

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

**Between
The
University of Texas of the Permian Basin
and
Ector County Independent School District
2013-2014**

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin and The Ector County Independent School District, hereby voluntarily enter into this articulation agreement effective upon signing for Ector County High School students who qualify and wish to enroll in Dual Credit Courses through UTPB while attending secondary school.

§4.83 Definitions.

Dual credit--A process by which a high school student enrolls in a college course and receives simultaneous academic credit for the course from both the college and the high school. While dual credit courses are often taught on the secondary school campus to high school students only, applicable sections of these rules, §4.84(a) and §4.85(a), (b), (g), (h), (i) of this title (relating to Dual Credit Partnerships), also apply when a high school student takes a course on the college campus and receives both high school and college credit. Dual credit is also referred to as concurrent course credit; the terms are equivalent. However, dual (or concurrent) enrollment refers to a circumstance in which a student is enrolled in more than one educational institution (including a high school and a college).

The Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN)--The 80th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 1788, authorizing the Texas Education Agency to establish and administer a state virtual school network to provide education to students through electronic means. An electronic course is defined as a course in which instruction and content are delivered primarily over the Internet; a student and teacher are in different locations for a majority of the student's instructional period; most instructional activities take place in an online environment; the online instructional activities are integral to the academic program; extensive communication between a student and a teacher and among students is emphasized; and a student is not required to be located on the physical premises of a school district or open-enrollment charter school.

The purpose of this agreement is to:

1. Encourage students who are attending Ector County Independent School District secondary schools to further their careers by enrolling at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin by way of online or on campus coursework.
2. Eliminate repetition and unnecessary duplication of academic experiences already acquired while enrolled in their secondary school program and aid in more appropriate placement in an undergraduate curriculum of their choice.
3. Encourage increased dialogue between administrators, staff and teaching faculty of both institutions in order to promote academic and occupational awareness, information exchange, and understanding working with the spirit of House Bill One and Closing the Gaps' P-16 Initiative.

4.84 Institutional Agreements

(a) *Need for Institutional Agreements.* For any dual credit partnership between a secondary school and a public college, an agreement must be approved by the governing boards or designated authorities (e.g., principal and chief academic officer) of both the public school district or private secondary school and the public college prior to the offering of such courses.

(b) *Elements of Institutional Agreements.* The dual credit partnership must address the following elements:

- (1) Eligible Courses;
- (2) Student Eligibility;
- (3) Location of Class;
- (4) Student Composition of Class;
- (5) Faculty Selection, Supervision, and Evaluation;
- (6) Course Curriculum, Instruction, and Grading;
- (7) Academic Policies and Student Support Services;
- (8) Transcribing of Credit; and
- (9) Funding.

Source Note: The provisions of this §4.84 adopted to be effective May 27, 2003, 28 TexReg 4114

The agreement:

1. The ECISD student should make application as a new student to the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and successfully fulfill all admission requirements for an academic program offered within UTPB.
2. The student will complete all placement tests that may be required for admission under the Texas Success Initiative. The student will then enroll at UTPB as a new student. Under terms of this agreement, the student may not enroll in more than six hours per semester.
3. The student will furnish the University of Texas of the Permian Basin an official high school transcript.
4. The following minimum passing standards shall be used by an institution to determine a student's readiness to enroll in freshman-level academic coursework:

Be in the Texas Recommended or Distinguished Program; be in the 1st or 2nd quarter of their high school graduating class. In addition, students in the 2nd quarter of their graduating class must have one of the following minimum standardized test scores—SAT (CR+M) of 900 or higher; ACT of 19 or higher; or PSAT of 90 or higher; and demonstrate college readiness by

meeting the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) exemption or exam minimum score requirement in all three TSI areas—Mathematics, Reading, and Writing. Students taking UTPB mathematics or science courses must meet satisfactory scores on placement tests that are higher than the minimum requirements for TSI testing requirements or TSI exemptions. The minimum placement test score required varies by course. Students who have already taken the “College Level Mathematics” section of the ACCUPLACER, COMPASS, or ASSET exams may use that score for math or science placement.

5. The University of Texas of the Permian Basin will make available to students a description of all college level courses that are offered through an articulation agreement and identify when these courses will be available throughout the school year.
6. ECISD and the University of Texas of the Permian Basin will identify and publicize this opportunity in an appropriate manner for all potentially eligible students.
7. ECISD agrees each year to routinely coordinate and review the course syllabus with an appropriate University of Texas of the Permian Basin representative. All parties understand that any changes made in the course syllabus, in instructional contact, or in instructional equipment or laboratory experiences afforded to the student need to have approval of the respective UTPB Dean and be acceptable to the Virtual School Network.

