



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
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SOUTH TEXAS
COLLEGE

Texas Tech University And South Texas College Student Access and Success Articulation Agreement

Institutions

This Articulation Agreement (“Agreement”) is between Texas Tech University (“TTU”) and South Texas College (“STC”) (individually “Institution” or collectively “Institutions”) and outlines their commitment to the *Student Access & Success* program (“Program”). This Agreement extends to all campuses within the STC district. TTU and STC enter into this Agreement in the spirit of cooperation and mutually recognize each other as quality Institutions of higher learning.

Background

TTU created the Program to support the State of Texas and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s *60x30TX* Strategic Plan Initiative promoting access, affordability, quality, success, and cost efficiency throughout Texas’ institutions of higher education. The mission of the Program is to support a more globally competent workforce by increasing the number of individuals seeking to further their education. The goal of the Program is to increase access to and the number of transfer pathways from which prospective students may choose to pursue a baccalaureate degree while seeking to reduce overall costs of education.

South Texas College was founded in 1993 to serve the counties of Hidalgo and Starr in the Rio Grande Valley. It currently serves approximately 30,000 students and offers over 121 degree programs and certifications as well as continuing, professional and workforce education programs and Dual Credit courses for eligible high school students. South Texas College is a world-class institution advancing regional prosperity through education for a better quality of life in our community. South Texas College is also an innovative, public, post-secondary institution providing quality education and career pathways. The College achieves student success, nurtures talent development, and promotes economic vitality through collaborative and creative approaches to teaching, learning, and support services.

Purpose

The purpose of this Agreement is to foster engagement of pre-transfer students in communications with TTU and provide them a transfer pathway from STC to TTU for completion of a baccalaureate degree. The Institutions are dedicated to providing greater educational opportunities and services for students transferring between the two Institutions, including a commitment to:

- Increase awareness of educational and student support opportunities available.
- Encourage currently enrolled transfer students to complete their associate degree.
- Provide pre-TTU academic advising to increase degree applicability of transfer credits.
- Provide a more seamless transfer experience to TTU.

The Agreement provides a structure through which transfer articulation on all levels can be supported by the Institutions.

Responsibilities

1) TTU's responsibilities

- a) Encourage Completion of Degree. TTU will encourage STC transfer students to complete the appropriate associate degree either before matriculation to TTU or by reverse transfer of course credit following admission to and enrollment at TTU.
- b) Transfer Credits. TTU agrees to accept transferable core curriculum, fields of study, and other lower division courses from STC, to the extent it is within the Texas common course numbering system.
 - i) **Crosswalks**. Students transferring to TTU are eligible to receive degree credit for the courses listed in the attached Transfer Pathway Crosswalks (Attachment A) under the terms of this Agreement. Although not covered by this Agreement, transfer of additional coursework may be possible.
 - ii) **Location**. TTU will honor transferable courses taken at any STC location and by any delivery method.
 - iii) **Standards**. TTU will enforce the same standards and criteria for admission to TTU for all students who desire to transfer to TTU and to the intended major degree sequence as designated in the TTU catalog.

- c) Advising Services. TTU will provide academic advising services to pre-transfer students through Undergraduate Admissions Transfer Advising.
- d) International Students. TTU will coordinate with The TTU Office of International Affairs to ensure a smooth transition for STC's international transfer students to TTU.
- e) Financial Aid. TTU will provide transfer students with information regarding the availability of transfer scholarships for eligible students as well as any other financial aid opportunities at TTU.
- f) Reverse Transfer. TTU will develop a reverse transfer credit process that includes the methodology to notify students after they have completed, at least, 15 hours at STC. This is subject to the process set forth in Section 3(d) of this Agreement.
- g) Publication. TTU will:
 - i) Provide communication regarding TTU's admissions policy and procedure updates, campus recruitment events, and scholarship opportunities to the person(s) STC designates under Section 3(a).
 - ii) Post information about the Program and transfer/reverse transfer opportunities on the Academic Partnerships' website.

2) STC's responsibilities

- a) Courses at STC. STC will ensure that all of its courses related to this Agreement are taught by qualified faculty holding appropriate and acceptable degrees and/or credentials as outlined by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Comprehensive Standards or appropriate regional accreditation standards.
- b) Identify Students. STC will provide to TTU's Office of Undergraduate Admissions a list of students who meet the stated criteria on an annual basis. The list will include the information below. The goal is to allow TTU to provide students with information about scholarships, financial aid, and the potential to satisfy degree requirements by transferring coursework between Institutions. STC agrees to provide notices and/or obtain permissions for the disclosures as required by applicable laws, including but not limited to FERPA and GDR.
 - i) Directory information, including email address;
 - ii) Major area of interest;
 - iii) Denote those currently enrolled with a projected transfer date on or after Fall 2020;

