



COLLEGE *for* AMERICA

AT SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY

Academic Catalog  
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## College for America at Southern New Hampshire University Overview

College for America (CfA) is an online, competency-based college within Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). SNHU is a not-for-profit, independent institution with no religious affiliation. SNHU's mission is to educate intellectually and culturally enriched individuals to be successful in their careers and contribute to their communities. SNHU's educational philosophy challenges students' intellectual potential and prepares them for professional lives in an ever-changing and increasingly interconnected world. It provides a supportive and close-knit learning community, delivering engaging instruction in a flexible variety of formats. Students develop the knowledge to understand a complex world, the skills to act effectively within that world and the wisdom to make good choices.

### CfA Mission

We radically expand and improve the quality of higher education through low-cost, competency-based degrees that are more applicable in the workplace.

### Overview of CfA Program

College for America partners with employers and other partners nationwide to offer their employees or members the chance to earn a college degree using a competency-based approach that is uniquely affordable, can be scheduled flexibly around busy lives, and is more applicable to the workplace than a traditional degree. Students master competencies rather than completing courses.

Competencies are can-do statements such as:

- Can define and use marketing terminology and concepts
- Can generate a variety of approaches to addressing a problem
- Can distinguish fact from opinion
- Can convey information by creating charts and graphs

Students demonstrate mastery of competencies by completing Projects, which typically integrate multiple competencies from different content and skill areas. Projects include learning and skill-building resources as well as rubrics with which students' work is assessed.

This competency-based approach focuses on learning, not seat time or credit hours. Students move at their own pace, which allows them to move more quickly through areas in which they have strong preparation and spend more time in areas in which they do not. No matter what educational background students bring to College for America, all graduates leave having demonstrated mastery of the same set of competencies in the most critical areas, including communication, critical and creative thinking, and collaboration and teamwork. College for America's curriculum, grounded in well-regarded frameworks for higher education, rests on the building blocks of the Lumina Foundation's Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP) and the U.S. Department of Labor competency models, among others.

### **Evaluation of Student Work**

Each Project that a student submits is evaluated by a trained Reviewer, an educational professional who has been selected for his or her subject matter expertise as well as experience in online education. The Reviewer uses analytic, binary rubrics rather than traditional grades to provide feedback on student work and also provides text comments. For each rubric category, a student either has fulfilled the criterion or has not yet fulfilled the criterion. To complete a Project, the student must fulfill every criterion of the rubric. A student may revise and resubmit work until all rubric criteria have been satisfied.

### **Eligibility for Program**

CfA is not currently open to the general public. Students must be employees of a CfA partner organization or participants in a CfA partner program.

### **Accreditation**

Southern New Hampshire University is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., (NEASC) through its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.

Inquiries regarding the accreditation status by the New England Association should be directed to the administrative staff of Southern New Hampshire University. Individuals may also contact:

Commission on Institutions of Higher Education  
New England Association of Schools and Colleges  
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100, Burlington, MA 01803-4514  
(781) 425-7785  
[cihe@neasc.org](mailto:cihe@neasc.org)

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges is the regional accreditation agency for colleges and universities in the six New England states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

NEASC's Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a reliable authority on the quality of education for the institutions it accredits. Recognition by the Department of Education provides access to federal financial aid for U.S. students attending institutions accredited by the Commission.

## State Authorizations

As an institution that has students residing across the United States, Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is required to have authorization to operate in a number of states based on the activities it conducts in the states. SNHU is not required to have state authorization in all 50 states. Currently SNHU has the following state authorizations.

Maine Department of Education  
23 State House Station  
August, ME 04333-0023  
<http://www.maine.gov/education/highered>

Minnesota Office of Higher Education  
1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55108-5227  
<http://www.ohe.state.mn.us>

Southern New Hampshire University is registered as a private institution with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, sections 136A.61 to 136A.71. Registration is not an endorsement of the institution. Credits earned at the institution may not transfer to all other institutions.

