



Memorandum of Understanding
between
Angelo State University
and
Western Texas College
Ram Ready Engineering Partnership



This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered by and between Western Texas College hereinafter called "WTC" and Angelo State University, an institution of higher education of the State of Texas and a member of the Texas Tech University system, hereinafter called "ASU".

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Strategic Plan Goals addressed in this MOU are:
Goal 1 – 60% of Texans ages 25-34 by 2030 will have a certificate or degree;
Goal 2 – At least 550,000 students in 2030 will complete a certificate, associate, bachelor's, or master's from an institution of higher education in Texas;
Goal 3 – All graduates from Texas public institutions of higher education will have completed programs with identified marketable skills; and
Goal 4 – Undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60% of first-year wages for graduates of Texas public institutions.

Therefore, and in consideration of the foregoing and in further consideration of the mutual benefits, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE I
ENGINEERING CO-ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

The Ram Ready Engineering program allows WTC pre-engineering students to co-enroll at WTC and ASU simultaneously leading to an associate's degree at WTC and courses to be applied to the Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (BSCE) or Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME) at ASU. The co-enrollment program allows WTC pre-engineering students to take courses not offered at WTC and to stay on-track to enter ASU's BSCE or BSME program.

Program Marketing

ASU will provide WTC with program marketing materials to display and distribute to prospective students. WTC will send communication to students about the program. WTC will allow an ASU admissions counselor to visit classrooms and group meetings to discuss program opportunities. WTC and ASU will maintain webpages with information about the Ram Ready Engineering program including steps to apply and enroll. WTC and ASU will collaborate to develop the page and include links to the other institution's site.

Co-Enrollment Admission

Ram Ready Engineering students must apply to WTC as a degree-seeking student. Students must submit to ASU a WTC transcript showing that they are in good academic standing. Students will be required to pay the ASU transient application fee or submit documentation qualifying them

for an application fee waiver. Students will be admitted to ASU as a transient student if the student is in good academic standing at WTC.

Engineering Co-Enrollment Program Admission

The partners want to ensure success by requiring students to meet the following milestones prior to admission in the co-enrollment program:

- Successfully completed at least 9 hours of core course work at the host Western Texas College
- Maintain a minimum overall GPA of 2.5
- Attain a minimum of C or better in the following engineering major support courses:
 - Math 1314 College Algebra
 - Math 1316 Trigonometry

Course Enrollment

Following admission to the Ram Ready Engineering program, students must be advised by an academic advisor at WTC and by an ASU academic advisor to ensure the student is on track to meeting the WTC degree requirements and taking the necessary courses to transfer to ASU. WTC and ASU will identify a process to share student enrollment information and develop a procedural document to update as process improvements are made.

ASU and WTC advisors will work collaboratively to identify the sequencing of courses needed for students to remain on a track to graduate and transfer into an engineering program. These courses will be published in the WTC-ASU transfer guide for engineering program (Appendix A). The transfer guides will be reviewed annually by both institutions and agreed upon by March 31 for the following academic year.

Program Orientation

Approximately one week prior to the first day of ASU semester courses, the ASU David L. Hirschfield Department of Engineering will host a mandatory online program orientation for all co-enrolled students. During the session, students will network with faculty and resident students as well as tour the online learning environment and review the program expectations and academic support resources.

ASU Degree-Seeking Admission

At the conclusion of the co-enrollment program and completion of an associate's degree, the student must apply to ASU as a transfer student using the Apply Texas application. Students will have their ASU application fee waived.

Reverse Transfer

At the conclusion of every semester where the student is co-enrolled in WTC and ASU courses, ASU will send an official ASU transcript to WTC. WTC will transfer the ASU courses and apply them to the student's associate's degree. Students must be in good financial standing and have no other holds for the ASU transcript to be sent to WTC.

