

**ARTICULATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
and
LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM**

Masters of Social Work (MSW) Degree

This Articulation Agreement is made and entered by and between STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY, an entity of the State of Texas, and LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM, a local government entity.

I. Purpose of Agreement

Stephen F. Austin State University, herein after referred to as "SFA," Nacogdoches, Texas, and Lone Star College System, herein after referred to as "LSCS," Houston, Texas, share a common interest in expanding the availability of quality higher education to all Texans. Both entities agree to cooperate in furthering this objective to the mutual benefit of their students.

This articulation agreement provides guidelines and outlines areas of responsibility ensuring that students at LSCS can transfer completed courses to SFA without any loss of credit or recognition of approved courses applied toward the Masters of Social Work (MSW) degree. This agreement further provides guidelines and outlines areas of responsibility ensuring that students at SFA can transfer completed courses to LSCS without any loss of credit or recognition of approved courses applied toward associate degrees. Either institution may propose additional cooperative activities that shall become part of the general agreement upon being signed by both parties.

II. Terms

The parties to this agreement, SFA and LSCS, agree to the terms and conditions set forth herein:

A. General

1. SFA and LSCS will each designate an individual who will be responsible for the maintenance of this articulation agreement and sharing of information on the MSW and associate degrees, new courses added to the degree programs, transcript evaluation, and other projects as needed.
2. The names of the designated persons are contained in Appendix 1. Any change to Appendix 1 shall not require renegotiating this agreement, and any such change made by one institution shall be communicated in writing to the other.
3. To be eligible for the program, students must meet all SFA admission requirements, be officially enrolled at SFA, and have an official transcript showing credit earned on file with the SFA Registrar's Office.

B. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY agrees to:

1. admit and enroll LSCS students in the MSW degree program that are determined by SFA to be qualified for admission to SFA and the MSW degree.
2. assist LSCS transfer students in the transition from LSCS into the SFA MSW program. This may involve informing students of and assisting them in the application for scholarships and in course registration.
3. maintain ongoing collaboration and monitoring of the program through the SFA Associate Dean in the College of Liberal and Applied Arts and the LSCS Executive Director of Educational Partnerships.
4. continue to accommodate LSCS students into the MSW degree so long as this Agreement is in effect. Since SFA cannot guarantee the MSW program in perpetuity, this agreement does not constitute a binding contract regarding ongoing or future offerings of the academic program outlined herein.
5. SFA is an equal opportunity institution, and shall not discriminate unlawfully against any LSCS student, applicant, or employee, nor shall it deny the benefits provided its own degree-seeking student to any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, age or gender.

C. LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM agrees to:

1. provide, upon request by SFA, syllabi for any courses covered by this articulation agreement.
2. communicate to students enrolling in the MSW program about SFA academic requirements, policies, procedures, tuition and fees that will apply and may be subject to change, and to inform students that SFA future offerings cannot be guaranteed.
3. maintain ongoing collaboration and monitoring of the program through the SFA Associate Dean in the College of Liberal and Applied Arts and the LSCS Executive Director of Educational Partnerships.
4. LSCS is an equal opportunity entity, and shall not discriminate unlawfully against any SFA student, applicant, or employee, nor shall it deny the benefits provided its own students to any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, age or gender.

D. Both Institutions agree to:

1. be responsible for their own employees, actions or inactions, and liability arising there from. The institutions will maintain their own insurance including workers' compensation, general liability, or such other coverages necessary for their own

institutional liability. Neither institution waives any immunity it may be afforded under law as a governmental entity in the State of Texas.

2. conduct an annual program review.
3. notify appropriate officials at the relevant institution of any complaints of sexual harassment or discrimination alleged to be committed by students or employees of the other institution.
4. apply the policies and procedures of each institution to students enrolled with each institution. Disciplinary complaints falling under the jurisdiction of an institution shall be referred to the appropriate officials.
5. initiate a biennial review of this agreement to evaluate any changes in competencies, content, or standards.
6. strictly adhere to all statutes, court decisions and the opinions of the Texas Attorney General with respect to disclosure of public information under the *Texas Public Information Act*, Chapter 552, *Texas Government Code*.
7. there shall be no exchange of monies or remuneration of any kind between the parties or the participants.
8. comply with all laws regarding the confidentiality of the Student's educational records, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), and to comply with all applicable laws in safeguarding any non-public, sensitive, and/or confidential information of Institution's Faculty and Students which is in either Party's possession or control in the same manner and to the same extent that it protects its own employees' confidential or non-public sensitive information.
9. ensure that no freshman or sophomore level classes are taught by SFA that are otherwise offered by LSC.