Montana University System  
Office of Commissioner of Higher Education  
2500 Broadway Street  
P.O. Box 203201  
Helena, MT 59620-3201  
<http://mus.edu>

New Hampshire Department of Education  
101 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
630-271-0257  
<http://www.education.nh.gov/highered/colleges>

Vermont Agency of Education  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501  
<http://education.vermont.gov>

Wisconsin Educational Approval Board  
201 W. Washington Ave., 3rd Floor  
P. O. Box 8696  
Madison, WI 53708  
<http://eab.state.wi.us/board>

Wyoming Department of Education  
2300 Capitol Avenue  
Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0050  
<http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/schools>

### **Catalog Versions**

The CfA catalog is updated periodically to incorporate new or edited policies. Students must follow the program requirements associated with the catalog version of their enrollment date. If a student withdraws and later re-enrolls in the CfA program, he or she must fulfill the program requirements associated with the catalog version in effect at the time of his or her return.

### **Degree Offered**

Currently, CfA offers the Associate of Arts (A.A.) in General Studies

### **A.A. in General Studies**

The A.A. in General Studies requires students to master 120 competencies in nine key areas:

- Communication
- Critical and creative thinking
- Quantitative skills
- Digital fluency and information literacy
- Personal effectiveness
- Ethics and social responsibility
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Science, society and culture
- Elective (Business Essentials)

Students demonstrate mastery of these competencies by completing Goals, which are made up of Projects.

### **Goals for the A.A. in General Studies**

To earn the A.A. in General Studies from Southern New Hampshire University through College for America, a student must complete 20 Goals:

- Access Information\*
- Analyze Data
- Apply Economic Theories
- Build Teamwork through Marketing
- Chart the Evolution of Media
- Confront Culture
- Consider the Environment
- Decode Media
- Develop a Budget\*

- Establish a Professional Presence
- Evaluate Popular Psychology
- Examine Ethical Perspectives
- Experience Art
- Experiment with Psychology
- Explore Writing
- Investigate Business Ethics
- Leverage Business Tools\*
- Manage People\*
- Plan for Success
- Solve Problems\*

\*Some projects are specially contextualized in a healthcare setting to increase school-to-work relevancy, available in our Associate Degree in General Studies for Nonclinical Healthcare degree option.

On completion of each Goal, a student earns the equivalent of three hours of college credit from Southern New Hampshire University in a specific course.

Each Goal is made up of 5-8 competencies.

There are currently two Paths to completing a Goal:

- Purple, which includes one, complex Project (and enables students to demonstrate mastery of all 5-8 relevant competencies); and
- Blue, which includes both small (1-2 competencies) and medium-sized (3-4 competencies) Projects. Students pursuing the Blue Path complete all Blue Projects within the Goal.

In consultation with the Learning Coach, a student selects a Path to follow for each Goal. All students need to complete at least three Purple Path Projects to earn the A.A. degree. Both Paths enable students to demonstrate the same competencies.

### **Academic Support Services**

The Learning Coach is the most important support and contact person in the College for America program. At the start of the program, each student is assigned a Learning Coach who will serve as the primary point of contact throughout the program. The Learning Coach works closely with the student to set goals, to establish a pace for finishing Projects, and to develop the student's broader support network. The support network includes an Accountability Partner, chosen by the student, who will help keep him or her motivated and on track. Students may also choose a Mentor from his or her place of work, who will help the student with career development.

The College for America program includes several other avenues of support as well. Reviewers evaluate Projects and provide timely, encouraging and specific feedback on



academic work. In the case that a student must resubmit a Project, he or she will receive feedback from the same Reviewer on the resubmission. College for America also has a virtual community space in which students can receive academic and technical support from both peers and College for America staff.

