technologist knowledge, skill, and abilities necessary to provide quality surgical patient care. Prerequisites STS 2174, STS 2175. Lecture Hours 20. Lab Hours 0.

# **TUITION AND FEES**

Degree Program	Credit Hours	Tuition	Estimated Books and Fees
Surgical Technologist*	94	\$27,166 \$289/unit	\$2,800
Tuition for Linear Effective January 1	1, 2016		
* Enrollments are no longer accepted	in this program		

All students enrolled or enrolling in a degree program with an academic year start date of February 2, 2016 or later will be assessed a technology fee of \$150.00 per academic year. Academic years consisting of externship hours only will not be assessed the \$150 lab fee.

#### The quarter based tuition tier flat-rate tuition tables only apply to:

- 1. **New enrolling students.** A new student is defined as a student who has never attended a Zenith Education Group school or has graduated and enrolled in a new program; or
- 2. Re-entering students who have withdrawn and are re-entering greater than 180 days from their withdrawal date (The withdrawn time period is calculated from the student's withdrawal date to the new module or term start date.); or
- 3. Re-entering degree students who are re-entering within 180 days

# For re-entering diploma students who have withdrawn and are re-entering within 180 days, the following tuition charges apply:

Same Program (Same / New Program Version):

Will be charged tuition at the original tuition rate reflected on the original enrollment agreement less the amount charged on the prior period of enrollment (Charges plus or minus any tuition adjustments).

Same Program (New Program Version of Different Credits / Length of Program): Will be charged tuition at the current catalog rate for the program of enrollment less the amount charged on the prior period of enrollment (Charges plus or minus any tuition adjustments).

#### Different / New Program (Program Change)

Will be charged tuition at the current catalog rate for the program of enrollment. A tuition credit will be determined for the student's prior period of enrollment.

Additional Fees	Amount
Proficiency Examination Testing Fee - Non-refundable fee assessed for each Proficiency	\$20.00 per credit
Examination (Cannot be paid from Title IV financial aid funds)	hour
Replacement for Degree	\$20.00
Replacement ID	\$5.00

# **ZENITH EDUCATION GROUP**

# The following schools are owned by Zenith Education Group:

# Altierus Career College

- Henderson, NV\* •
- Houston (Bissonnet), TX Norcross, GA ٠
- ٠
- Tampa, FL •
- Thornton, CO\* ٠

\*School in teach out

# STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

This campus is owned and operated by Zenith Education Group, Inc. (Zenith), a Delaware nonprofit corporation. Zenith's sole member is ECMC Group, Inc., a Delaware nonprofit corporation. Corporate offices for Zenith and ECMC Group are located at:

ECMC Group				
Directors	Officers			
Jeremy Wheaton	Jeremy Wheaton, President and CEO			
John F. DePodesta, Chair	Greg Van Guilder, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer			
Gary M. Cook	Dan Fisher, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary			
Julia Gouw				
I. King Jordan				
James V. McKeon				
Jack O'Connell				
Roberta Cooper Ramo				
Maurice M. Salter				
James E. Murray (Emeritus Dir.)				
Robert A. Stein (Emeritus Dir.)				
Zenith Education Group				
Directors	Officers			
Jeremy Wheaton	Jeremy Wheaton, President and CEO			
John F. DePodesta, Chair	Martin Scanlon, Chief Financial Officer			
Gary M. Cook	Dan Fisher, Secretary			
Gary M. Cook Julia Gouw				
Julia Gouw I. King Jordan	Dan Fisher, Secretary			
Julia Gouw	Dan Fisher, Secretary			
Julia Gouw I. King Jordan	Dan Fisher, Secretary			
Julia Gouw I. King Jordan James V. McKeon	Dan Fisher, Secretary			
Julia Gouw I. King Jordan James V. McKeon Jack O'Connell Roberta Cooper Ramo Maurice M. Salter	Dan Fisher, Secretary			
Julia Gouw I. King Jordan James V. McKeon Jack O'Connell Roberta Cooper Ramo	Dan Fisher, Secretary			

#### 111 Washington Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55401

# ADMINISTRATION

THORNTON CAMPUS		
Carissa Seger	Executive Director	
Colleen Lott	Academic Dean	
Diane Booren Director of Career Services		
Randy Hanson	Manager, Financial Aid	

# **CATALOG SUPPLEMENT**

See the catalog supplement for information related to the faculty listing.

