

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF LUBBOCK §

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**Baccalaureate to Graduate Degree Access and Success Partnership**  
**Between**  
**Texas Tech University | Graduate School and Austin College**

The baccalaureate to graduate program academic agreement establishes a partnership between Texas Tech University (TTU) and Austin College (AC) as active educational partners committed to providing educational pathways to encourage students to seek education beyond the baccalaureate degree. This agreement strongly supports transfer initiatives of the State of Texas by embracing the following principles:

- Students should not be required to repeat competencies already achieved.
- Establishment of a seamless transfer process
- Increased graduate-level student enrollment
- Community-oriented academic engagement
- Expanded educational opportunities for students.

The purpose of this agreement is to promote cooperation and the further development of a friendly relationship between the two institutions. Based on the principle of mutual benefit and reciprocity, both institutions agree to pursue an articulation whereby TTU will accept qualified AC students into selected graduate degree programs. AC and TTU agree to cooperate in providing a pathway for students graduating with baccalaureate degree from AC who meet the stated criteria into a masters or doctoral degree-granting program at Texas Tech University. This partnership provides a wide range of services and activities for AC students designed to:

- Increase awareness about the educational and student support opportunities available at TTU.
- Encourage baccalaureate degree earners to continue their education by pursuing a graduate level degree.
- Provide pre-TTU academic advising to assist prospective students in course selection designed to meet graduate level degree pre-requisites.
- Provide a more seamless graduate school admission experience to TTU.

Details of any specific activities will be developed mutually; the Memorandum of Understanding may have addenda attached to it with regard to such activities.

***TTU agrees to:***

1. Identify the following office as the primary office and/or designee(s) responsible for oversight of this agreement: The Graduate School, Texas Tech University (<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/>)
2. Provide academic advising (semester-by-semester), admissions counseling and enrollment information to AC students interested in attending TTU.
3. Provide communication regarding TTU graduate admissions policy and procedure updates, campus recruitment events, and scholarship opportunities to AC.
4. Schedule various TTU representatives to be on the AC campus, to provide graduate program related information.
5. Facilitate a TTU campus visitation program for interested AC students.

6. Contact AC with information needed to advertise and inform potential graduate students of each event.
7. Promote the seamless admission of AC students to TTU by ensuring graduate school and graduate program admission and pre-requisite coursework information is current and readily available to both students and academic advisors at AC.
8. Provide opportunities for AC students to apply and participate in an undergraduate research program at TTU during the summer prior to their final year at AC.
9. Encourage individual programs/departments to offer:
  - a. Early decision option; whereby, AC students are informed of conditional admission into a graduate program in the summer prior to the senior year.
  - b. Direct admissions programs; whereby, AC student who meet stated criteria are granted admission or an interview for admission into designated program.Further criteria for these options will be stated in program specific articulation agreements.
10. All agreements should be on file in the TTU Office of the Provost via The Graduate School

**AC agrees to:**

1. Identify the primary office and/or designee(s) responsible for oversight of this partnership agreement as Gateways Program Office, <http://www.austincollege.edu/academics/gateways/>, Gateways@austincollege.edu
2. Annually provide to TTU graduate admissions recruiters a list of names and contact information, as allowed by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, of interested students, including:
  - a. *AC currently enrolled students;*
  - b. *Have completed 90 or more semester credit hours with an overall GPA of 3.00 or better;*  
*and*
  - c. *Interested in a TTU master's or doctoral degree program.*
3. Provide Gateways counselor contact information to TTU and update this information as changes occur.
4. Coordinate the planning, facilitation and advertising of at least one student recruitment event on their campus each semester for prospective graduate students (TTU will provide the TTU information and TTU graduate admissions recruiter/counselors).
5. Coordinate, advertise, promote, and facilitate visitation trips to TTU.
6. Promote communication about partnership initiatives with faculty, staff and students.
7. Initiate articulation and/or academic agreement discussions.

**Requirements for Admission to TTU Graduate School include:**

Selection of a candidate by AC and/or TTU to participate is not a guarantee that the candidate will be granted admission to any TTU graduate program. Candidates must meet the stated admissions criteria prior to being formally admitted into the designated graduate program. Funding decisions are at the discretion of TTU based on the availability of funds. Candidates who do not meet the stated criteria for seamless admission may still apply; however, admission will be at the sole discretion of TTU.

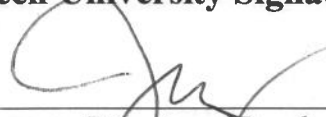
1. Participation in this program will be open to all students at AC who meet the published criteria.
2. To participate in this program, Austin College students must be within one year of graduation with their undergraduate degree.
3. Admission to a TTU graduate program will be based on academic qualifications including grade point average, courses taken, and standardized test scores (e.g., GRE, GMAT. In certain cases test scores may be waived. Each department will determine its stated criteria for seamless admission.

- 4. Austin College students participating in this program may apply course credits from either institution toward a degree at either institution pursuant to each institution's extant policies pertaining to the applicability of graduate course credits to undergraduate degree programs.

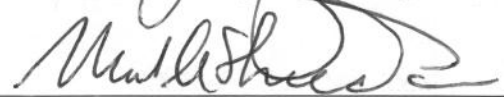
**The Student Access and Success Partnership Agreement shall:**

- 1. Be effective for three years beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year and ending August 15, 2019. Both parties shall discuss and decide on the continuation or revision of this agreement six months prior to its expiration date.
- 2. Be reviewed annually by representatives of both institutions and, where appropriate, modified.
- 3. Remain in effect until either party indicates intentions to terminate, in writing, a minimum of 90 days in advance. A decision to terminate the program will not adversely affect the status of any AC students currently participating in the program.

**Texas Tech University Signatures**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jennifer Adling, *Director of Purchasing & Contracts*

6-23-15  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

  
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 Mark A. Sheridan, Ph.D.  
*Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs*  
*Dean of the Graduate School*

6-26-15  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

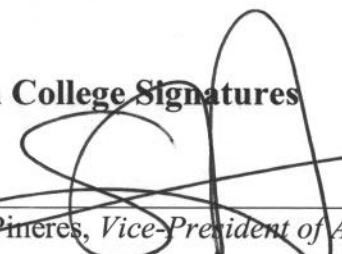
  
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 Lawrence Schovanec, *Provost*

6/30/15  
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 Date

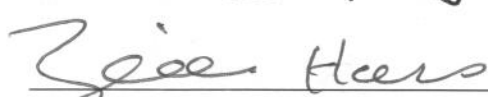
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 M. Duane Nellis, *President*

7.1.15  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

**Austin College Signatures**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sheila Pineres, *Vice-President of Academic Affairs*

7/6/15  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Marjorie Hass, *President*

7-7-15  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date