### Academic Honesty Policy

1. To be enrolled in CfA, all students must sign an Academic Honesty Policy form indicating that they have read and understood the policy and possible consequences for violating it.
2. All suspected violations of this policy will be brought to the attention of the Chief Academic Officer of CfA (CAO) as soon as possible. Within ten (10) business days of being made aware of a possible violation of academic honesty, and before imposing a penalty, the CAO must notify:
  - a. The student, via an email to the student's CfA email address, of the suspicion of dishonesty and allow the student an opportunity to discuss the situation on an informal or unofficial basis. Students must respond to the CAO's initial inquiry within 5 business days of receiving the notification;
  - b. The student's Learning Coach; and
  - c. The CfA Academic Honesty Committee (AHC), which will review the student's remaining body of work across the CfA program as expeditiously as possible.
3. After reviewing the student's entire CfA body of work, the AHC will determine whether the violation was an unintended mistake or a willful and calculated act of dishonesty. The AHC will document its finding in a letter to the CAO.
4. After receiving the final AHC letter, the CAO shall determine what penalty, if any, will be sanctioned. The CAO will communicate the outcome to the student through CfA email.
  - a. If the AHC determines that the violation was an unintended mistake rather than a purposeful act of dishonesty, then the CAO may use the occasion to help educate the student about standards of academic honesty. For example, the student might be required to correct the original assignment or submit a substitute assignment.
  - b. If the AHC determines that the student is in violation of the academic honesty policy through a willful and calculated act of dishonesty, then the CAO shall send an email notifying the student that he or she has been formally charged with a violation of the policy and the sanction.
  - c. Possible sanctions include:
    - i. Cancellation of mastery credit for particular competencies.
    - ii. Warning: An email notice informing the student that an allegation of academic dishonesty has been substantiated and warning the student that subsequent violations may result in more severe sanctions.
    - iii. Disciplinary Probation: An email notice detailing the violation, the length of probation and any other terms of probation. Students on probation who violate academic honesty face more severe sanctions.
    - iv. Disciplinary Suspension: Separation from CfA for a specified amount of time after which the student is eligible to return.
    - v. Disciplinary Dismissal from CfA: Permanent separation from CfA without the possibility of readmission.

5. If the student denies the allegation and wishes to appeal the charge of violation of academic honesty, then no later than ten (10) business days after receiving the formal charge email, the student may request an appeal via email to the Executive Director (ED) of CFA.
6. The ED shall review the AHC's determination and issue a decision, notifying the student, the student's Learning Coach, the AHC, and the CAO by email. The ED's decision cannot be appealed.

### **Tuition and Billing**

Tuition is billed \$1,250 per 6 month enrollment term. This is a flat rate and is not assessed based on the number of competencies that the student does or does not complete. Bills are generated and mailed to the student's home address.

Students will rarely, if ever, be required to purchase books or other materials or pay fees. Students must, however, have access to a computer and an internet connection. See the *Computers and Technology* section for more information.

### **Payment**

All bills are due on the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month of the start of the term. College for America offers multiple convenient payment options including credit card, cash, check, tuition deferment, monthly payment plans and federal financial aid.

### **Payment Options**

#### Payment Plan

In order to participate in a payment plan, the student must sign a Payment Plan Contract and authorize the University to deduct monthly automated payments from a debit/credit card. If the student fails to make any scheduled payment the University reserves the right to cancel the Payment Plan Contract and the balance of tuition will become immediately due or access to the online program will be terminated.

#### Title IV Federal Financial Aid

Students enrolled at College for America may be eligible to receive Title IV federal financial aid. A student may apply for Federal Title IV financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. A FAFSA form may be completed at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). When prompted, list Southern New Hampshire University's federal school code: 002580. The student must meet all eligibility requirements to qualify. If you have any questions regarding payment, please contact One Stop at (603) 626-9100 ext. 2730.

#### Third Party Billing and Military Tuition Assistance

A student eligible to participate in third party direct billing, in which a third party will authorize direct billing from the University, must first submit a third party voucher/letter or military tuition assistance form to the One Stop Office. The voucher must include beginning and end dates of the academic term, other fees covered (if any) and the maximum dollar value of the voucher prior to the payment due date.