- iv) Denote those students having completed 15 or more semester hours, who have an overall GPA of 2.25 or better; and
 - v) Denote those students pursuing the following degree plans: Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Arts, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Arts in Teaching or undeclared.
- c) Counselor. STC will provide contact information for an STC transfer counselor to TTU Admissions and update this information as personnel changes occur. The counselor will be responsible for invitations to STC transfer events.
- d) Cooperation. STC will cooperate fully with TTU in awarding associate degrees via a reverse transfer by developing a plan whereby transcript information for students, who transferred to TTU prior to earning an associate degree, is sent back to STC by TTU, is processed in a timely fashion, and results are reported back to TTU. Reporting of students will begin as soon as this Agreement is fully executed.
- e) Marketing and Outreach. STC will:
- i) Provide a link to: (1) TTU, Academic Partnerships; and (2) Undergraduate Admissions on relevant webpages.
 - ii) Encourage students to utilize the pre-transfer academic advising services and resources offered through Undergraduate Admissions at TTU each semester while attending STC.
 - iii) Inform students who are nearing graduation of transfer opportunities, including what needs to be accomplished to meet TTU transfer requirements.
 - iv) Provide information, within legal guidelines, about prospective transfer students. The goal is to provide students with information about scholarships and other financial aid opportunities, and the potential to satisfy associate and bachelor's degree requirements by transferring course work between Institutions.

3) Mutual and coordinated responsibilities. The Institutions agree:

- a) Point of Contact. To designate an individual who will be a central point of contact and responsible for the maintenance of the Agreement.
 - i) TTU designee: Dr. Clay Taylor, (806) 834-7277, clay.taylor@ttu.edu
 - ii) STC designee: Dr. Kelli Anne Davis, (956) 872-1990, kajohnso@southtexascollege.edu
- b) Communication and Marketing. To cooperate in communicating information about this Agreement.

- i) Coordinate visitation trips to TTU and assist, advertise, promote, and facilitate transfer events.
 - ii) Coordinate TTU's attendance at STC's campus events (such as transfer fairs).
 - iii) Coordinate information to advertise and inform potential transfer students. Each Institution will assume responsibility for appropriate marketing to reach their respective student populations and will review marketing materials annually to ensure currency.
 - iv) Promote communication about Program initiatives with faculty, staff, and students. The Institutions will provide transfer related information in a manner agreed upon between TTU and the representative(s) designated in Section 3(a).
- c) Course and Program Transfer Pathway Crosswalks.
- i) The Crosswalks in Attachment A outline the course-by-course transfer of courses and/or specific programs. A course-specific crosswalk is required for each transferrable program. Crosswalks approved after the initial execution of this Agreement will be added and clearly identified as updates or amendments to this document and signed by the approving personnel of each Institution.
 - ii) The Institutions will review the Transfer Pathway Crosswalks (Attachment A) annually during the summer, to amend as needed, and render effective September 1st, to align with the new TTU catalog.
 - iii) Students following a previous crosswalk will be allowed to continue to do so provided they have been enrolled at STC continuously. A break in enrollment will necessitate a change in catalog year as per TTU policy.
 - iv) Changes to crosswalks must be in writing and signed by an authorized representative from each Institution.
- d) Reverse Transfer Process. To facilitate STC's ability to offer reverse transfer associate degrees, in accordance with the State of Texas 60x30TX Strategic Plan Initiative, the Offices of the Registrar at TTU and at STC agree to the following procedure:
- i) ***The Registrar at TTU will:***
 - (1) Identify students meeting the following criteria:
 - (a) Student has earned 15 or more college-level transfer credit hours at STC.
 - (b) Student does not have an associate degree.

- (c) Student has 60 total earned hours (transfer and TTU hours combined).
- (d) Note: Eligible students will approve or deny permission via *MyTech* for TTU to send transcripts and student contact information to STC.

(2) At the end of each semester, TTU will:

- (a) Provide participating student's transcripts to STC for review for an associate degree. Transcripts will be sent to STC designee: Cynthia Blanco, (956) 872-2112, cblanco9@southtexascollege.edu

ii) ***The Registrar at STC will:***

- (1) Evaluate TTU transcripts.
- (2) Award associate degrees based on current requirements.
- (3) Each term, provide the Office of the Registrar at TTU with an electronic file reflecting awarded associate degrees and official transcripts by:
 - (a) Designating on the original list from TTU the month and year for each participant who has earned an associate degree.
- (4) E-mail updated, original participant list and transcripts with the awarded degree back to TTU via Yogi Castaneda, Unit Manager, TTU Registrar at: yogi.castaneda@ttu.edu.