# ACADEMIC CALENDARS

Please note: The end dates for any program with no online or distance-based attendance or academic requirements will be the Friday immediately preceding the end date listed in all of the calendars below.

#### **MODULAR PROGRAMS**

2018 -	oma Calendar - 2019	Modular/Diploma Student Holiday/Breaks		
Start Dates	End Dates	2018 - 2019		
1/8/2018	2/2/2018	Holiday/Student Breaks Start Dates		End Dates
2/5/2018	3/4/2018	-		
3/5/2018	4/01/2018	Christmas & New Year	12/23/2017	1/1/2018
4/9/2018	5/6/2018	Holidays	4/45/0040	4/45/0040
5/7/2018	6/3/2018	Martin Luther King Day	1/15/2018	1/15/2018
6/4/2018	7/1/2018	Presidents Day	2/19/2018	2/19/2018
7/9/2018	8/5/2018	Student Break	4/2/2018	4/8/2018
8/6/2018	9/2/2018	Memorial Day	5/26/2018	5/28/2018
9/4/2018	9/30/2018	Student Break	7/2/18	7/8/18
10/8/2018	11/4/2018	Labor Day	9/1/2018	9/3/2018
11/5/2018	12/2/2018	Student Break	10/1/18	10/7/18
12/3/2018	1/6/2019	Thanksgiving Holiday	11/22/2018	11/25/2018
1/7/2019	2/3/2019	Christmas & New Year	12/24/2018	1/1/2019
2/4/2019	3/3/2019	Holidays	4/04/0040	4/04/0040
3/4/2019	3/31/2019	Martin Luther King Day	1/21/2019	1/21/2019
4/8/2019	5/5/2019	Presidents Day	2/18/2019	2/18/2019
5/6/2019	6/2/2019	Student Break	4/1/2019	4/7/2019
6/3/2019	6/30/2019	Memorial Day	5/25/2019	5/27/2019
7/8/2019	8/4/2019	Student Break	7/1/2019	7/7/2019
8/5/2019	9/1/2019	Labor Day	9/2/2019	9/2/2019
9/3/2019	9/29/2019	Student Break	9/30/2019	10/06/2019
10/7/2019	11/3/2019	Thanksgiving Holiday	11/28/2019	12/1/2019
11/4/2019	11/27/2019*	Christmas & New Year Holidays 12/24/2019 01/		01/01/2020
12/2/2019	1/5/2020	Tolidays	I	

\*End Date due to Thanksgiving Holiday

#### QUARTER-BASED PROGRAM

Academic Year 2018 - 2019				
Summer Term Starts		July	9	2018
Summer Term Add/Drop Deadline		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
6 Week 1 Courses		July	15	2018
Summer Term Add/Drop Deadline				
12 Week Courses		July	22	2018
Mini-Term Starts		August	20	2018
Mini-Term Add/Drop Deadline		August	26	2018
Labor Day Holiday		September	3	2018
Summer Term Ends		September	30	2018
Fall Break	From:	October	1	2018
	To:	October	7	2018
Fall Term Start		October	8	2018
Fall Term Add/Drop Deadline		Ostaban		0040
6 Week 1 Courses		October	14	2018
Fall Term Add//Drop Deadline 12 Week Courses		Octobor	21	2010
Mini-Term Starts		October November	19	2018 2018
Thanksgiving Day Holiday	From:	November	22	2018
Thanksgiving Day Honday	To:	November	25	2018
Mini-Term Add/Drop Deadline	10.	November	29	2018
Winter Holiday	From:	December	23	2018
	To:	January	 1	2018
Classes Resume	10.	January	2	2019
Fall Term Ends		January	6	2019
		January	0	2019
Winter Term Starts		January	7	2019
Winter Term Add/Drop Deadline		January		2013
6 Week 1 Courses		January	13	2019
Winter Term Add/Drop Deadline				
12 Week Courses		January	20	2019
M.L. King Jr. Birthday Holiday		January	21	2019
Presidents' Day		February	18	2019
Mini-Term Starts		February	19	2019
Mini Term Add/Drop Deadline		February	25	2019
Winter Term Ends	<b>Frame</b>	March	31	2019
Spring Vacation	From:	April	1	2019
	To:	April	7	2019
Spring Term Starts		April	8	2019
Spring Term Add/Drop Deadline		, (p.iii		2010
6 week 1 Courses		April	14	2019
Spring Term Add/Drop Deadline 12 week Courses		April	21	2019
Mini-Term Starts		May	20	2019
Mini Term Add/Drop Deadline		May	26	2019
Memorial Day Holiday		May	27	2019
Spring Term Ends		June	30	2019
Summer Vacation	From:	July	1	2019
	To:	July	7	2019
Independence Day Holiday	Ì	July	4	2019

