MOUNT SCOPUS UNIVERSITY

Mount Scopus University's Commitment to Academic Excellence and Public Trust

Mount Scopus University provides flexible online education that helps students apply what they learn at work and in their communities. Based in Boca Raton, Florida, we serve students in Florida, across the United States, and abroad. In response to the U.S. Department of Education's National Call to Action and the Florida Commissioner of Education's request, we affirm these commitments to our students, their families, employers, and the public.

Transparent and Merit-Based Admissions

We apply our published admissions standards consistently and evaluate applicants on their academic preparation, free from unlawful preferences or discrimination. Undergraduate applicants must demonstrate high school completion or its equivalent. Graduate applicants must hold a bachelor's degree. Applicants to our master's programs in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data science must also demonstrate experience or prior knowledge in computer science. Prospective students can review these requirements in the *Admission Requirements* section of the University Catalog before applying.

Free Inquiry and a Respectful Learning Environment

Students and faculty should be able to ask difficult questions, examine competing viewpoints, and disagree in good faith. Online discussions give students opportunities to explain their reasoning and respond to others' arguments. We protect lawful expression and academic inquiry and apply the student conduct standards in our University Catalog to threats, harassment, intimidation, and material disruption of instruction or university operations.

Intellectual Pluralism and Faculty Quality

We expect students to weigh evidence, consider relevant perspectives, and explain how they reached their conclusions. Faculty selection and evaluation emphasize academic qualifications, relevant professional experience, and teaching effectiveness. As described in the *Teaching Requirements* and *Faculty Evaluations* sections of the Faculty Handbook, the Director of Education reviews instruction, and feedback from students and faculty informs curriculum evaluation. We will use those reviews to consider how course materials and assignments help students examine competing explanations and approaches.

Affordability, Transparency, and Student Outcomes

Students should be able to weigh the cost of a program against their educational and career goals before enrolling. Mount Scopus University does not participate in federal student loan programs, so no student borrows federal loans to attend. The University Catalog publishes tuition, fees, and cancellation and refund terms. In reviewing program costs, we will consider how spending supports instruction, academic advising, and online learning. We monitor satisfactory academic progress under the standards published in the Catalog and will review retention and completion results to identify barriers and determine where students need additional support. We will describe career opportunities accurately so students can make informed decisions about their education.

Academic Rigor and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

An MSU degree represents demonstrated achievement. Faculty communicate grading criteria, evaluate student work through assignments and quizzes, and provide feedback. We oppose grade inflation and expect grades to reflect the quality of student work against stated course criteria. We will give faculty and students clear guidance on how instructors communicate when AI use is permitted and when students are expected to disclose it. Students are responsible for understanding and explaining the work they submit.

Academic Independence, Foreign Influence, and Research Integrity

MSU's primary focus is teaching and applied learning. The University retains responsibility for admissions decisions, curriculum, faculty, and assessment. We will review proposed partnerships and sponsored activities for conflicts of interest and risks to academic independence, student information, intellectual property, or sensitive work. We will decline funding or partnership conditions that compromise the University's control over academic decisions. Any research undertaken under the University's auspices must use sound methods and protect the integrity of its findings. The same review applies to any agreement, gift, or partnership with a foreign government or organization, and we will not accept funding or conditions that give any source influence over curriculum, faculty, admissions, or assessment. International students are admitted under the same published standards as all other students.

Serving Florida Students and Workforce Needs

As a Florida institution, we will give particular attention to the needs of Florida students and employers when reviewing our programs and planning future offerings. Our programs in computer science, cybersecurity, data science, artificial intelligence, and business, including bachelor's programs we are preparing to launch, develop skills students can apply in their fields. Our master's programs in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and data science prepare professionals in fields central to national security and economic competitiveness. We will begin with a focused review of the Data Science program to see how its course competencies align with skills sought by Florida employers. Florida and U.S. applicants are evaluated under the same published standards as all applicants, and international enrollment adds capacity rather than taking their seats. Our international reach supports our commitment to opportunity and workforce development in Florida and across the United States.

Our First-Year Commitments

Within 12 months of publishing this statement, Mount Scopus University will take the following actions.

1. **Review student retention, completion, and graduate outcomes.** The Director of Education and the President will review retention and completion for each program with reportable activity. They will also track graduates' employment and career advancement, including graduates employed at enrollment. They will document the results and identify follow-up actions where warranted.

2. **Review grading and publish brief AI guidance.** The Director of Education and faculty will review grading criteria and a sample of assignments from selected graduate courses. The review will examine whether grades in those courses reflect demonstrated student achievement against published grading criteria. MSU will publish brief guidance on how instructors communicate permitted AI use and disclosure expectations.
3. **Review Data Science against Florida workforce needs.** The Director of Education and faculty will complete one review of the Data Science program using Florida workforce data. They will compare selected course competencies with skills needed in relevant occupations and document their findings and any recommended curriculum changes for the President's review.

Within the same 12-month period, we will publish a brief progress update on this page**.** The update will describe the reviews we completed, the guidance we published, and any actions we adopted as a result.

Gustavo A Tellez
President, Mount Scopus University
Boca Raton, Florida | November 20, 2026

Copy provided to the Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Office of the Commissioner of Education.