



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**  
for the  
**EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP PREPARATORY PROGRAM**  
between  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON**  
and  
**GRAND PRAIRIE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

In accordance with and under the authority of Texas Education Code Sections 61.027 and 61.076 and the Rules and Regulations of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, high school students may enroll in university courses and receive simultaneous academic credit from both the university and the high school. In order to ensure the quality of dual credit courses and to facilitate communications and understanding between the Grand Prairie Independent School District (hereafter GPISD) and The University of Texas at Arlington (hereafter UTA), the following provisions are agreed to by UTA and GPISD with regard to dual credit under this Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter MOU).

**I. SCOPE**

**a. Subject of Agreement**

GPISD and UTA enter into the following agreement concerning the participation of GPISD students in the GPISD & UTA dual credit Education & Leadership Preparatory Academy that aligns with and transitions to a 4-year degree and teacher certification in Early Childhood through 6<sup>th</sup> grade with a Bilingual or ESL focus. The result of this collaboration is a two-year program at the high school level that will enable participants to take a total of four (4) academic courses from the College of Education and four (4) UTA core courses.

**b. Purpose of Agreement**

The purpose of this MOU is to provide the outline, requirements, and guidelines for GPISD & UTA dual credit Education & Leadership Preparatory Academy.

**c. Students**

The Agreement is designed to serve only students in the GPISD at Grand Prairie High School (GPHS), South Grand Prairie High School (SGPHS), and Young Women's Leadership Academy (YMLA).

**d. Date of Effect**

The Agreement will be in effect from the date on which parties have affixed their signatures. Review, revisions and termination provisions are discussed below in Section IV.

## **II. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

High School juniors or seniors can participate in GPISD & UTA dual credit Education & Leadership Preparatory Academy by demonstrating college readiness and direct admission by satisfying the following requirements:

- a. Be a current student in the Education & Leadership Preparatory pathway at GPHS, SGPHS, or YWLA;
- b. Be in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade with an overall high school GPA of 3.0 or higher overall at the beginning of the fall in which the student will enter the program and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA throughout the program;
- c. Be willing to commit to a 2-year program and participate in some required Saturday activities;
- d. Have good high school attendance and discipline history;
- e. Satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirement for college readiness by achieving the minimum passing standards on the TSI Assessment Test, or equivalent.
- f. Successfully pass TSI reading & writing in sophomore year prior to entering program;
- g. Successfully pass TSI math in junior year while in the program;
- h. Be in the Education & Leadership Preparatory pathway at GPHS, SGPHS, or YWLA
- i. Be a junior at the beginning of the fall in which the student will enter the program;
- j. Be eligible to enroll as a dual credit student at UTA;
- k. Attend parent orientation meeting; and
- l. Complete dual-credit application.

## **III. UNDERSTANDING OF THE PARTIES**

### **a. General Understandings, UTA**

During the period of this agreement, UTA will:

1. On a semester or academic year basis communicate to GPISD the dual credit courses available under this MOU;
2. Offer on the UTA campus the dual credit coursework and instruction for students for the courses;
3. Offer practicum experiences based on availability;
4. Offer testing required by the courses; and
5. Provide GPISD with necessary student information to evaluate the effectiveness of the program (student performance) as permitted by FERPA.

### **b. General Understanding, GPISD**

During the period of this agreement, GPISD will:

1. Provide UTA with the necessary student information to communicate and notify students of their admission (name, address, test scores).
2. Accept applications from students of GPHS, SGPHS, and YWLA in the spring of their sophomore year.
3. Provide students transportation to the class locations.
4. Provide students appropriate class release time for purposes of meeting with the UTA faculty.
5. Offer students in the program a paid Teacher Aide position with GPISD after high school graduation and while continuing studies in the UTA College of Education.
6. In addition to a high school diploma, students who have completed the Education & Leadership Preparatory program will receive a pending contract to become an Educator in GPISD upon earning a college degree and teacher certification.

### **c. Mutual Understandings**

1. Participation of qualified students in the program will be permitted in compliance with the applicable federal, state, and local nondiscrimination laws and regulations. In particular, UTA and

GPISD will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, military discharge, or veteran status in any area of employment or in services to their students.