Academic Year 2019 - 2020				
Summer Term Starts		July	8	2019
Summer Term Add/Drop Deadline		Udiy	- Ŭ	2010
6 Week 1 Courses		July	14	2019
Summer Term Add/Drop Deadline				
12 Week Courses		July	21	2019
Mini-Term Starts		August	19	2019
Mini-Term Add/Drop Deadline		August	25	2019
Labor Day Holiday		September	2	2019
Summer Term Ends		September	29	2019
Fall Break	From:	September	30	2019
	To:	October	6	2019
			-	
Fall Term Start		October	7	2019
Fall Term Add/Drop Deadline				
6 Week 1 Courses		October	13	2019
Fall Term Add/Drop Deadline				
12 Week Courses		October	20	2019
Mini-Term Starts		November	18	2019
Mini-Term Add/Drop Deadline 6 week 2 courses		November	24	2010
	From:	November November	24	2019
Thanksgiving Day Holiday	To:		28 1	2019
	10:	December	1	2019
Winter Holiday	From:	December	24	2019
	To:	January	1	2020
Classes Resume		January	2	2020
Fall Term Ends		January	5	2020
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
Winter Term Starts		January	6	2020
Winter Term Add/Drop Deadline		, in the second s		
6 Week 1 Courses		January	12	2020
Winter Term Add/Drop Deadline				
12 week courses		January	19	2020
M.L. King Jr. Birthday Holiday		January	20	2020
Presidents' Day		February	17	2020
Mini-Term Starts		February	18	2020
Mini Term Add/Drop Deadline		February	24	2020
Winter Term Ends		March	29	2020
Spring Vacation	From:	March	30	2020
	To:	April	5	2020
Spring Term Starts		April	6	2020
Spring Term Add/Drop Deadline		Арш	0	2020
6 week 1 courses		April	12	2020
Spring Term Add/Drop Deadline				
12 Week Courses		April	19	2020
Mini-Term Starts		May	18	2020
Mini Term Add/Drop Deadline		May	24	2020
Memorial Day Holiday		May	25	2020
Spring Term Ends		June	28	2020
Summer Vacation	From:	June	29	2020
	To:	July	5	2020
Independence Day Holiday		July	3	2020

# **OPERATING HOURS**

Office and School Hours				
8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Monday – Thursday			
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM Friday				
Other office hours are available by appointment.				
Individuals are encouraged to stop by or call for an				
appointment at (303) 457-2757				

# **APPENDIX A**

#### Statement on Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention

#### <u>Scope</u>

This policy applies to all members of the campus community and includes, but is not exclusive to, faculty, staff, students, campus visitors, volunteers, vendors, and persons related to, receiving or seeking to receive services from the School, or otherwise pursuing diploma, undergraduate, graduate or refresher studies at the School. It also covers alleged acts of sexual misconduct that adversely affect the campus community, whether those acts occur on or off campus.

#### **Definitions**

**Campus Security Authority -** The Campus Security Authority (CSA) is defined as any individual or an entity to which students and employees should report criminal offenses:

**Clery Act** - is the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, 20 U.S.C.Section 1092(f); 34 C.F.R. Part 668.46

**Consent -** Is a freely given agreement to engage in a specific sexual act. While the explicit definition of consent varies by jurisdiction, the following general rules apply when assessing whether consent was given. The lack of explicit refusal does not imply consent. When there is use of threat or force by the accused, the lack of verbal or physical resistance or the submission by the victim does not constitute consent. The manner of dress of the victim at the time of the offense does not constitute consent. Past consent to sexual contact and/or a sexual history with the accused does not imply consent to future sexual contact. A person who initially consents to sexual contact or penetration may withdraw continued consent at any time during the course of that interaction. Intoxication due to use of alcohol or drugs may impair an individual's capacity to consent freely and may render an individual incapable of giving consent.