This agreement will become effective upon approval by The Ector County Independent School District and The University of Texas of the Permian Basin for all students who complete the course(s) during academic year 2013-2014 and thereafter. The agreement will continue on an annual basis until one of the parties shall notify the other of its termination. Articulation agreements, however, are not retroactive prior to specified period.

Either party may cancel this articulation agreement by submitting a written letter at least 60 days prior to the effective date of the cancellation. In a case where an articulation agreement exists and no students from the secondary school have enrolled at UTPB for a period of at least two years, the articulation agreement will be reviewed and may be cancelled.

§4.85 Dual Credit Requirements

(a) *Eligible Courses.*

- (1) For UT Permian Basin or the school district to receive payment through the TxVSN program, the courses must be included in the TxVSN catalog.
- (2) Courses offered for dual credit by public universities must be in the approved undergraduate course inventory of the university.

(b) *Student Eligibility.*

To be eligible for enrollment in dual credit offered by an institute of higher education, students must have at least junior year high school standing. Exceptions to this requirement for freshmen and sophomore students with demonstrated outstanding academic performance and capability (as evidenced by grade-point average, PSAT/NMSQT scores, PLAN, or other assessment indicators) may be approved by the principal of the high school and the chief academic officer of the higher education institution. The chief academic officer for UTPB is the Provost and Vice President for

Academic Affairs. Other assessments indicators would include scores on the COMPASS or ACCUPLACER exams.

High school freshman or sophomore enrollment in UTPB dual credit courses shall be on a case by case basis. Students must pass both reading and writing sections of the COMPASS and/or other mandated placement tests to be considered for admission. In advance of each semester, the principal and the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at UTPB must agree to the specific course and the identified students to enroll. Students with less than junior year high school standing must demonstrate eligibility.

(1) A high school student is eligible to enroll to dual credit courses in the eleventh and/or twelfth grade if the student:

- (A) demonstrates college readiness by achieving the minimum passing standards under the provisions of the Texas Success Initiative as set forth in §4.57 of this title (relating to Minimum Passing Standards) on relevant section(s) of an assessment instrument approved by the Board as set forth in §4.56 of this title (relating to Assessment Instruments); or
- (B) demonstrates that he or she is exempt under the provisions of the Texas Success Initiative as set forth §4.54 of this title (relating to Exemptions/Exceptions).

(2) An eleventh grade high school student is eligible to enroll in dual credit courses under the following conditions;

- (A) a student achieves a score of 2200 on Mathematics and/or a score of 2200 on English Language Arts with a writing subsection score of at least 3 on the tenth grade TAKS relevant to the courses to be attempted. An eligible high school student who has enrolled in dual credit courses in the eleventh grade under this provision shall not be required to demonstrate further evidence of eligibility to enroll in dual credit courses in the twelfth grade; or
- (B) the student achieves a combined score of 107 on the PSAT/NMSQT with a minimum of 50 on the critical reading and/or mathematics test relevant to the courses to be attempted. An eligible high school student who has enrolled in dual credit under this provision must demonstrate eligibility to enroll in dual credit courses in twelfth grade; or
- (C) the student achieves a composite score of 23 on the PLAN with a 19 or higher in mathematics and English. An eligible high school student who has enrolled in dual credit under this provision must demonstrate eligibility to enroll in dual credit courses in twelfth grade.

(3) To be eligible for enrollment in a dual credit course offered by UTPB, students must have at least junior year high school standing. Exceptions to this requirement for students who are freshmen and sophomores with demonstrated outstanding academic performance and capability (as evidenced by grade-point average, PSAT/NMSQT scores or other assessment indicators) may be approved by the principal of the high school and the chief academic officer of the college. Students with less than junior year high school standing must demonstrate eligibility as outlined under subsection (b)(1) of this section.

(4) High school students shall not be enrolled in more than two dual credit courses per semester. Exceptions to this requirement for students with demonstrated outstanding academic performance and capability (as evidenced by grade-point average, ACT or SAT scores, or other assessment indicators) may be approved by the principal of the high school and the chief academic officer of the college.

(c) *Location of Class.* Dual credit courses may be taught on the college campus, on the high school campus or by way of online coursework. For dual credit courses taught exclusively to high school students on the high school campus and for dual credit courses taught electronically, public colleges shall comply with applicable rules and procedures for offering courses at a distance in §§4.101 - 4.108 of this title (relating to Distance Education and Off-Campus Instruction). In addition, dual credit courses taught electronically shall comply with the Board's adopted Principles of Good Practice for Courses Offered Electronically.

(d) *Composition of Class.* Dual credit courses may be composed of dual credit students only or of dual and college credit students.

