Online Policy Statement:

The University of Arizona, as Arizona's land grant university, was founded with the specific intention of empowering individuals and communities to participate in the transformation of society. Even as the UA has manifested this commitment to opportunity and innovation, we have particularly emphasized quality in our endeavors, and have taken our place among the top twenty public research universities in the U.S., and are consistently ranked among the top 100 universities in the world.

Indeed, our continuing success is based on a commitment to quality, on innovation in knowledge creation and dissemination, on resilience and responsiveness to challenge and opportunity, and reliance on an emerging global network of academic relationships. The UA has in fact become a critical hub in an expanding global knowledge network. These principles may help clarify our role in the ever more complex environment of digital education.

In the summer and fall of 2012, the University undertook a comprehensive strategic planning process. Nearly every college noted the need to respond more comprehensively to the challenges and opportunities presented by distributed education via both online and hybrid learning. In addition, most colleges cited the need to be more responsive to digital learners, to take advantage of technology to connect learners to the University and to each other, and to extend the University's reputation and reach. In short, we must be more strategic in evaluating the role of technology in enhancing the Arizona Experience.

Noting the evolving role of technology in higher education, an online task force was formulated by the Office of the Provost to develop guiding principles related to our involvement in the online environment. The task force established the following guiding principles.

1. All online courses and programs must reflect the same academic quality and standards as other UA programs and courses regardless of mode of instruction.

2. UA faculty must be responsible for course and program content and quality, even if outside vendors assist with various aspects of program marketing, recruitment, instructional design or various student services.

3. Admission and graduation standards for online programs will be consistent with usual processes and practices for all UA programs.

4. The pricing structure for UA online programs must consider the market for similar or competitive online programs offered by other institutions.
5. Online degree programs bearing the same name as an on-campus degree program will have the same content (with appropriate latitude for the distributed environment) and general requirements, and achieve the same competencies and quality as the on-campus degree program. Transcripts will not differentiate by mode of delivery.

6. UA will offer online programs within professional programs, graduate certificates, masters and doctoral degrees, and a limited number of undergraduate degrees aimed at particular market or stakeholder needs.

7. Undergraduate degrees will be primarily 2+2 type degree programs, with a community college (or other four year or international college) offering the first two years of education, and the upper division of the program offered online by UA.

8. Faculty may only develop and offer courses or programs through the Outreach College when the intended audience is entirely off campus.

Success requires a commitment to quality, innovation and impact in our educational experience, our creative endeavors, and in our community relationships. We embrace the opportunity to extend the mission and reach of the UA through appropriate technology, consistent with the quality of a premier public research university.

**Definitions for online courses and online programs:**

**Fully Online Course:** all instruction takes place online with no required in-person activities with program staff or instructors. Instruction may be asynchronous or require some synchronous online “meetings”. The course description should indicate whether synchronous activities and in-person exams are required.

**Fully Online Program:** the instructional mode is completely online, but program requirements may include attendance at an orientation session, proctored exams, or independent off-line work or a field trip or an internship without regular in-person contact with program staff or instructors.