**Domestic violence** – is a felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim; a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; a person who is cohabitating or has cohabited with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the jurisdictional domestic or family violence laws; or any other person against a victim who is protected from that person's acts under the jurisdictional domestic or family violence laws.

**Dating violence -** Violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim.

**Rape** - is defined as sexual intercourse or penetration by a body part or object, through use of coercion or force, with someone who has not given or is incapable of giving consent.

**Sexual contact -** is the deliberate touching of a person's intimate body parts (including lips, genitalia, groin, breast or buttocks, or clothing covering any of those areas), or using force to cause a person to touch his or her own or another person's intimate body parts.

Sexual assault - is defined as physical contact of a sexual nature against the victim's will or without the victim's consent.

**Sexual harassment -** is unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment occurs when a student or colleague is the recipient of conduct of a sexual nature where:

(1) Submission to, or toleration of, such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the student's education or colleague's employment; or (2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic decisions about the student or professional decisions about the colleague; or (3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreason-ably interfering with the colleague/student's welfare or professional/academic performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, offensive or demeaning work/academic environment.

**Sexual misconduct** - is a broad term encompassing sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, and stalking. Sexual misconduct can occur between strangers or acquaintances, including people involved in an intimate or sexual relationship. Sexual misconduct can be committed by men or by women, and it can occur between people of the same or different sex.

**Stalking** - is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear for his/her safety. A person commits stalking by knowingly engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person

when the person engaging in the conduct knows or should know that this course of conduct would cause a reasonable person to fear for his/her safety or the safety of a third person or suffer other emotional distress.

Code of Student Conduct- standards of behavior expected of all accepted or enrolled students.

**Title IX Coordinator -** The Title IX Coordinator's purpose is to ensure that an institution maintains an environment for a student that is free from unlawful sex and gender discrimination in all aspects of the educational experience, including academics and extracurricular activities.

**Title IX -** refers to the U.S. Department of Education regulation that governs the efforts of educational institutions to maintain a campus free from sex and gender discrimination, including investigating and remediating sexual misconduct by students, colleagues, or third parties.

VAWA Incident - an incident in relation to domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking

#### **Reporting of Crimes**

In emergency situations, the person reporting the crime should call 9-1-1 for an immediate response from the local law enforcement agency. Thereafter, the crime should be reported to the Campus Security Authority and the appropriate managers indicated on the Emergency Security Escalation Procedures.

In non-emergency situations, the crime should be reported as soon as possible to the Campus Security Authority, the local law enforcement agency and the appropriate management.

All students, employees, and campus guests are encouraged to report all crimes and public safety-related incidents to the Campus Security Authority in a timely manner. The Campus Security Authority shall document each incident reported. All incident reports shall be reviewed by the Campus Director and Corporate Security department, who shall determine an appropriate response based on the nature of the incident.

Bystanders and witnesses are encouraged to not remain silent, and to take an active role in promoting a positive school environment. Bystanders can help in several different ways, particularly in situations involving dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, including direct intervention, seeking assistance from an authority figure, notifying campus security, or calling state or local law enforcement.

All victims of crime that occur on campus shall be provided with the opportunity to report the incidents to the local law enforcement authority. Zenith Education Group reserves the right to treat an offense as a disciplinary matter whether or not it is reported to the local law enforcement agency.

### Options for Reporting and Confidentially Disclosing Sexual Violence

Zenith encourages victims of sexual violence to talk to somebody about what happened, so victims can get the support they need, and so the School can respond appropriately. Different employees on each campus have different abilities to maintain a victim's confidentiality.

- Some may be required to maintain near complete confidentiality; talking to them is sometimes called a "privileged communication." These people would include any Professional or Pastoral Counselors, as described below.
- Some employees are required to report all the details of an incident (including the identities of both the victim and alleged perpetrator) to the Title IX1 Coordinator. A report to these employees (called "responsible employees") constitutes a report to the School – and generally obligates the School to investigate the incident and take appropriate steps to address the situation. These employees include the Campus Director and the Regional Vice President of Operations.