### Employee Reimbursement

Many CfA corporate and community partners provide tuition reimbursement for their employees. The specific policies regarding employee tuition reimbursement are determined with each partnering organization. Students should contact their Human Resources Department for information regarding specific employee reimbursement programs.

### Deferred Tuition Plan

A student receiving tuition benefits from an employer may qualify for deferred tuition. A student on a Deferred Tuition Plan Contract may carry a one-term outstanding balance, allowing the student to register for the next term while not being assessed interest charges. Eligibility is based on completion of a Deferred Tuition Plan Contract prior to the payment due date. The Deferred Tuition Plan Contract must be renewed annually.

### **Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for Financial Aid**

To be eligible for federal financial aid, students must master a minimum of 18 competencies per six-month term. Please contact One Stop at (603) 626-9100, ext. 2730 for more information about SAP requirements.

### **Trial Period of Enrollment**

A student is offered a trial period of enrollment for the first 30 days of the first term of the program. This trial period allows the student to participate in the program before deciding to make a financial commitment to enroll and attend as a regular student. The student is not considered to be fully enrolled until the completion of the trial period. During this time the student does not incur a financial obligation or earn federal Title IV financial aid. Any competencies earned during the trial period will not be considered mastered unless the student fully enrolls. At the completion of the trial period the student will become fully enrolled and responsible for all charges, including those incurred during the trial period. Any student who attends during the trial period and who wishes to receive federal Title IV student aid funds after becoming fully enrolled must meet all other student eligibility criteria as provided in the federal regulations. Once determined to be fully enrolled, an otherwise eligible student becomes eligible for federal Title IV student aid funds for the entire term, which includes the trial period. Students who wish to withdraw prior to the end of the trial period should contact their Learning Coach and complete a Withdrawal Form.

### **Cancellation and Refund Policy**

With the exception of the first term, for which there is a 30 day trial period, students have 14 days from the start of the term to cancel enrollment and receive a full refund of any tuition paid for that term. If the student withdraws after the 14 day period, the student will be responsible for the full tuition amount. If the student withdraws or is dismissed from CfA, the University and/or the student may be required to return a portion of any Federal Title IV financial aid received. A Return of Title IV calculation will be performed for any student who has received Federal Title IV financial aid to determine the amount of federal aid that must be returned to the federal government by the University and the student.

## **Withdrawal and Readmission Policies**

### **Official Withdrawal by the Student:**

1. The student notifies his or her Learning Coach.
2. The student and Learning Coach complete an official Withdrawal Form.
3. Students with financial aid are required to have a Return of Title IV calculation completed based on the last date of attendance, which may result in a balance due.

### **Unofficial Withdrawal by CfA:**

1. Students are expected to engage in academic activity every week. Kudos, or participation points, is one indicator of a student's academic activity. An unofficial withdrawal process is initiated by the Learning Coach if there is no recorded academic activity in any consecutive two-week period during a term.
2. Students with financial aid are required to have a Return of Title IV calculation completed based on the last date of attendance, which may result in a balance due.

### **Readmission**

Students may apply to return to the program following either type of withdrawal. Students who return to the program after withdrawing will retain existing credits and Goal mastery.

### **Program Break**

Students may take a Program Break between terms for up to three months. This is accomplished through a Learning Coach's recommendation and an Academic Plan for the next enrollment term. If a student takes a Program Break longer than three months, he or she may be required to re-enroll and fulfill additional requirements for graduation.

### **CfA Academic Holidays**

On four holidays per year, CfA staff is not available for coaching, technical support, and project evaluations. Students may continue working toward competency mastery and submit projects for evaluation every day of the year. CfA holidays are: January 1<sup>st</sup>, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November), and December 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Transcripts and Statement**

At any time, a student can request a copy of his or her Official SNHU Course Transcript or Official SNHU Competency Transcript for a small fee. The Official SNHU Course Transcript displays each course equivalency (see the following table) the student has earned with a grade of "MA" for mastery. The Transcript Key indicates that "MA" is equivalent to an "A" grade. This type of transcript is recommended for purposes of a transfer to another institution. An Official SNHU Competency Transcript provides a detailed list of every Mastered competency, which may also be provided to other institutions.