Transferring Courses to ASU

At the conclusion of the co-enrollment program and completion of an associate's degree, WTC will send the student's official transcript to the ASU admission's office to be processed with the student's transfer application. ASU will transfer the WTC courses and apply them to the

student's BSCE or BSME degree. Students must be in good financial standing and have no other holds for the WTC to be sent to ASU.

Course Delivery

ASU will offer engineering and other major support courses identified in the transfer guide to Ram Ready Engineering students. These courses will be delivered online taught by ASU faculty or through Acadeum. Courses may be offered in a hybrid format with days/times identified for virtual, synchronous course participation. ASU and WTC will work collaboratively to identify dates and times that will accommodate students' schedules and ability to participate synchronously.

ASU Engineering courses may also require participation in weekend course activities on the ASU campus for up to two weekends per fall/spring course. When possible, ASU will provide free accommodations for students in on-campus ASU housing for the weekend. ASU engineering instructors will identify the weekend dates requiring on-campus participation on the course schedule visible for students when they register for the course and in the course syllabus.

Student Support Services

WTC will provide support services to students enrolled in WTC courses including tutoring, advising, and library services. ASU will also provide support services to students enrolled in ASU courses including engineering course tutoring, online library services, and academic advising. Tutoring for engineering courses and academic advising will be provided by the ASU David L. Hirschfield Engineering Department. Co-enrolled students will have physical access to the ASU library, WTC library, and access to all virtual databases. WTC will provide adequate physical library resources to co-enrolled students who are unable to physically access the ASU library.

Textbooks and Software

Students are responsible for purchasing any required textbooks and course materials for their ASU courses prior to the first day of classes. ASU will send a list of required textbooks to WTC to allow the WTC bookstore to order any required textbooks. Co-enrolled students will have access to the Virtual Desktop Infrastructure for specific software needed for engineering labs.

Tuition/Fees and Payment

Students will be charged the WTC tuition and fees for the courses enrolled through WTC. Students will be charged the ASU tuition and fees rate for the course(s) enrolled through ASU. Students are required to pay their account balances to each institution directly by the published deadlines and in accordance with the institution's payment policies. Students may receive a 1098-T Tuition Statement from both WTC and ASU. The institutions will communicate to one another when a student has been dropped due to non-payment.

Financial Aid Consortium Agreement

Ram Ready Engineering co-enrolled students are eligible to participate in a financial aid consortium agreement between ASU and WTC. Eligible students will receive financial aid from WTC as their Home Institution. ASU and WTC will develop and maintain a financial aid consortium agreements procedural document that will identify a mechanism for exchanging student enrollment and financial aid information, the steps needed to execute the award for students, and responsible parties for each step in the process. The institution financial aid

representatives and advisors will meet periodically to discuss process improvement and update the procedural documents accordingly.

Scholarships

Once a WTC student transfers and is degree-seeking at ASU, that student can qualify for ASU scholarships according to the university's transfer scholarship qualifications. Students can also apply for general scholarships according to the published priority deadlines. Scholarship criteria is subject to change on an annual basis.

Students are not eligible for ASU scholarships while classified as a transient non-degree seeking student during the period of their co-enrollment.

FERPA

Both WTC and ASU agree to abide by the limitations on re-disclosure of personally identifiable information from student records as set forth in The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") 34 CFR, §99.3. WTC represents, warrants, and agrees that they will: (1) hold the FERPA Records in strict confidence and will not use or disclose the FERPA Records except as (a) permitted or required by this Agreement, (b) required by law, or (c) otherwise authorized by ASU in writing; (2) safeguard the FERPA Records according to commercially reasonable administrative, physical, and technical standards that are no less rigorous than the standards by which WTC protects its own confidential information; and (3) continually monitor its operations and take any action necessary to assure that the FERPA Records are safeguarded in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

ARTICLE II RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

ASU agrees to:

