



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ARLINGTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AND UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE ARLINGTON COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL**

In accordance with and under the authority of the Texas Administrative Code Title 19, Part I, Chapter 4, Subchapter D, Rule §4.85 and the Rules and Regulations of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), high school students may enroll in college or university courses and receive simultaneous academic credit from both the college or university and the high school. In order to ensure the transferability of dual credit courses and to facilitate communications and understanding between Arlington Independent School District (AISD) and University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), the following provisions are agreed upon by AISD and UTA with regard to this Arlington Collegiate High School (ACHS) Lion Scholars Program (Program).

The Program is open to high-achieving ACHS juniors and seniors who have demonstrated excellence in the classroom and wish to continue their education toward a baccalaureate. The intent of the program is for ACHS students to take courses through UTA which will count toward a specified baccalaureate degree program as opposed to unarticulated general elective credits.

**PROGRAM BENEFITS**

In the Program, ACHS students will have the opportunity to:

- Receive a degree plan early in their career at the ACHS outlining the courses to take at UTA to complete the baccalaureate degree
- Benefit from earlier contact and degree planning with a UTA advisor
- Receive peer mentorship from UTA students in order to ensure a smooth transition into a university
- Receive admission into the UTA degree program of their choice after meeting the program's academic requirements
- Receive credit at UTA toward the intended major for courses taken while enrolled at ACHS that are listed on UTA's degree plans distributed to the student
- Be eligible to apply for incoming freshman merit-based scholarships at UTA. This will allow participating ACHS students who are admitted before the scholarship deadline to be considered for scholarship awards at rates consistent with current UTA distribution practices, depending on student GPA and test score credentials.

**STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

In order to qualify for this Program, students must meet UTA dual credit admissions standards. ACHS juniors or seniors can participate in the UTA Dual Credit Program by demonstrating college readiness

through **one** of the following:

- A rank in the top 20% of their current high school class, **or**
- A PSAT score of at least 480 on Evidenced Based Reading and Writing, and 530 on Math, **or**
- A PLAN composite score of at least 23, **or**
- A 3.5 unweighted grade point average (4.0 scale), **or**
- An SAT score of at least 1070 in combined Critical Reading + Math (test taken prior to March 2016).

**Additionally, students must satisfy the Texas Success Initiative requirement for college readiness (TSI) by achieving the minimum passing standards on the TSI Assessment Test or equivalent. Equivalent methods to satisfy the TSI requirement include:**

- Achieving an SAT score of at least 1070 in Critical Reading and Math (with a minimum score of 500 in Critical Reading and 500 in Math) if taken prior to March 2016; **or**
- Achieving SAT section scores of 480 on Evidence-Based Reading and 530 on Math if taken after March 2016; **or**
- An ACT composite score of at least 23 with scores of at least 19 in both Math and English; **or**
- STAAR math score of at least 4000 for the Final Level II Score for Algebra II exempts from the math requirement. STAAR English/language arts score of at least 4000 for the Final Level II Score for English III exempts from the reading and writing requirements.

Students who do not meet Dual Credit Admission Standards will be individually reviewed for admission to the Program. Students must complete all required dual credit admissions paperwork (see list below) for UTA and meet published payment deadlines.

ACHS students applying for admission to the Program must submit the following:

- Application for admission and an application fee;
- Official high school transcript indicating junior or senior standing;
- Official SAT, ACT or other scores (listed above) to demonstrate college readiness; and
- Completed Dual Credit Program agreement signed by the high school representative, the student, and the student's parent or guardian.

As of September 1, 2013, incoming Texas college students under 22 years old must be immunized against bacterial meningitis or receive an approved exemption before they enroll in an institution of higher education.

Students enrolling in certain dual credit courses must meet UTA course prerequisites unless prior prerequisite waivers have been obtained. For instance, students enrolling in English 1302 must have previously completed or been awarded credit for English 1301.

Students must submit an admission application to UTA and meet with a UTA advisor. ACHS students may only enroll in UTA courses when they are within 6 hours of earning the Associate's degree. They may continue to take courses through their community college partner until they have earned the Associate's degree.

AISD will advise students that UTA requires the Apply Texas Application. AISD has agreed to cover the cost of the application fee for students participating in this Program. All students who complete the

Freshman Apply Texas Application from the ACHS will be evaluated for admission as a freshman with college work.

By choosing to participate in this Program, UTA and AISD will ensure that students and their parents agree to the following:

- Information may be shared freely between the two institutions - This includes transcripts, contact information, paperwork, and discipline reports.
- Students must meet the discipline guidelines of AISD when enrolled in the ACHS. If the students are taking classes at UTA, they will be held to the discipline guidelines of UTA. This includes applicable “Acceptable Use Procedure” (AUP) protocols for online courses.
- Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, nor will excessive disruption of instruction. Students may be withdrawn from this Program by AISD or UTA and/or from the respective institutions for inappropriate behavior.
- Because the classes are taught at the college level, students may be exposed to content that is considered more mature in nature than what might be allowed in typical high school courses.
- Students will be given ample opportunity for advising, however, UTA is not responsible for loss of transferability between majors or institutions if students enroll in courses that are not recommended by the advisor. Also, UTA is not responsible for additional coursework, tuition and fees required due to students who change majors or ultimately attend other institutions of higher education.
- Applicable provisions outlined in existing dual credit MOUs with AISD will still apply to students enrolled in the Program.