Additionally, a College for America Competency Statement is available free of charge. Employers requiring ongoing proof of degree progress may request a College for America Competency Statement that shows mastered competencies for the enrollment period. The

Office of the University Registrar will release such documentation if the student has a signed “Authorization for Disclosure of Non-Directory Information” listing their employer, on file. This form is provided in Appendix A of this document.

In accordance with the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Office of the University Registrar will not furnish a transcript or statement to anyone other than the student, without the written permission of the student. Transcripts will not be furnished to students or former students whose financial obligations to the University have not been satisfied.

### Transfer Credit Policy

CfA does not accept transfer credit. Students in the CfA program earn credits that may be transferrable to another institution. However, CfA cannot guarantee credits earned will be accepted at another institution. The transferability of credits to another institution is solely at the discretion of that institution. If a student is planning to transfer to another institution, he or she should check with that institution on the transferability of the CfA “course” credits.

Three credits are earned with the mastery of each Goal. The table that follows demonstrates which CfA Goals are equivalent to which Southern New Hampshire University courses.

<b>CfA Goal Name</b>	<b>SNHU Course Name</b>	<b>Course Number</b>
Leverage Business Tools	Introduction to Business	OL 110
Establish a Professional Presence	Business Communication	ENG 220
Investigate Business Ethics	Introduction to Ethics	PHL 212
Access Information	College Composition II	ENG 121
Build Teamwork Through Marketing	Introduction to Marketing	MKT 113
Manage People	Human Relations in Administration	OL 125
Analyze Data	Macroeconomics	ECO 202
Develop a Budget	Personal Financial Planning	FIN 250
Examine Ethical Perspectives	Introduction to Philosophy	PHL 210
Apply Economic Theories	Microeconomics	ECO 201
Confront Culture	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	ATH 111
Experiment with Psychology	Research II Scientific Investigation	PSY 224
Evaluate Popular Psychology	Introduction to Psychology	PSY 108
Explore Writing	World Literature I: Foundations of Culture	LIT 201
Consider the Environment	Environmental Science	ENV 101
Decode Media	Language/Practice of Media Art	COM 128
Chart the Evolution of Media	Introduction to Mass Communication	COM 126
Plan for Success	Success Strategies for Online	SNHU 107
Experience Art	Introduction to Humanities I	FAS 201
Solve Problems	Principles of Management	OL 215

## University Statement of Student Rights

The University, as a community of people, is committed to furthering scholarship, academic pursuits, and service to our society. As an institution, our purpose is to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to fulfill their intellectual potential through the pursuit of the highest standards of academic excellence. Certain rights and obligations are inherent in membership in any academic community committed to such goals:

- The rights of personal and intellectual freedom, which are fundamental to the idea of a university;
- Strict respect for the equal rights and dignity of others;
- Dedication to the scholarly and educational purposes of the University and participation in promoting and ensuring the academic quality of the institution.

Students are responsible for obtaining, learning and observing the established University policies as listed in all official publications. In addition, students must comply with the legal and ethical standards of the institution, as well as those of the state of New Hampshire, as well as any other laws, rules and or regulations of other relevant jurisdictions. All members of the community should inform the appropriate official of any violation of conduct regulations.

Students have the right to read and to study free from undue interference, to redress of grievances, to be heard by the College for America staff when they wish to voice concerns, needs, and programming ideas, to challenge prejudicial treatment and comments, to be themselves and to be proud of their background, to have respect from others, to have a fair and equitable disciplinary process, and to ask for advice and/or assistance.

### Right to Procedural Fairness

Pending action on any disciplinary allegations, the status of students shall not be altered, nor their rights to continue working toward a degree suspended, except to protect the well-being of students or staff. Only the Chief Academic Officer may make such a determination and direct provisional suspension.

