I. **Policy Overview**

The purpose of this policy is to articulate the temporary rules governing Distance Education during the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy is to be in effect during the time period under which SULC is operating under variances to granted by the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) allowing the delivery of courses remotely during the 2020-2021 academic year. This policy will remain in effect until such time that the COVID-19 pandemic has ended to the extent that neither the ABA nor SACSCOC are willing to grant continued variances allowing SULC to deliver its courses remotely that are usually taught in-person.

II. **Policy Scope**

This policy applies to all students at the SULC.

III. **Policy Compliance**

This policy impacts the mode and method of delivery of courses in SULC’s program of education and should be followed to the extent necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the faculty, students, and staff of the SULC.

IV. **Definition**

Distance education is a formal educational process in which the instruction (interaction between
students and instructors and among students) in a given course occurs when the students and the
instructor are not in the same physical space.

a) Interactivity may be synchronous or asynchronous. Distance education includes courses
offered principally by means of:

1. technological transmission, including Internet, open broadcast, closed circuit, cable,
microwave, satellite, broadband lines, fiber optics, wireless, or other means of
transmission;
2. audio or computer conferencing;
3. video cassettes or DVDs and CD-ROMs; or
4. correspondence.

b) A course is considered a distance education course if one-third or more of the course
instruction consists of distance education. If less than one-third of the course instruction consists
of distance education, the requirements set forth below shall not be required, but are advisable and
are beneficial to the extent the course includes a substantial distance education component.

V. Policy Development and Implementation Procedure

The policy was created in accordance with and pursuant to the variances granted by the ABA and
SACSCOC. The policy was developed by the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and approved
by faculty vote on October 21, 2020, and effective retroactive to August 11, 2020, which is the start
date of the 2020-2021 academic year. The Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs is charged with
implementing and enforcing this policy.

VI. Policy and Applicable Procedures

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the variance granted by the ABA and
SACSCOC, SULC may offer credit toward the Juris Doctor (“JD”) degree for study offered
through distance education in the number and to the extent necessary to protect the health, safety,
and welfare of the faculty, students, and staff of SULC. Such distance education courses shall be
consistent with the provisions of SULC’s Policy on Distance Education. Credit shall be awarded
only if the academic content, the method of course delivery, and the methods of evaluating student
performance are approved as part of SULC’s regular curriculum approval process. The substantive
content of distance learning courses, as well as the staffing of those courses, is the responsibility
of the Chancellor and the faculty of SULC, who have primary responsibility for maintaining the
quality and integrity of all instruction regardless of the course format or method of delivery. No
credit may be given toward the JD degree for any distance education course unless that course is
approved and executed in accordance with this Policy. Moreover, any distance education course
for which credit is given toward the JD degree must comply with the Standards set forth in
Paragraph VII of SULC’s Policy on Distance Education.

VII. Policy History and Review

This policy was created in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy became
effective on August 11, 2020. The policy is temporary and, as such, not subject to a review cycle.

VIII. Publication of Policy.

This policy is published on the SULC website at www.sulc.edu.

IX. Policy Approval

This policy was approved by a Faculty vote on October 21, 2020.

John K. Pierre
Chancellor, Southern University Law Center

October 21, 2020
Date