E. Transfer of Credit

1. This articulation agreement provides a mechanism to enable students who have completed courses prescribed by this agreement to transfer those courses from LSCS to SFA and, thereby, satisfy up to 66 semester hours credit toward the MSW degree.
2. Appendix 2 contains programs and courses covered by this articulation agreement. Any change to Appendix 2 may be made by mutual written agreement of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at LSCS and the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at SFA.
3. This articulation agreement provides a mechanism to enable LSCS students who have earned enough credits to satisfy the Associate degree requirements to have those credits transferred back to LSCS. This reverse transfer process expands the

SFA and LSCS partnership in that it will help increase student transfer rates to the university and raise associate degree completion rates for the college.

SFA and LSCS 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.

SFA agrees to identify students who transfer from LSCS 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 LSCS once it has been determined that the student has completed 72 semester credit hours, and again upon graduation from SFA if they have not received an Associate degree. Once a student has achieved at least 90 semester credit hours, SFA shall follow the credit transfer for associate degree procedure in Tex. Gov't Code § 61.833 and any applicable rules.

SFA agrees to provide a contact person who is knowledgeable about Reverse Transfer and who can work with LSCS to facilitate this process.

Annually, LSCS agrees to provide a list of students who are awarded an Associate degree to SFA.

F. Terms of Agreement and Termination

1. This agreement shall be filed with SFA's Records and Admissions offices and with the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. This agreement shall be filed with LSCS's Executive Director of Educational Partnerships.
2. All required notices, demands, requests, and other communications shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given when personally delivered or mailed to the administrators of the respective institutions.
3. This agreement may be amended at any time in writing upon signature of authorized representatives of both institutions.
4. This Agreement is subject to termination by either party upon sixty days written notice of a material breach to the breaching party. Alternatively, this Agreement can be terminated at any time without cause by mutual consent of the parties or by either institution with notice by May 1 that the program will not be offered for the next academic year.
5. The laws of the State of Texas (U.S.A.) shall govern the interpretation and application of this Agreement. Any dispute arising out of this Agreement or its operation, performance or nonperformance shall be resolved in accordance with Texas law and venue shall be solely and exclusively in the courts located in Nacogdoches or Harris County, Texas, U.S.A.
6. In the event of termination and upon notice of termination of this Agreement, any LSCS students who have matriculated prior to the termination or notice of termination or those LSCS students who are seeking admission to this program shall be allowed to complete the application process, and, if admitted, receive the

benefits provided by the terms of this Agreement, for up to one year after the effective date of termination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned parties hereto have set their hands by and through their duly authorized officers on the date and year first recited above.

This agreement is in effect with these signatures.

Stephen F. Austin State University

Lone Star College System

Dr. Baker Pattillo
President

Dr. Stephen C. Head
Chancellor

Dr. Steven Bullard
Interim Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs

Dr. Keri Rogers
Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

Dr. Brian Murphy
Dean, College of Liberal and
Applied Arts

Dr. Lynette M. O'Keefe
Executive Director of Educational
Partnerships

Dr. Freddie Avant
Associate Dean, College of
Liberal and Applied Arts

APPENDIX 1

Individuals Designated to Maintain This Agreement

1. LSCS designates the following individual as the person responsible for maintaining this agreement. This designee shall contact the SFA designee no later than May 15 each year during the period for which this articulation agreement is in force for the purpose of carrying out the terms listed in other parts of this agreement.

Dr. Lynette M. O'Keefe
Executive Director of Educational Partnerships
Lone Star College System
20515 State Highway 249, Suite 11.244
Houston, Texas 77070
(281) 401-5304
Lynette@lonestar.edu

2. SFA designates the following individual as the person responsible for maintaining this agreement. This designee shall be in contact with the LSCS designee no later than May 15 each year for the purpose of carrying out the terms listed in other parts of this agreement.

Dr. Freddie Avant
Associate Dean and Director
School of Social Work
Stephen F. Austin State University
P.O. Box 6104, SFA Station
Nacogdoches, TX 75962-6104
936-468-5105
favant@sfasu.edu

APPENDIX 2

Degree and Certificate Programs

Transfer of Courses

Core Courses

Core coursework will be transferred from LSCS and applied toward SFA's core requirements in accordance with the relevant rules set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. In cases where there is not an equivalent course at SFA, the course will be transferred as an enbloc and applied to the relevant core requirement.