General Terms

- 1) **Costs.** This Agreement is not a commitment of funds and does not create any fiscal obligation on the part of either Institution. Each Institution will bear its own costs, risks, and liabilities arising out of its obligations and efforts under this Agreement during the period it is in effect. No Institution shall have any right for reimbursement, payment, or compensation of any kind for work performed under this Agreement.
- 2) **Term.** This Agreement begins on the date of last signature and expires five years from that date.

- 3) Extension. The Institutions may extend this Agreement for up to five one-year terms, if they agree in writing prior to the expiration date or the expiration of the then current extended term.
- 4) Termination. Either Institution may terminate this Agreement by providing one hundred and twenty (120) days prior written notice to the other Institution.
- 5) Consequences of Termination. If the Agreement is terminated early, neither Institution has any obligation toward the other upon the effective date of termination, except that the Institutions agree to permit any students already enrolled at TTU under the terms of this Agreement to graduate.
- 6) Use of Data. Throughout the term of this Agreement, and upon termination, each Institution shall be solely responsible for data in its possession, and neither Institution shall have the authority to access, use, or disclose transferred data for purposes other than those outlined in this Agreement. The Institutions agree to abide by applicable laws with respect to access, use, disclosure, and/or disposal of data.
- 7) Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Both Institutions acknowledge a legal obligation to maintain the confidentiality and privacy of its student records in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, specifically FERPA. Both Institutions agree to comply with FERPA and safeguard student information.
- 8) Governing Law. This Agreement and all of the rights and obligations of the Institutions hereto will be construed, interpreted, and governed by the laws of the State of Texas. Lubbock County, Texas, will be the proper place of venue for any legal action or proceeding arising out of this Agreement or enforcement of any provision in this Agreement.
- 9) No Waiver of Sovereign Immunity. The Institutions specifically agree that neither the execution of the Agreement by TTU nor any other conduct, action or inaction of any representative of TTU relating to the Agreement constitutes or is intended to constitute a waiver of TTU's or the State's sovereign immunity to suit.
- 10) No Assignment. Neither this Agreement nor any rights or obligations are assignable or transferable unless the Institutions agree in writing.
- 11) Modifications to the Contract. This Agreement supersedes all prior agreements, written or oral, between STC and TTU and will constitute the entire agreement between the Institutions with respect to the subject matter hereof.
- 12) Amendments. No modification or amendment to this Agreement will become valid unless agreed to in writing and signed by both Institutions. All amendments must be signed by the same persons, or their successors, who signed this original Agreement.

- 13) Trafficking of Persons. Under §2155.0061, Texas Government Code, each partner Institution certifies that the individual or business entity named in the Agreement is not ineligible to receive the specified Agreement and acknowledges that the Agreement may be terminated if this certification is inaccurate.
- 14) Notice. Formal notice under this Agreement must also be written and delivered to the person or department named below: (1) by hand delivery; (2) by United States mail; or (3) by email. Notice will be effective upon physical delivery of the notice by messenger service; or four (4) business days after the date of mailing by certified mail, return receipt requested; or upon acknowledgement of notice by the email recipient, either by return receipt or reply email. If no email receipt or reply has been received by the sender within one business day from emailing the notice, the notice is deemed incomplete and sender must send notice by messenger or certified mail.

If to TTU:

Texas Tech University
Academic Partnerships
Box 45210
Lubbock, TX 79409
elearning.apartnerships@ttu.edu

With a copy to:

Texas Tech University
Procurement Services
Attn: Contracting
PO Box 41094
Lubbock, TX 79409
contracting@ttu.edu

If to STC:

Dr. Kelli Davis
South Texas College
University Relations, Transfer and Articulation Center
3201 W. Pecan Blvd
McAllen, TX 78501
kajohnso@southtexascollege.edu

This Agreement shall take effect upon execution by all signatories.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized officers for the Institutions executed this Agreement on the day and year written below.

Signatures:

TTU

Signature: Lawrence Schovanec
Lawrence Schovanec (Jun 15, 2020 12:58 CDT)

Email: lawrence.schovanec@ttu.edu

Lawrence Schovanec, Ph.D.
President

Signature: Noel Sloan
Noel Sloan (Jun 15, 2020 12:37 CDT)

Email: noel.a.sloan@ttu.edu

Noel Sloan
Chief Financial Officer

Jun 15, 2020

Date

STC

Shirley A. Reed

Dr. Shirley A. Reed
President

Anahid Petrosian

Dr. Anahid Petrosian
Interim Vice President, Academic
Affairs

6/15/20

Date

South Texas College #C15707 signed

Final Audit Report

2020-06-15

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