<sup>1</sup> Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities in federally funded schools at all levels. The Title IX Coordinator's purpose is to ensure that an institution maintains an environment for students that is free from unlawful sex discrimination in all aspects of the educational experience, including academics and extracurricular activities. The Title IX Coordinator for the Altierus – Thornton campuses is Susan Samek. Please send your concerns to Zenith Education Group, 111 South Washington Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55401 or to TitleIXquestions@zenith.org. You may also call the Title IX Coordinator directly at 714-825-7161.

This policy is intended to make students aware of the various reporting and confidential disclosure options available to them – so they can make informed choices about where to turn should they become a victim of sexual violence. The School encourages victims to talk to someone identified in one or more of these groups.

The Options

- A. Privileged and Confidential Communications
- Professional and Pastoral Counselors Professional, licensed counselors and pastoral counselors who provide mental-health counseling to members of the school community (and including those who act in that role under the supervision of a licensed counselor) are not required to report any information about an incident to the Title IX Coordinator without a victim's permission.

A victim who speaks to a professional counselor or advocate must understand that, if the victim wants to maintain confidentiality, the School will be unable to conduct an investigation into the particular incident or pursue disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator.

Even so, these counselors and advocates will still assist the victim in receiving other necessary protection and support, such as victim advocacy, academic support or accommodations, disability, health or mental health services, and changes to living, working or course schedules. A victim who at first requests confidentiality may later decide to file a complaint with the School or report the incident to local law enforcement, and thus have the incident fully investigated. These counselors and advocates will provide the victim with assistance if the victim wishes to do so.

NOTE: While these professional counselors and advocates may maintain a victim's confidentiality vis-à-vis the School, they may have reporting or other obligations under state law, such as mandatory reporting to law enforcement in case of minors; imminent harm to self or others; or the requirement to testify if subpoenaed in a criminal case.

ALSO NOTE: If the School determines that the alleged perpetrator(s) pose a serious and immediate threat to the campus community, the CSA may be called upon to issue a timely warning to the community. Any such warning should not include any information that identifies the victim.

#### B. Reporting to Responsible Employees

A "responsible employee" is a School employee who has the authority to address sexual violence, who has the duty to report incidents of sexual violence or other student misconduct, or who a student could reasonably believe has this authority or duty.

When a victim tells a responsible employee about an incident of sexual violence, the victim has the right to expect the School to take immediate and appropriate steps to investigate what happened and to resolve the matter promptly and equitably.

A responsible employee must report to the Title IX Coordinator and Corporate Security Department all relevant details about the alleged sexual violence shared by the victim and that the School will need to determine what happened – including the names of the victim and alleged perpetrator(s), any witnesses, and any other relevant facts, including the date, time and specific location of the alleged incident.

To the extent possible, information reported to a responsible employee will be shared only with people responsible for handling the School's response to the report. A responsible employee should not share information with law enforcement without the victim's consent or unless the victim has also reported the incident to law enforcement.

The Campus Director is the School's responsible employee.

Before a victim reveals any information to a responsible employee, the employee should ensure that the victim understands the employee's reporting obligations – and, if the victim wants to maintain confidentiality, direct the victim to confidential resources.

If the victim wants to tell the responsible employee what happened but also maintain confidentiality, the employee should tell the victim that the School will consider the request, but cannot guarantee that the School will be able to honor it. In reporting the details of the incident to the Title IX Coordinator and Security department, the responsible employee will also inform the Title IX Coordinator and Security department of the victim's request for confidentiality.

Responsible employees will not pressure a victim to request confidentiality, but will honor and support the victim's wishes, including for the School to fully investigate an incident. By the same token, responsible employees will not pressure a victim to make a full report if the victim is not ready to do so.

#### Requesting Confidentiality From the School: How the School Will Weigh the Request and Respond

If a victim discloses an incident to a responsible employee but wishes to maintain confidentiality or requests that no investigation into a particular incident be conducted or disciplinary action taken, the School must weigh that request against the School's obligation to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all students, including the victim.

If the School honors the request for confidentiality, a victim must understand that the School's ability to meaningfully investigate the incident and pursue disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator(s) may be limited.

Although rare, there are times when the School may not be able to honor a victim's request in order to provide a safe, non-discriminatory environment for all students.

The School has designated the Title IX Coordinator to evaluate requests for confidentiality once a responsible employee is on notice of alleged sexual violence.

