

Honors Transfer Pathway Agreement
Between
Stephen F. Austin State University on behalf of its School of Honors
And
Alvin Community College on behalf of its Honors Program

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this articulation agreement is to ensure that (1) Alvin Community College and Stephen F. Austin State University will work to further opportunities and access to Honors education for qualified students through cooperative efforts and ventures; (2) Alvin Community College Honors students will be able to transfer Honors courses to Stephen F. Austin State University; and (3) Alvin Community College students who enter Stephen F. Austin State University's Honors College will be eligible for transfer student scholarships awarded by Stephen F. Austin State University's central administration and by the School of Honors.

1.0 Alvin Community College and Stephen F. Austin State University mutually agree that:

1.1 Both institutions will cooperate in the development of Honors activities that facilitate the transfer of course credits from Alvin Community College to Stephen F. Austin State University.

1.2 Both institutions will designate an individual to provide consultation regarding curricular changes, new courses, equivalencies, and transcript evaluations in the School of Honors.

1.3 The faculty and staff of both institutions will share information regarding special events, programs, and activities that relate to Honors student interests.

1.4 The faculty and staff of both institutions will review this *Honors Transfer Pathway Agreement* regularly to ensure that it is meeting the objectives of each institution.

1.5 Copies of this *Honors Transfer Pathway Agreement* will be maintained by the

offices of Admissions, Registrar, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs of Stephen F. Austin State University and the Office of College and Career Pathways at Alvin Community College.

1.6 Both institutions are equal opportunity entities, and shall not discriminate unlawfully against any student, applicant, or employee, nor shall either institution deny the benefits provided its own students to any person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, citizenship, veteran status, or any other protected class status as defined by law or the institution's policy.

1.7 Both institutions are responsible for its employees' actions or inactions, and liability arising there from, to the extent authorized by the constitution and laws of the State of Texas. The institutions will maintain their own insurance including workers' compensation, general liability, or such other coverage necessary for their own institutional liability. Neither institution waives or relinquishes any immunity or defense which may be afforded to the institution, its trustees, regents, officers, employees, volunteers, or agents under law as a governmental entity in the State of Texas as a result of the execution of this Agreement or its performance under this Agreement.

2.0 Stephen F. Austin State University agrees to:

2.1 Provide Alvin Community College with information regarding Stephen F. Austin State University's School of Honors.

2.2 Facilitate Honors students' transition from the Honors Program at Alvin Community College to Stephen F. Austin State University's School of Honors, and assist with admission and scholarship applications, course selection, and registration processes.

2.3 Encourage and assist Alvin Community College Honors students in scheduling campus visits with Stephen F. Austin State University's faculty, staff, and students.

2.4 This articulation agreement provides a mechanism to enable Stephen F. Austin State University students who previously attended Alvin Community College and who have earned enough credits to satisfy the Associate degree requirements to have those credits transferred back to Alvin Community College. This **reverse transfer** process expands the Stephen F. Austin State University and Alvin Community College partnership in that it will help increase student transfer rates to the university and raise associate degree completion rates for the college.

Stephen F. Austin State University and Alvin Community College agree to exchange information, within legal guidelines, about individual students with the goal of making students aware of the potential to satisfy associate degree requirements by transferring course work between both institutions.

Stephen F. Austin State University agrees to identify on an annual basis students who transfer from Alvin Community College with at least 30 hours and who have indicated

on the ApplyTexas Application that they would automatically allow for their transcript to be sent to Alvin Community College once it has been determined that the student has completed 72 semester credit hours, and again upon graduation from Stephen F. Austin State University if they have not received an Associate degree. Once a student has achieved at least 90 semester credit hours, Stephen F. Austin State University shall follow the credit transfer for associate degree procedure in Tex. Educ. Code § 61.833 and any applicable rules.

Stephen F. Austin State University agrees to provide a contact person who is knowledgeable about Reverse Transfer and who can work with Alvin Community College to facilitate this process.

Upon receipt of Stephen F. Austin State University transcript information, Alvin Community College will conduct a degree audit of each eligible student and evaluate all coursework that may apply to the completion of the student's associate degree at Alvin Community College. Students who meet all the Alvin Community College degree requirements are eligible to receive an Alvin Community College degree at no additional cost to the student. Alvin Community College will notify each student that he or she is eligible to receive an associate's degree and eligible to participate in the Alvin Community College graduation ceremony. Annually, Alvin Community College agrees to provide a list of students who are awarded an Associate degree through reverse transfer to Stephen F. Austin State University.