### Student Academic Complaint Policy

Purpose of Policy:

The purpose of the Student Academic Complaint policy is to provide students with an avenue to seek help or resolution when they feel the academic program or services have failed to meet reasonable expectations. Examples might include complaints about the design or delivery of projects, or about the behavior of a Learning Coach or Reviewer. The Student Academic Complaint policy does not include evaluation appeals or student refunds. See Student Evaluation Appeal Policy for more information.

Process:

A student is first encouraged to address a concern with his or her Learning Coach. If the issue cannot be resolved at that level, a student who wishes to file an academic complaint must submit an email describing the nature of the complaint (with



appropriate supporting documentation) and the resolution he or she is seeking to the Chief Learning Architect. The Chief Learning Architect (or designee) will review and research the concern to determine a fair resolution in consultation with the appropriate CfA departments. Every effort will be made to resolve the issue in a timely manner, and the student will be contacted during the process so that he or she will know the complaint is under consideration. While a complaint is being reviewed, the student should continue to participate in the program unless instructed otherwise by the Chief Learning Architect. The decision of the Chief Learning Architect is final.

### **Student Evaluation Appeal Policy**

#### **Purpose of Policy:**

The purpose of the Student Evaluation Appeal policy is to provide students with a process to seek help or resolution when they feel that an evaluation and/or feedback for a Project are erroneous.

#### **Process:**

A student should first correspond with the Reviewer directly through the learning management system to clarify the evaluation and/or feedback. If no resolution is found through communication with the Reviewer, the student should discuss this matter with his or her Learning Coach. When necessary, the Learning Coach will include the Senior Reviewer and/or Manager of the Feedback Center in the dialogue. If the issue cannot be resolved at that level, the student may submit an email to the Chief Academic Officer. The Chief Academic Officer will review the case and make a decision. The decision of the Chief Academic Officer is final.

### **Privacy of Student Records**

The policies and procedures concerning the privacy of student records maintained by Southern New Hampshire University are in large measure governed by the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). CfA's policies and procedures regarding this subject are largely the same as the University's and are available by the Office of the University Registrar.

Except when requested by a student or required by federal or state regulations, an educational record will not include information concerning race, religion, nationality, political or social views or memberships in organizations. Directory information (name, address, telephone numbers, degree program, etc.) may be released or published without a student's consent unless the student notifies the University that this information is not to be released by submitting an Authorization to Prevent or Resume Disclosure of Directory Information (see Appendix B).

Only members of the University staff with a legitimate educational interest, certain federal or state agencies and other education agencies completing surveys and studies for the University will ordinarily have access to a student's record without the written consent of the student concerned. One exception provides that parents

have the right to view and to have copies of their child's educational record without their child's consent providing that the child is dependent upon the parents for federal income tax purposes

### **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 University receives a request for access.

A student should submit to the University Registrar, Chief Academic Officer, or other appropriate official, a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The University official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the University official to whom the request was submitted, that official 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 University to amend a record should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the University decides not to amend the record as requested, the University 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 University discloses personally identifiable information from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The University 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 University 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 University has contracted as its agent to provide a service instead of using University employees or officials (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; 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. A school official has a legitimate



educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the University.

The student's education records will also be disclosed to individuals or organizations if the student has a signed "Authorization for Disclosure of Non-Directory Information" listing those specific individuals or organizations. College for America allows students to choose to submit this form allowing only their employer to access education records. Students who receive financial support for this program from their employers may be required to submit this form by that employer. However, College for America will not release Non-Directory Information to spouses, family members or other individuals unless the student is a child and dependent upon the parents for federal income tax purposes. This form is provided in Appendix A of this document.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the University 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, DC 20202-5901

Directory Information at SNHU

- Student's name
- Address(es)
- Telephone listing(s)
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph(s)
- Fields of study [major(s), minor(s), etc.]
- Dates of attendance/Enrollment status
- Anticipated program completion date
- Class level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

The primary purpose of Directory Information is to allow the University to confirm attendance to prospective employers and other third parties, and to include this type of information from your education records in certain University publications. Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without prior written consent. Disclosures of directory information will be limited to specific parties for specific purposes or both.