When weighing a victim's request for confidentiality or that no investigation or discipline be pursued, the Title IX Coordinator will work with the Corporate Security department to consider a range of factors, including the following:

- The increased risk that the alleged perpetrator will commit additional acts of sexual or other violence, such as:
  - o whether there have been other sexual violence complaints about the same alleged perpetrator;
    - whether the alleged perpetrator has a history of arrests or records from a prior school indicating a history of violence;
    - whether the alleged perpetrator threatened further sexual violence or other violence against the victim or others;
  - whether the sexual violence was committed by multiple perpetrators;
  - whether the sexual violence was perpetrated with a weapon;
- whether the victim is a minor;

•

- whether the School possesses other means to obtain relevant evidence of the sexual violence (e.g., security cameras or personnel, physical evidence);
- whether the victim's report reveals a pattern of perpetration (e.g., via illicit use of drugs or alcohol) at a given location or by a particular group.

The presence of one or more of these factors could lead the School to investigate and, if appropriate, pursue disciplinary action. If none of these factors is present, the School will likely respect the victim's request for confidentiality.

If the School determines that it cannot maintain a victim's confidentiality, the School will inform the victim prior to starting an investigation and will, to the extent possible, only share information with people responsible for handling the School's response.

The School will remain ever mindful of the victim's well-being, and will take ongoing steps to protect the victim from retaliation or harm and work with the victim to create a safety plan. Retaliation against the victim, whether by students or School employees, will not be tolerated. The School will also:

- assist the victim in accessing other available victim advocacy, academic support, counseling, disability, health
  or mental health services, and legal assistance both on and off campus;
- provide other security and support, which could include issuing a no-contact order, helping arrange a change
  of living or working arrangements or course schedules (including for the alleged perpetrator pending the
  outcome of an investigation) or adjustments for assignments or tests; and
- inform the victim of the right to report a crime to campus or local law enforcement and provide the victim with assistance if the victim wishes to do so.

The School may not require a victim to participate in any investigation or disciplinary proceeding.

Because the School is under a continuing obligation to address the issue of sexual violence campus-wide, reports of sexual violence (including non-identifying reports) will also prompt the School to consider broader remedial action – such as increased monitoring, supervision or security at locations where the reported sexual violence occurred; increasing education and prevention efforts, including to targeted population groups; conducting climate assessments/victimization surveys; and/or revisiting its policies and practices.

If the School determines that it can respect a victim's request for confidentiality, the School will also take immediate action as necessary to protect and assist the victim.

All victims of crime that occur on campus shall be provided with the opportunity to report the incidents to the local law enforcement authority. Zenith reserves the right to treat an offense as a disciplinary matter whether or not it is reported to the local law enforcement agency.

At Zenith schools, the Campus Director shall be the primary Campus Security Authority, and typically designates another campus employee as a CSA Assistant. In the absence of the Campus Director the Regional Vice President of Operations will act as the Campus Security Authority.

All students, employees, and campus guests are encouraged to report all crimes and public safety-related incidents to the Campus Security Authority in a timely manner. The Campus Security Authority shall document each incident reported. All incident reports shall be reviewed by the Campus Director and the Corporate Security Department who shall determine an appropriate response based on the nature of the incident.

#### Take Back the Night and other public awareness events

Public awareness events such as "Take Back the Night," the Clothesline Project, candlelight vigils, protests, "survivor speak outs" or other forums in which students disclose incidents of sexual violence, are not considered notice to the School or Zenith of sexual violence for purposes of triggering its obligation to investigate any particular incident(s).

#### **Off-campus Counselors and Advocates.**

Off-campus counselors, advocates, and health care providers will also generally maintain confidentiality and not share information with the School unless the victim requests the disclosure and signs a consent or waiver form.

NOTE: While these off-campus counselors and advocates may maintain a victim's confidentiality vis-à-vis the School, they may have reporting or other obligations under state law, such as mandatory reporting to law enforcement in case of minors; imminent harm to self or others; or the requirement to testify if subpoenaed in a criminal case.

#### Campus Security Authority

The Campus Security Authority shall have the authority to ask persons for identification and to determine whether individuals have lawful business at the school. The Campus Security Authority shall cooperate with law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction over the campus as necessary to ensure campus safety. The Campus Security Authority does not have arrest power. All crime victims and witnesses are strongly encouraged to immediately report alleged crimes to the Campus Security Authority and to the appropriate law enforcement agency, but victims are not required to notify such authorities.

