



# FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY



## Fort Hays State receives HLC accreditation reaffirmation

Fort Hays State University is excited to announce the reaffirmation of its accreditation by the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). This significant achievement underscores the university's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and student success.

The accreditation reaffirmation process, which occurs on a 10-year cycle through the HLC, involved a comprehensive review of Fort Hays State University's academic programs, faculty qualifications, student support services, and institutional resources. In addition to reaffirming FHSU's accreditation, the HLC noted that all criteria were fully met, setting the next review cycle for 2033-34.

"Receiving reaffirmation for another decade speaks volumes about the quality of education provided at Fort Hays State University," said Dr. Angela Pool-Funai, Graduate School Dean and Assistant Provost for Academic Programs. "This reaffirmation not only validates our commitment to academic excellence but also serves as a testament to the mission-centered dedication and hard work of our entire university community."

The IAC recognized Fort Hays State University's completion of a significant revision to the core curriculum and its efforts to enhance assessment processes as key factors in its decision. Additionally, the successful

implementation of a Quality Initiative project focused on meaningful assessment across campus was recognized as a noteworthy achievement.

"Fort Hays State University offers a high-quality education to students all over the world," said Jill Arensdorf, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. "This important reaffirmation of our accreditation allows us to keep fulfilling our mission to develop engaged global citizen-leaders."

## Cross-Border Partnerships expand FHSU's global reach

A common misconception about Fort Hays State's international partnerships is that they are all in China. The university's two dual-degree partnerships in China have been around for nearly 30 years, and our global reach has expanded significantly beyond the borders of China over the past decade. Nearly 25% of FHSU's total enrollment in the 2022-23 academic year came from our partnership campuses in Bolivia, Brazil, China, Cambodia, and Senegal.

The FHSU model focuses on exposing international students to a full, western-style college degree experience. Our faculty live on our Cross-Border partner campuses, teaching English, business, leadership, and health studies. These are basic, primarily undergraduate programs, and do not involve sensitive research, intellectual property, or cybersecurity issues. Our model is very different from Chinese government-sponsored educational programs (like Confucius Institutes on American college campuses) that serve primarily to promote the Chinese language and culture in America. Finally, FHSU is not a research partner with any university in China. The "Cross Border" programs first

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launched in China are highly vetted and firmly established partnerships that align with the university's KBOR-approved mission and Higher Learning Commission-accredited academic programming.

### IT Security

International students enrolled in our cross-border programs are serviced by separate student information systems from our U.S.-based students, and the learning management system for these students is hosted outside of the U.S. Our cross-border students, including those learning in China, do not have access to any of our U.S.-based student information or IT systems.

As the international IT security landscape has evolved in recent years, we have also ramped up our international travel and IT security policies and protocols. We also recently engaged a cybersecurity company to help bolster our security capabilities across all locations, including international.

### The Financial Bottom Line

Without the annual revenues from our cross-border China programs and our rapidly expanding new cross-border programs (over \$9.7M in FY23 from China alone), we estimate that our tuition rates would need to increase by almost 12% just to address lost revenue.

### **FHSU and IpX launch partnership to award academic credit for professional certification**

The Institute for Process Excellence (IpX) and Fort Hays State University announce a groundbreaking industry and higher education alliance to deliver CM2 certification training and corresponding academic credit.

IpX's Configuration Management, or CM2, certification is the industry standard for process excellence, and IpX's challenging curriculum provides certification holders with the foundational knowledge that allows them to leverage institutional knowledge, optimize product offerings, and conceptualize the products of tomorrow with complete end-to-end ecosystem traceability. CM2-trained professionals have the skills to engineer new efficiencies into their operations, find ways to reduce costs, make their enterprises more agile, understand and mitigate risks, communicate more effectively, and help their organizations become more resilient.

IpX has delivered education and professional services to over 2,000 companies in 40 countries for over 35 years. FHSU is partnering with IpX to offer academic credit to CM2-Core or CM2-Pro earners to recognize the quality of the education provided through its Idea Academy and acknowledge the expertise adult learners bring with them as they seek further formal education. FHSU will award up to 6 hours of undergraduate or 3 hours of graduate credit toward completion of eligible FHSU degree programs. This alliance is part of FHSU's commitment to increasing professional and continuing education through industry partnerships, contributing to workforce development, and ensuring learners have access to lifelong learning and opportunities to reskill and upskill throughout their careers.

### **Need-based awards work for FHSU students**

Fort Hays State University students would rather work than depend solely on college loans and grants. More than 93% of all respondents to a 2021 Docking Institute survey reported earning income from some form of work, and 61% said they work and receive scholarship/grant assistance in some form.

Need-based financial awards like The Kansas Comprehensive Grant help more than 1,400 hard-working FHSU students with a demonstrated financial need turn the dream of a college education into an affordable reality. The total financial support FHSU students receive from the Kansas Comprehensive grant this academic year will exceed \$3.2 million.

Fort Hays State University also supports 1,590 online and on-campus students through other need-based aid funding programs. The following is a breakdown of need-based awards currently accessed by FHSU students:

- Early College Program scholarships and housing assistance: \$380,000
- Access to Academic Opportunity Grant (AAOG): \$52,000
- Campus At-risk Students: \$198,000
- Online Undergraduate Student Need-based program: \$740,000
- Graduate School Need-based program: \$790,000
- Need-based Renewable Merit Awards: \$900,000
- Summer Need-Based Awards: \$480,000