If you do not want SNHU to disclose directory information from your education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the University in writing. See the “Authorization to Prevent or Resume Disclosure of Directory Information” form in the Appendix B for this purpose.

### **Nondiscrimination**

The College for America and Southern New Hampshire University do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, citizenship, religion, marital status, age, sex, sexual orientation or non-disqualifying disability in admission to, access to, treatment in or employment in their programs and activities. The following department has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Office of Human Resources and Development, Southern New Hampshire University, 2500 North River Road, Manchester, NH 03106-1045.

### **Computers and Technology**

Students are required to have access to a computer, an Internet connection, a webcam and an internal or external microphone. The program is not mobile-compatible, so mobile devices including cell phones and tablets are not to be used. It is recommended that Students download and install Google Chrome (free of charge). Students are not required to purchase any software. Projects can be completed using Microsoft or Google programs. All students will receive a College for America email account. The official method of communication for the program is the CfA email account and students are required to check it regularly.

### **Online Etiquette**

All students are expected to adhere to strict etiquette policies when working in the online environment. Due to the open nature of the online community, students are expected to post appropriate and relevant content that is suitable to an academic environment. Since any number of sensitive topics may be discussed, students must maintain an open mind while reading their peers’ postings. Students are required to be mindful of and respectful toward the person receiving any communication. Any comments deemed disruptive to the learning environment may be permanently deleted and may result in disciplinary action.

### **Southern New Hampshire University Network Acceptable Use Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University encourages the use and application of information technologies to support student needs. Users of Southern New Hampshire University equipment, software and computer accounts are expected to follow acceptable standards of ethics and conduct in their use of computing resources. All Southern New Hampshire University faculty, students and staff should be aware of the following acceptable use policy requirements.

Definition:

The Southern New Hampshire University network (SNHUnet) includes all computer and communication hardware, software and accounts owned by Southern New Hampshire University.

1. Every computer account issued by Southern New Hampshire University remains the property of Southern New Hampshire University. The person to whom the account is issued is responsible for the account and its use. This responsibility continues until the person is no longer a student or employee of Southern New Hampshire University, at which time all rights and responsibilities regarding the account are terminated. The individual must keep the account secure by keeping the password secret, by changing the password often and by reporting to the CfA student support helpdesk when anyone else is using the account without permission. Using another person's account or allowing someone else to use an account makes both parties potentially liable to disciplinary action.

2. The use of SNHUnet is prohibited for:

- illegal purposes
- transmitting threatening, obscene or harassing materials
- interfering with or disrupting network users, services or equipment (disruptions include, but are not limited to, distribution of unsolicited advertising, propagation of computer viruses and using the network to make unauthorized entry to any other computers accessible via the network)
- profit-making from the selling of services and/or the sale of network access
- excessive private or personal business

3. The following activities are specifically prohibited:

- tampering with Southern New Hampshire University-owned computer or communication hardware and software
- defining and/or changing IP addresses on any machine
- intercepting or attempting to intercept e-mail and file transfers
- originating or attempting to originate mail from someone else
- attempting to log on to computers without an account (other than using guest or anonymous accounts)

4. Data within computer accounts issued by Southern New Hampshire University are private. Access to data within computer accounts issued by Southern New Hampshire University without written permission of the owner is prohibited. However, if there is probable cause to believe such data files or programs contain information relevant to a Southern New Hampshire University business requirement or legal proceeding, a person other than the authorized user may examine such data files or programs. Permission for such access would be granted by Southern New Hampshire University's Vice President of Operations. Access to accounts and/or data by the Department of Computing Resources for routine computer systems maintenance work is permitted.

