



an organizational chart. To repeat, the consortium board runs the program, not a single partner. To embark on a consortium all parties must be open to these terms. Consortium operation must be documented in a formal contract, agreement or memorandum of understanding. Sample documents are available here. The consortium approach has the potential to bring more depth, more resources, and a broader base to your educational program which in turn can lead to a higher quality education for the students and a more competent graduate.

So isn't a consortium the same as having an articulation agreement with an institution accredited by a recognized sponsor? Well no. An articulation agreement typically refers to a written agreement with an institution that is authorized to provide college credit to individuals completing the educational program. Credit is provided to those students who desire it, not necessarily all students. The college partner awards credit but is not necessarily involved in the operation of the education program.

The concepts involved are important and are part of the core structure or foundation of the program. The operation, ownership, or other core elements of a paramedic program may change and evolve over time and the individuals responsible for the program must stay abreast of the current accreditation requirements. If you have questions about the structure of your program, how to find more information on approved postsecondary education resources, or how to develop a consortium, contact Bill Goding at bill@coaemsp.org or 214-703-8445, ext. 113.