(e) *Faculty Selection, Supervision, and Evaluation.*

(1) The college shall select instructors of dual credit courses. These instructors must be regularly employed faculty members of the college or must meet the same standards (including minimal requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) and approval procedures used by the college to select faculty responsible for teaching the same courses at the main campus of the college.

(2) The college shall supervise and evaluate instructors of dual credit courses using the same or comparable procedures used for faculty at the main campus of the college.

(f) *Course Curriculum, Instruction, and Grading.* The college shall ensure that a dual credit course and the corresponding course offered at the main campus of the college are equivalent with respect to the curriculum, materials, instruction, and method/rigor of student evaluation. These standards must be upheld regardless of the student composition of the class.

UT Permian Basin shall ensure that a dual credit course and the corresponding course offered at its campus are equivalent with respect to the curriculum, materials, instruction, and method/rigor of student evaluation.

UT Permian Basin recognizes that certain of the District's students participating in these classes are also participating in UIL sanctioned activities. Accordingly, the university and all instructors will work with the District to ensure that numerical grades are timely provided to the District for reporting to the UIL in connection with UIL academic requirements. The parties acknowledge that certain reports may be due at a time when no college work has been performed by the

student. Since the UIL holds ineligible any student who receives a grade of 70 at the end of any grading period, the university and its instructors agree that under those limited circumstances, the numerical grade shall be reported as a 70 or above for UIL purposes, but at all other times after work is actually performed, then student shall receive his or actual numerical grade. The first three weeks can be a pass or fail, but every three weeks thereafter needs to be a numerical grade. These grades will be sent to the high school accordingly.

(g) *Academic Policies and Student Support Services.*

(1) Regular academic policies applicable to courses taught at the college's main campus must also apply to dual credit courses. These policies could include the appeal process for disputed grades, drop policy, the communication of grading policy to students, when the syllabus must be distributed, etc.

(2) Students in dual credit courses must be eligible to utilize the same or comparable support services that are afforded college students on the main campus. The college is responsible for ensuring timely and efficient access to such services (e.g., academic advising and counseling), to learning materials (e.g., library resources), and to other benefits for which the student may be eligible. Currently, support services available to the online students from UTPB include:

- Electronic resources, online reference services, and other services of the J. Conrad Dunagan Library;
- Smarthinking Online Tutoring;
- Math & Science Center study assistance and tutorials;
- Writing Center assistance and tutorials with writing assignments;
- PASS Office for ADA issues, testing services, and study school development;
- Literacy Center for study skills development
- Supplemental Instruction in selected courses;
- Academic Advising and My Edu.
- Career Services;
- Technical Support for Blackboard users; and
- University Counseling Center Services.
- Dual Credit mentor

(h) *Transcripting of Credit.* For dual credit courses, high school as well as college credit should be transcripted immediately upon a student's completion of the performance required in the course.

(i) *Funding.* Students will be responsible for paying the appropriate tuition and fees. The District will assist a student who demonstrates a genuine financial need in the payment of tuition and fees by grants, scholarships, or similar help.

4.54 Exemptions/Exceptions

(a) The following students shall be exempt from the requirements of this title:

(1) For a period of five (5) years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs at or above the following standards:

(A) ACT: composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on the English test and/or the mathematics test shall be exempt for those corresponding sections;

(B) Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT): a combined verbal and mathematics score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on the verbal test and/or the mathematics test shall be exempt for those corresponding sections; or

(2) For a period of three (3) years from the date of testing, a student who is tested and performs on the Eleventh grade exit-level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) with a minimum scale score of 2200 on the math section and/or a minimum scale score of 2200 on the English Language Arts section with a writing subsection score of at least 3, shall be exempt from the assessment required under this title for those corresponding sections.

§4.57 Minimum Passing Standards

(a) The following minimum passing standards shall be used by an institution to determine a student's readiness to enroll in freshman-level academic coursework:

(1) ASSET: Reading Skills - 41; Elementary Algebra - 38; Writing Skills (objective) - 40; and Written Essay - 6.

(2) COMPASS: Reading Skills - 81; Algebra - 39; Writing Skills (objective) - 59; and Written Essay - 6.

(3) ACCUPLACER: Reading Comprehension - 78; Elementary Algebra - 63; Sentence Skills - 80; and Written Essay - 6.

(4) THEA: Reading - 230; Mathematics - 230; Writing - 220.

(b) The minimum passing standard for the written essay portion of all tests is a score of 6. However, an essay with a score of 5 will meet this standard if the student meets the objective writing test standard.

(c) An institution may require higher passing standards.

Source Note: The provisions of this §4.57 adopted to be effective December 3, 2003, 28 TexReg 10753

Superintendent (Interim)- Ector County
Independent School District- Dr. HT Sanchez

President- University of Texas of the Permian Basin-
Dr. David Watts

Name _____

Name_____

Date_____

Date_____