

National Call to Action for Higher Education

Schiller International University is committed to providing a rigorous, accessible, and student-centered education that prepares graduates for meaningful careers, responsible citizenship, and continued intellectual and professional development.

In response to the August 18, 2026, communication from the Florida Commissioner of Education regarding the National Call to Action issued by the U.S. Secretary of Education, Linda McMahon, Schiller International University reaffirms its commitment to the principles of academic excellence, intellectual inquiry, student success, institutional accountability, and service to the communities in which it operates.

The University's current catalog, published policies, admissions materials, student support services, and institutional effectiveness processes provide the framework for the commitments described below.

1. Transparent, Merit-Based Admissions

Schiller maintains published admissions requirements and an admissions process designed to provide applicants with clear information regarding the documentation and academic preparation required for enrollment. The University's admissions process includes application materials, academic documentation, review by Admissions, and, where applicable, academic interviews, English-language proficiency requirements, and other enrollment requirements appropriate to the student's degree level and circumstances.

- Undergraduate and graduate applicants are required to provide academic documentation appropriate to the program and level of study.
- English-language proficiency is addressed through published requirements and applicable testing or documentation.
- Admissions procedures identify the steps necessary to progress from application through enrollment.
- The University's undergraduate educational objectives expressly include providing high-quality education without prejudice based on protected characteristics.

[Admissions Policy](#)

2. Free Inquiry, Respectful Expression, and an Orderly Academic Environment

Schiller supports an educational environment in which students can participate in academic discussion, ask questions, exchange ideas, and engage with differing perspectives while maintaining standards of respectful conduct and protecting the rights of other members of the University community.

- The University's student conduct framework addresses freedom of expression while recognizing the need to prevent disruption of the educational mission or infringement of the rights of others.
- The University maintains procedures intended to provide fair and orderly consideration of student conduct and academic matters.
- Academic integrity and professional conduct procedures provide students with notice of concerns and an opportunity to respond.

[Code of Conduct](#)

3. Intellectual Pluralism and Academic Engagement

Schiller's educational mission is explicitly international and interdisciplinary. The University's academic objectives emphasize critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, appreciation of diversity in languages and cultures, and engagement with different ideas and perspectives.

- Students are expected to critically read and listen, ask questions, gather information, and apply critical analysis.
- The undergraduate curriculum integrates composition, social sciences, communication, history, and the student's major field.
- The University's international educational model exposes students to diverse cultures, backgrounds, languages, and perspectives.
- The University's mission emphasizes preparation for leadership and professional roles in international settings.

Schiller also seeks qualified faculty members whose academic preparation, professional experience, teaching ability, and scholarly or professional contributions support the University's educational mission and the needs of its academic programs. Faculty recruitment and appointment processes are conducted in accordance with applicable University policies and law.

[Academic Freedom Policy](#)

4. Affordability, Cost Transparency, and Student Outcomes

Schiller provides students with published information concerning tuition, fees, payment and withdrawal processes, and consumer information. The University also maintains an institutional effectiveness process through which student learning outcomes and educational programs are evaluated for quality and continuous improvement.

- The catalog provides information concerning tuition, fees, payment obligations, refunds, and withdrawal procedures.
- Consumer information and required student disclosures are made available through the University's website and institutional publications.
- The University consistently assesses student learning outcomes and uses information about students, educational programs, and the educational environment as part of its continuous evaluation process.

- The Institutional Effectiveness Plan is intended to support improvements in teaching, learning, and the overall student experience.

[Tuition and Financial Aid Information](#)

5. Academic Rigor, Assessment, and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

Schiller is committed to academic rigor and the integrity of student work. Its Academic Integrity and Professional Conduct Policy state that assessment should be fair, transparent, and consistent, and that students are assessed on their own work and merit.

- Academic integrity standards apply across written examinations, coursework, online assessments, dissertations, projects, and oral or practical work.
- Academic misconduct procedures provide for evidence review, notice to the student, an opportunity to respond, impartial consideration, and proportionate sanctions.
- The University's GenAI Policy establishes responsible, inclusive, and ethical use of generative artificial intelligence while preserving originality, fairness, academic credibility, and intellectual independence.
- The University's stated core principle is human-led learning: generative AI may support learning and other permitted activities, but it is not intended to replace the student's intellectual effort or critical thinking.
- Unpermitted AI use that compromises academic integrity, authorship, or originality is addressed through the University's academic misconduct framework.

[Artificial Intelligence \(GenAI\) Policy](#)

6. Research Integrity and Institutional Responsibility

Schiller's academic integrity framework establishes expectations concerning originality, proper acknowledgment of contributions, ethical conduct, and the integrity of academic work. The University's policies also identify conduct such as falsification, impersonation, contract cheating, examination breaches, and failure to obtain required ethical approval as matters of academic misconduct.

- Academic integrity investigations are intended to be fair, impartial, timely, and confidential.
- Students are provided with an opportunity to respond to allegations and may have review rights as provided by University policy.
- The University expects academic work to be the student's own and requires appropriate acknowledgment of sources and contributions.

[Academic Integrity Policy](#)

7. Preparation for the Workforce and Economic Needs

Schiller's mission and academic objectives connect academic preparation with professional development and employer needs. The catalog states that academic programs are developed with

attention to employer-driven demands and that the University fosters partnerships with industry experts to identify future career opportunities.

- Career advisors provide professional development, networking, career-fair, resume, interview, and job-search support.
- Career services connect students and graduates with professional opportunities in business, government, and the private sector.
- The University maintains alumni and employer information to support career planning and employment-related guidance.
- The University does not guarantee employment or a specific level of compensation, while providing career preparation and assistance.

[Employability – Schiller International University – Global Employability Path](#)

8. Commitment to American Students Within a Global Educational Mission

Schiller International University retains an American educational identity while operating an international institution serving students from diverse national and cultural backgrounds. The University was founded in 1964 to provide an American educational experience in Europe and has developed an international model that includes campuses and educational operations in multiple countries, including the United States.

- The University's educational model is based on an American higher-education framework and includes a general education curriculum.
- The University's Tampa campus operates under applicable Florida authorization and regulatory requirements.
- The University's mission combines American higher-education traditions with international and cross-cultural learning opportunities.
- Students are prepared for professional and leadership roles while being encouraged to develop ethical behavior, responsible citizenship, and public-service awareness.

9. Continuous Institutional Improvement and Accountability

Schiller's commitment to quality is supported by its accreditation, state authorization, published consumer information, academic policies, and institutional effectiveness processes. The University uses assessment information to evaluate student learning, educational programs, and the educational environment and to identify opportunities for improvement.

- The University is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC).
- The Tampa campus is licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education, as reflected in the University's published consumer information and catalog.
- The University maintains published policies and student disclosures addressing academic integrity, student rights and responsibilities, complaints/grievances, safety, accommodations, and other consumer information.

- Institutional effectiveness activities are designed to connect assessment results to improvements in teaching, learning, programs, and student experience.

Conclusion

Schiller International University appreciates the opportunity to document its existing policies and practices in response to the National Call to Action for Higher Education. The University's current framework reflects an ongoing commitment to academic quality, intellectual engagement, academic integrity, responsible innovation, student support, career preparation, and continuous institutional improvement.

Schiller respectfully submits this response for consideration by the Florida Department of Education and the Office of the Commissioner of Education. The University will continue to review its policies, practices, and public disclosures to promote transparency, accountability, and a high-quality educational experience for its students.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Heather Nickel".

Heather Nickel
Dean of Institutional Effectiveness
Schiller International University