2.5 Accept Alvin Community College's Honors courses as set forth in Section 4.

3.0 Alvin Community College agrees to:

3.1 Provide Stephen F. Austin State University's School of Honors with information regarding changes or additions to requirements of the Alvin Community College Honors Program.

3.2 Provide Stephen F. Austin State University's School of Honors and Office of Admissions with a listing of approved Alvin Community College Honors courses.

3.3 Encourage and assist Stephen F. Austin State University's School of Honors in scheduling campus visits by prospective Alvin Community College students and faculty.

4.0 Transfer and Continuance Policies and Procedures

4.1 Alvin Community College transferring students must meet all Stephen F. Austin State University and School of Honors admission requirements.

4.2 Alvin Community College transferring students must submit an official transcript showing a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 on all coursework taken prior to enrollment at Stephen F. Austin State University.

4.3 Course equivalencies are determined as automatic for those courses in the Texas Common Course Number Index. For all other Honors courses, equivalency evaluation will be made on a course-by-course basis by Stephen F. Austin State University's Office of Admissions.

4.4 To graduate from Stephen F. Austin State University as a University Scholar, the transferring student must have completed at least 24 hours of Honors credit, including at least 12 hours of upper division Honors credits at Stephen F. Austin State University. Alvin Community College transferring Honors students accepted into the School of Honors may apply a maximum of 12 Honors credits toward graduation. A minimum of 12 Honors credits must be completed at Stephen F. Austin State University.

4.5 Upon completion of the above requirements, and having earned an overall GPA of at least 3.25, the student will be awarded the University Scholar distinction in his/her major discipline at Stephen F. Austin State University.

5.0 Miscellaneous

5.1 This *Agreement* shall become effective upon the approval by and signature of the individuals below.

5.2 Unless earlier terminated as provided below, this *Agreement* shall remain in effect for a period of five years, at which time it may be renewed or modified by mutual consent in writing by both parties. In the event this agreement is terminated, Alvin Community College and Stephen F. Austin State University will continue to provide support and services to students transferring under this agreement as long as students are enrolled continuously at least part-time through Fall and Spring Semesters.

5.3 Either party may terminate this *Agreement* upon 180 days written notice to the other party, provided that Alvin Community College students who matriculated before the termination of this *Agreement* may continue.

5.4 Separate academic records for students will be maintained at each institution. Authorized employees of Alvin Community College and Stephen F. Austin State University will have access to personally identifiable information about the students who receive or who are eligible for reverse articulation of credit. Alvin Community College and Stephen F. Austin State University will ensure their institutional compliance with FERPA regulations. This provision shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.

5.5 All notices given pursuant to this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be validly given on (1) the date of delivery if delivered by email, facsimile transmission, registered or certified mail, or hand delivered, or (2) three (3) business days after being mailed via United States Postal Service addressed as follows:

Alvin Community College
Office of College and Career
Pathways 3110 Mustang Road

Alvin, Texas 77511

5.6 The agreement between the parties is non-exclusive and both parties have the right to enter similar agreements with third parties at any time.

5.7 If any of the provisions or portions of this Agreement are invalid under any applicable statute or rule of law, they are to that extent to be deemed omitted.

5.8 This *Agreement* may not be amended or modified except by a written instrument executed by both parties. Alvin Community College and Stephen F. Austin State University agree to mutual notification of changes and additions to the curriculum and curriculum standards, so that articulation plans may be revised as necessary. Proposed changes in policies or curriculum by either party must be communicated in writing to the other party and agreed upon in consultation with officials of each institution. Any changes agreed upon must be signed by both parties, dated, and attached to this agreement.

5.9 No financial implications concerning the transfer or exchange of cash, equipment, or real estate is intended or implied by this agreement. Alvin Community College and Stephen F. Austin State University are separate and independent institutions of higher education and intend to remain so. The administrators of Alvin Community College and Stephen F. Austin State University are authorized to prepare and implement plans of action and procedures necessary to effect this agreement.

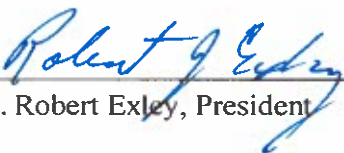
The parties hereby execute this *Agreement* in duplicate.

FOR STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY:

Dr. Steve Westbrook, Interim President

Dr. Lorenzo Smith, Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs

FOR ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE:



Dr. Robert Exley, President