

CSU - FTU Vietnam Economics Curriculum Program

- Purpose. This project originated as a curriculum development initiative, seeking to aid the Foreign Trade University in Hanoi to bring its undergraduate curriculum toward international norms. Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training is encouraging all Vietnamese universities to establish such partnerships, and funded parts of the CSU-FTU project for the first 3 student cohorts. The original project has evolved into a multi-dimensional program partnership.
- Timeframe. The CSU-FTU project was initiated in 2008, and the formal activities will continue at least to 2019.
- Core Activities
 - ▶ CSU faculty are teaching CSU economics and business courses on the FTU campus.
 - ▶ CSU hosts FTU faculty members as visiting scholars.
 - ▶ FTU and CSU have a transfer agreement and FTU undergrad students come to CSU to complete their degrees.
 - ▶ CSU has offered a Study Abroad option at FTU.
- Teaching CSU economics and business courses on the FTU campus – “CSU-@-FTU”
 - ▶ Over 11 semesters in Phase 1, 2008-2013, CSU has taught 14 courses to each of 3 student cohorts, for a total of 42 sections each serving 80 students; in Phase 2 this base has been extended by an additional 32 courses for 4 additional student cohorts, during 2012-17.
 - ▶ As of December 2013, 33 different CSU faculty members have taught a total of 58 CSU course sections at FTU.
 - ▶ This activity peaked in 2012 and 2013, with 14 course sections taught in Hanoi in each of those calendar years.
 - ▶ These courses demonstrate the CSU “standard” in terms of content and delivery.
 - ▶ CSU faculty come from 3 colleges and 6 departments.
 - ▶ Each CSU instructor's role also includes mentoring an FTU faculty member who serves as Teaching Associate.
 - ▶ In each class, 20 students earn CSU credit via Continuing Education under the basic contract provisions, and additional students can get credit by paying a prescribed tuition.
- Hosting FTU faculty members as visiting scholars at CSU – “FTU-@-CSU”
 - ▶ Faculty members come for 2-month stints.
 - ▶ They observe CSU course content and delivery, participate in teacher training, and consult with CSU faculty members about curriculum.
 - ▶ As of December 2013, there have been a total of 34 FTU instructor visits..
- Articulation agreement and 3+1 transfer program – “FTU-2-CSU”
 - ▶ Transfer equivalencies are established for dozens of FTU courses.
 - ▶ A curriculum plan is in place under which FTU undergraduate students can combine 3 years at FTU (including our CSU courses there) with a final year at CSU — a 3+1 plan — to earn a CSU degree with a major in Econ with a minor in Business and an emphasis on international economics. Some students can do 2+2 or 3.5+0.5.
 - ▶ FTU students are advised about transfer procedures and course credit options.
 - ▶ In 2011-12, 30 students transferred, and 28 in 2012-13. Another 36 are expected during 2013-14.
- CSU Study Abroad option at FTU – “CSU-2-FTU”
 - ▶ This part of the program debuted in Spring 2012 with FTU hosting 5 CSU students over the course of 3 semesters, and was operated by CSU's Study Abroad office. The program was suspended after Spring 2013.
 - ▶ The option offered a rare opportunity for study abroad in a developing country, and low in-country costs made this CSU's most affordable study abroad option.
 - ▶ CSU and FTU both valued highly this experimental program, but logistical difficulties on the FTU support side induced CSU to suspend it after 3 semesters.
- Spin-off activities
 - ▶ So far, 14 graduates of the program have stayed at CSU for graduate study.
 - ▶ Three FTU faculty members have entered the Econ PhD program since Fall 2010.
 - ▶ FTU faculty members may undertake short-term training here in areas such as Research Methods (5 so far).
 - ▶ New faculty networks enable international research collaborations.
 - ▶ The Economics program serves as an experience base for newly undertaken cooperation between CSU and Vietnam Forestry University, and Vietnam Water Resources University.