2. Both institutions will maintain their accreditation with regional accrediting associations or and other accreditation currently in existence pertaining to the degree programs.
3. Each institution will attempt to encourage and maintain a high degree of cooperation between their support staffs in the operation of this MOU.
4. Any waiver by either party of any term or provision of this MOU at any time will not constitute a waiver of any other or all terms and provisions. Any waiver of any part of a provision of this MOU at any one time will not constitute a waiver for all times.
5. For purposes of this MOU and pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) UTA hereby designates GPISD as a school official with a legitimate educational interest in the educational records covered by this MOU. Both parties will comply with the Family Education rights and Privacy Act (FERPA/Buckley Amendment) in the handling of educational records of students enrolled in their programs.

#### **IV. REVIEW, AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION**

All parties are committed to the concept of a long-standing agreement. This MOU will be amended when programs are added, deleted, or significantly modified. Amendments may take the form of letters signed by the signatories below or their designated representatives. This MOU is effective for two years (Fall 2017 cohort and Fall 2018 cohort) and will be reviewed annually or at any time at the request of either party. Either party may terminate its role in the agreement with a written 120-day notice.

#### **V. FACULTY QUALIFICATIONS**

The professors for a dual credit education course will be employed by UTA. The professors must meet credential requirements of UTA and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

#### **VI. GRADING CRITERIA/PROCEDURES**

At the end of each semester, UTA will provide a grade roster with letter and numeric grades to the applicable high school principals for dual credit courses. The UTA courses offered for dual credit, regardless of format, follow the same syllabus, course outline, grading procedure, and other academic policies as other courses at UTA. Letter grades are given in accordance with academic policies printed in the UTA catalog and placed on the UTA transcript. GPISD will record the student's official grade on the student's report card and the final grade on the student's Academic Achievement Record. The student must earn a grade of 70 or higher in order to earn high school credit

#### **VII. TRANSFERABILITY OF CREDIT**

UTA is a fully accredited institution and basic academic courses are generally transferable. However, since each university has its own policy regarding the transferability of courses, each student is strongly advised to check with the university to which he or she plans to attend if other than UTA, to determine the transferability of the UTA courses.

#### **VIII. STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/SERVICES**

Students enrolled in dual credit courses:

- Are required to follow UTA rules and regulations;
- Are classified as undeclared majors;
- Are limited to enrolling in two (2) UTA courses each fall, spring, or summer semester while concurrently enrolled in high school; and
- Receive academic advising for course registration through the UTA dual credit program.

**IX. FEES**

UTA fee waivers for students enrolled in dual credit courses result in a price per course lower than that paid by other UTA students. Specifically, GPISD will pay UTA the fee applicable to dual credit (currently \$150.00 per three (3) credit hour course - \$50.00 per semester hour) for students enrolled in a three (3) credit hour course.

Annual renewal of this MOU is automatic unless one institution notifies the other in writing of its desire to modify this MOU for a total term of five (5) years. Equally important as the stated provisions above is the spirit of cooperation between GPISD and UTA. Both parties endeavor to provide a positive collegiate level experience for those high school students with the maturity and academic preparation to benefit from university level courses.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON**

**GRAND PRAIRIE ISD**



**Dr. Jeanne Gerlach**

Institutional Representative  
The University of Texas at Arlington

2/17/17

Date

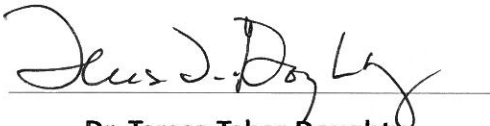


**Winston Minix**

Institutional Representative  
Grand Prairie Independent School District

2/17/17

Date




**Dr. Teresa Taber Doughty**

Dean College of Education  
The University of Texas at Arlington

2/17/17


Date



**Dr. Vistasp Karbhari**

President  
The University of Texas at Arlington

Date



**Dr. Susan Hull**

Superintendent  
Grand Prairie Independent School District

Date