5. Backup copies of all data in Southern New Hampshire University computer accounts are made routinely to protect against loss of data. No exceptions can be granted.

6. Requests to waive some policies will be reviewed by the Director of the Department of Computing Resources on an individual basis. Under no circumstances will a waiver be granted that violates state, local or other laws.

7. Confirmed misuse of Southern New Hampshire University's computing resources may result in one or more of the following punitive measures:

- loss of access to computer resources
- required repayment of funds expended in unauthorized use
- expulsion from the University
- termination of employment
- legal action

The prohibited uses as defined above may also violate state and federal law; thus criminal penalties may also apply.

### **Voluntary Disclosure of Disability**

If you have a disability and are seeking accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services at Southern New Hampshire University, located at 2500 North River Rd. Manchester, NH 03106, by calling 603-645-9630.

In order to be considered for services, documentation verifying a disability is required. Documentation guidelines can be accessed online at <http://www.snhu.edu/1347.asp>. For further information regarding Disability Services at SNHU, please visit <http://www.snhu.edu/603.asp>.

### **Currency**

Every effort is made to ensure that the information in this catalog is accurate and up to date, but the University cannot accept liability for any errors or omissions.

## Appendix A

### Authorization for Disclosure of Non-Directory Information Form

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a law that is designed to protect the privacy of your personal and academic information. You have the option to sign a waiver that allows College for America (CfA) at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) to release specific information about your education records to your employer or affiliated organization. This release may occur both on a regular basis and at the request of your employer or affiliated organization. Please note that students whose affiliated organizations are covering tuition costs may be required by that organization to sign this form.

Below are examples of the types of information that could be released. CfA and SNHU will use our best judgment to never disclose more than necessary.

- Academic Progress – orientation progress, the number of and specific competencies mastered, pace towards graduation, and last date of activity in the CfA Learning Environment
- Learning Coach – name, contact information, and feedback from your Learning Coach
- Billing Records – status of your tuition invoice. This information would never include personal financial records or financial aid status.
- Enrollment Status – Your current status as a CfA student, including: enrolled, leave of absence/hiatus, student initiated withdrawal, Learning Coach initiated withdrawal, or administrative withdrawal.

#### WAIVER

I hereby waive my rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) and authorize faculty and staff, and/or representatives of College for America at Southern New Hampshire University to disclose my education records to the organization indicated below.

Student's Printed Name	
Student's Signature	
Student's CfA Email Address	
Date of Signature	
Release to Organization Name	
Release to Individual at Organization	
Organization Address	

Expiration Date of Authorization: This permission will expire four years from the date of receipt.

## Appendix B

### Authorization to Prevent or Resume Disclosure of Directory Information Form

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

At Southern New Hampshire University the following items are designated as "Directory Information" under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

- Student's name
- Address(es)
- Telephone listing(s)
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph(s)
- Fields of study (major(s), minor(s), etc.)
- Dates of attendance/Enrollment status
- Anticipated program completion date
- Class level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

CHOOSE ONE:

**Authorization to Prevent Disclosure of Directory Information**

Under FERPA you have the right to prevent the disclosure of directory information to non-institutional individuals and/or organizations. This means your name will be withheld from honors lists, the Commencement Program, etc. Information concerning your enrollment and graduation status will not be released to prospective employers or educational institutions. Please carefully consider the consequences of any decision to prevent disclosure of directory information. SNHU assumes no liability for honoring your instructions that directory information be withheld.

I exercise my right to block Southern New Hampshire University from releasing my directory information to non-institutional individuals and/or organizations. I have read the above paragraph and understand the consequences of my action.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date of Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_ (if none is specified, the terms of this release will expire four years from the date of receipt in the Office of the University Registrar).

**Authorization to Resume Disclosure of Directory Information**

I hereby revoke my prior disclosure block and, effective immediately, authorize Southern New Hampshire University to release directory information to non-institutional individuals and/or organizations. All other academic information, such as grades, GPA, schedule, will remain confidential.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_