The Campus Security Authority (CSA) is defined as any individual or an entity to which students and employees should report criminal offenses, including:

- A campus police department or a campus security department;
- An individual or individuals who have responsibility for campus security but who do not constitute a campus
  police department or a campus security department (e.g., an individual who is responsible for monitoring the
  entrance into institutional property);
- Any individual or organization specified in an institutional statement of campus security policy as an individual or organization to which students and employees should report criminal offences (e.g., Campus Director, etc.);
- An official of who has the authority and the duty to take action or respond to particular issues on behalf of the institution and who has significant responsibility for student and campus activities, including but not limited to, student housing, student discipline and campus judicial proceedings.

Where applicable, the institution shall uphold orders of protection, "no-contact" orders, restraining orders, or similar lawful orders issued by a criminal, civil, or tribunal court.

### Sexual Offences<sup>2</sup> Reporting and Disciplinary Procedures

Sexual offences are a violation of the Code of Student Conduct and the Sexual Harassment Policy as stated in the School catalog. Victim(s) of any sexual offences should immediately seek assistance from local law enforcement authorities, the local rape crisis center, and/or the Campus Security Authority. School personnel shall be available to assist the student in notifying these authorities if the victim chooses, as well as counsel the victim of the importance of preserving evidence for the proof of a criminal offence.

2 "Sexual Offences" as defined by the 2013 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act include: Sexual Assault (Rape, Fondling, Incest, or Statutory Rape), Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking.

#### **Disciplinary Action**

All allegations of any sexual offences or VAWA Incidents shall be investigated by the appropriate Title IX Coordinator and the Corporate Security Department. Allegations against students shall be investigated pursuant to the Code of Student Conduct.

Disciplinary procedures in cases of alleged sexual offences or VAWA Incidents shall: (1) provide prompt, fair, and impartial investigation and resolution; (2) be conducted by officials who are trained annually on how to investigate and conduct hearings on domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking; (3) give the accused and the accuser the same opportunities to have an advisor or others (e.g., witness or advocate) present during the proceeding and related meetings; (4) be conducted under a "preponderance of the evidence" standard, and (5) simultaneously notify the accused and accuser of the outcome, appeal procedures, and final results.

Students who are determined to have violated the School's prohibitions against sexual offences are subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the School. Detailed information regarding the disciplinary procedure for sexual offences and VAWA Incidents can be found in the Code of Student Conduct. As appropriate, the matter shall be referred to the appropriate law enforcement authorities for investigation and prosecution.

The school shall change a victim's academic situation after a sex offense or alleged sex offense if those changes are requested by the victim, and are reasonably available. The student may seek assistance in requesting a change from the Campus Security Authority. Changes offered to student victims include the following:

- Transfer into the same program at another Zenith school;
- Transfer into a different academic program at the same school;
- Change in academic schedule;
- Change in externship location/assignment;
- Leave of absence/withdrawal from School; and
- Change in living situation (on campuses that offer housing).

#### Violence against Women

Zenith is committed to creating and sustaining a positive learning and working environment, free of discrimination, including sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking.

Such behaviors are not tolerated on any Zenith campus and are prohibited both by law and School policy. The School will respond promptly to reports of sexual harassment and sexual violence and will take appropriate action to prevent, to correct, and when necessary, to discipline behavior that violates School policy.

#### Campus Community Safety is Primary

The School's primary concern is the safety of its campus community members. The use of alcohol or drugs never makes the victim at fault for sexual discrimination, harassment or violence; therefore, victims should not be deterred from reporting incidents of sexual violence out of a concern that they might be disciplined for related violations of drug, alcohol or other School policies. Except in extreme circumstances, victims of sexual violence shall not be subject to discipline for related violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

As required by the 2013 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, all Zenith Schools shall include subcategories for all Sexual Offences reported to the Campus Security Authority. Sexual Offences include: Sexual Assault (Rape, Fondling, Incest, or Statutory Rape), Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking.

#### Victim Confidentiality

The School will use its best efforts to ensure that:

- All publicly available safety and security records, reports, and disclosures shall not include any personally identifying information about the victim; and
- It will maintain as confidential any accommodation or protective measures to the victim, to the extent that
  maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the institution to provide the accommodation or
  protective measures.