1. Visit all WTC campuses to advertise the Ram Ready Engineering program.
2. Coordinate meetings with appropriate staff periodically to review the Ram Ready Engineering agreement, transfer guides, student support services needs, and financial aid processes and review program procedures, identify areas of improvement, and update the shared procedural document.
3. Develop marketing materials about the Ram Ready Engineering program and provide these materials to WTC.
4. Develop and maintain a Ram Ready Engineering program webpage on the ASU website.
5. Provide academic advising assistance by ASU professional academic advisors to program participants at least once every semester.
6. Provide annual training in order to educate appropriate faculty and staff regarding Ram Ready Engineering requirements.
7. Collaborate with the WTC financial aid office to develop and maintain a financial aid consortium procedural document.
8. Meet with WTC financial aid office representatives at least annually to discuss the financial aid procedures, identify areas of improvement, and update the shared procedural document.
9. Host informational sessions on the WTC campus and/or virtually to answer prospective students' questions about the Ram Ready Engineering program.

10. Identify the weekend dates requiring on-campus participation on the course schedule and in the course syllabus.
11. Deliver an orientation to admitted program participants to prepare students for program success including networking with faculty and resident students, touring the online learning environment, and reviewing the program expectations and academic support resources.

WTC agrees to:

1. Provide a location for admissions counselors and ASU representatives to visit with prospective and current Ram Ready Engineering students, including classroom visits and student organization meetings.
2. Participate in meetings with appropriate faculty and staff on an annual basis to review the Ram Ready Engineering agreement, transfer guides, student support services needs, and financial aid processes.
3. Distribute ASU transfer guides, display the marketing materials provided by ASU, and advertise program informational sessions.
4. Develop and maintain a Ram Ready Engineering webpage on the WTC website.
5. Promote the availability of academic advising assistance to prospective transfer students.
6. Meet with ASU financial aid office representatives at least annually to discuss the financial aid procedures, identify areas of improvement, and update the shared procedural document.

**ARTICLE III
SEVERABILITY**

If any term or provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid for any reason, the invalidity of that section shall not affect the validity of any other section of this agreement provided that any invalid provision is not material to the overall purpose and operations of this Agreement. The remaining provisions of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired, or invalidated.

**ARTICLE IV
AMENDMENT**

This Agreement may be amended in writing to include any provisions that are agreed to by the contracting parties.

Notice to ASU shall be mailed to:

Cecilia Hernandez
Assistant Director of Admissions
Admissions, Dual Credit, & Strategic Partnerships
Angelo State University
ASU Station #11014
San Angelo, Texas 76909-1014

Notice shall be mailed to:

Stephanie Ducheneaux
Dean of Instructional Affairs
Western Texas College
6200 S. College Avenue
Snyder, TX 79549

**ARTICLE V
VENUE**

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. Venue will be in accordance with the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code and any amendments thereto.

**ARTICLE VI
ASSIGNMENT**

Neither party shall have the right to assign or transfer its rights to any third parties under this agreement without the prior written consent of the other party.

**ARTICLE VII
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STATUS**

Nothing in this Agreement is intended nor shall be construed to create an employer/employee relationship between contracting parties. The sole interest and responsibility of the parties is to ensure that the services covered by this Agreement shall be performed and rendered in a competent, efficient, and satisfactory manner.

**ARTICLE VIII
ORIGINAL TERM, RENEWAL, AND TERMINATION**

The Agreement will take effect with the signatures affixed below and will automatically renew in one-year increments for a maximum term of four (4) years. Thereafter, a new agreement must take effect by the signature of both parties. Either party may terminate this Agreement at any time, with or without cause, by giving the other party ninety (90) days written notice of its intent to terminate the Agreement.

Angelo State University

Western Texas College

Ronnie D. Hawkins, Jr.
Ronnie D. Hawkins, Jr., Lt Gen (ret), USAF
President

07/11/2022
Date

Barbara R. Beebe 8-3-22
Dr. Barbara Beebe Date
President

Jamie Mayer
Jamie Mayer (Jul 11, 2022 07:43 CDT)
Mrs. Jamie Mayer
Vice President for External Affairs
Angelo State University

07/11/2022
Date