### **FACULTY QUALIFICATIONS**

UTA will employ the instructor for all dual credit courses at UTA. The instructor must meet credential requirements of UTA and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

All classes will be held on the UTA campus or taken by Distance Education. Classes are open to all UTA students.

### **GRADING CRITERIA/PROCEDURES**

At the end of each semester, UTA will provide a grade roster with letter and numeric grades to the ACHS principal for dual credit courses.

Students may request an official transcript from UTA for a fee. Same day transcripts require additional charges.

The UTA courses offered for dual credit, regardless of format, follow the same syllabus, course outline, grading procedure, and other academic policies as the course at UTA for regularly enrolled students. Letter grades are given in accordance with academic policies printed in the university catalog and placed on the university transcript.

AISD will record the student's official grade on the student's report card and the final grade on the student's Academic Achievement Record. AISD will determine the minimum grade necessary to earn high school credit.

### **TRANSFERABILITY OF CREDIT**

UTA is a fully accredited institution and basic academic courses are generally transferable. However, because each university has its own policy regarding the transferability of courses, each student is strongly advised to check with the university which he or she plans to attend if other than UTA, to determine the transferability of the UTA courses. To ensure courses taken at community college partners transfer to UTA, AISD must verify the courses meet the credentialing requirements of SACS.

### **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/SERVICES**

Students enrolled in dual credit courses:

- Are required to follow UTA policies, rules and regulations
- Are classified as undeclared majors unless they have received admission into the UTA degree program of their choice after completing 60 hours and meeting the program's academic requirements
- Are limited to two (2) UTA courses each fall, spring, or summer semester while also enrolled in high school once the student is within 6 hours of completing the Associate's degree
- May enroll in up to four (4) UTA courses each fall, spring, or summer semester while also enrolled in high school once the student has completed the hours necessary to earn the Associate's degree
- Are no longer eligible to enroll in UTA coursework at dual credit tuition and fee rates once the student has graduated with a high school diploma
- Receive guidance for course registration through the UTA Honors Academy Dual Credit Program
- Receive academic advising from UTA advisors to ensure optimal course planning.

### **TUITION, FEES AND COSTS**

Students enrolled in UTA dual credit offerings will be charged reduced tuition\* and are responsible for regular university fees for parking, specific departmental fees, TSI testing fees (if applicable), application fees, meningitis documentation fees, other fees and the distance education course fee, if applicable\*\*.

\*Currently \$50.00 per credit hour. Subject to change.

\*\*Currently \$37.50 per course. Subject to change.

AISD will incur all tuition and textbook costs throughout the duration of this MOU, unless an amendment to this MOU or a change in state regulations occurs. AISD will incur the costs of the application, TSI testing (if applicable), and meningitis documentation fees as well.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

AISD shall transport ACHS students to and from all instructional sites. It is expressly agreed that all such transportation, as well as the acts and omissions of all transportation personnel, are the sole and exclusive responsibility of AISD.

### **MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Media and public relations regarding the Program will be managed cooperatively, according to AISD and UTA protocols, and as appropriate under the particular circumstances.

### **ELIGIBLE COURSES AND ADVISING**

UTA shall establish and conduct the courses included in the degree plans that are made available to students. UTA will make degree plans available to ACHS personnel one long semester ahead of scheduled offerings. UTA will also provide to ACHS personnel information regarding services available to students such as financial aid, orientation, tutoring and other programs which affect student success. UTA will appoint academic advisors in each academic unit to work with ACHS students.

Administrators from AISD and UTA will meet annually to assess the program and review the provisions of this MOU.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR**

The instruction of dual credit courses will be based on UTA's academic calendar. Inclement weather procedures will be established in consultation with the parties.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT INFORMATION**

In accordance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), AISD will be deemed a "school official" with "legitimate educational interest" (as such term and phrase is defined in the Texas Education Code and FERPA) regarding access to any educational records hereunder. Under these guidelines, it is understood and agreed that in order to perform all services as stipulated in this MOU, it will be necessary for AISD to review and be provided access to the "educational records" of students hereunder. AISD agrees to maintain the confidentiality of any and all educational records of students hereunder that are disclosed to, or reviewed by AISD in accordance with federal and state laws, and UTA rules and regulations.

This MOU shall become effective on the date last signed below and shall remain in effect until terminated by one or more parties. Termination can be processed when AISD or UTA gives written notice to the other institution 180 days prior to the requested termination date.

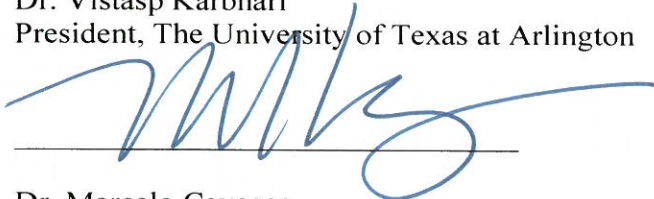
Should the agreement be terminated at any time, all parties will make a good faith effort to provide currently enrolled students with opportunities to complete the Associate Degree and transfer seamlessly into UTA.

  
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Dr. Vistasp Karbhari  
President, The University of Texas at Arlington

6/5/17  
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Date

  
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Dr. Marcelo Cavazos  
Superintendent, Arlington Independent School District

6-5-17  
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Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY

 6/5/17

SHELBY L. BOSEMAN  
UNIVERSITY ATTORNEY  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON