

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

**Between**

**American University**

4400 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C.

**and**

**Miami Dade College**

300 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

Miami, FL 33132

### **I. Purpose**

American University (“AU” or “University”) recognizes the valuable contributions community colleges make to higher education. Toward that end, this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into with Miami Dade College (“MDC”) with the following objectives:

- A. To attract qualified MDC students into American University.
- B. To facilitate an efficient and smooth transition into American University from MDC.
- C. To provide a path of coursework at MDC that is applicable to programs of study at American University.
- D. To encourage academic coordination, faculty and administrative interactions, and student engagement.

### **II. Admissions, Financial Aid, and Academics**

#### **A. General Requirements for Undergraduate Admission of MDC Students to Transfer Into American University**

- 1. MDC students must complete an Associate of Arts (AA) degree from MDC.
- 2. MDC students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 grade point average at the time of admission based on a 4.0 scale. For purposes of admission and credit transfer, AU will include attempted and completed MDC courses in the GPA calculations that apply to all transfer students.

These calculations include adjustments to the GPA based on AU's current policies on repetition of courses and freshman forgiveness. In cases where students have attended additional postsecondary institutions, attempted and completed courses would be included in the calculations as described above. AU will evaluate courses/credits earned through Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or other testing programs for credit transfer.

3. MDC students must sign a "Letter of Intent to Transfer to AU" (*Letter of Intent*) by October 1<sup>st</sup> of the academic year prior to their desired matriculation date. A copy of the letter will be sent to MDC. These students will continue to be advised by MDC staff in collaboration with AU staff as to recommended courses to take in the semesters leading to graduation with an AA degree to best prepare them for transfer to AU.
4. MDC students must submit a completed transfer application and all supplemental materials, by the established deadline for the upcoming desired matriculation date. The application fee is waived under this Agreement.
5. MDC students must matriculate at AU in the semester designated in the *Letter of Intent*. However, students may defer matriculation for a period of up to one year following receipt of the AA degree but will be subject to the limits of the university's capacity to register new transfer students in their desired term of enrollment.
6. If at any time after signing the *Letter of Intent* MDC students decide not to matriculate to AU, such students are responsible for informing AU in writing of this change in status, at which time the *Letter of Intent* will become null and void.
7. After submission of the *Letter of Intent*, the student must remain continuously enrolled at MDC until receipt of the AA degree.
8. Admission under the terms of this MOU is contingent upon meeting high standards of personal conduct.

B. Notwithstanding satisfaction of the above criteria, a prospective MDC transfer student's admission is subject to the following limitations:

1. AU reserves the right to deny admission to students who have been dismissed or suspended (for academic or nonacademic reasons), have a disciplinary record, felony conviction, or to those who cannot demonstrate adherence to high standards of personal conduct.
2. Admission under this MOU is subject to the University's capacity to enroll transfer student in the semester identified in the *Letter of Intent*.

#### C. Financial Aid

1. American University will provide financial support consistent with institutional policies. Students' demonstrated financial need may be met using a combination of resources including AU and federal grant funds as well as student loans and Federal Work Study. Students may apply for financial aid (e.g. FAFSA and CSS Profile) by complying with all financial aid application and deadline requirements. Financial aid will be awarded in accordance with AU's normal policies and procedures. Notification of awards will be concurrent with the offer of admission for those students who follow AU's financial aid and deadline requirements.

#### D. Application of Transferred Credits

1. Students completing an AA at MDC will be considered to have met all lower division General Education requirements at AU as long as the comparable General Education courses have a grade of C or better. Otherwise students will have to repeat those courses at AU.
2. Where transferred course equivalencies exist for AU required courses and/or prerequisites in the major, these courses will apply to AU's graduation requirements as long as such courses have a grade of C or better. If the transferred MDC courses are taught at the 300 or 400 level at AU, students will only receive credit toward the major for at most two of those courses if those courses are approved by the academic unit in which the major resides. All other courses transferred from MDC with upper-level course equivalencies at AU will count toward the AU degree, but not toward the major. AU will develop course equivalency information and make this information readily available to MDC. Until such time that this process is automated/web-based, credit articulation will be done at the point of

admission application and this information will be included in the offer of admission.

3. Students transferring from MDC with an AA degree and no grades lower than a C will be required to complete a minimum of 60 semester hours of AU coursework to be eligible for the AU undergraduate degree. Courses representing credits beyond the 60 semester hours allowed in transfer will be considered to have been completed under the general AU transfer guidelines and will be reviewed for comparability to receive credit.
4. Students transferring from MDC with an AA degree, who will be repeating courses per item 1 or item 2 above, may be required to complete more than 60 semester hours of AU coursework to be eligible for the AU undergraduate degree.
5. Course articulations in effect at the time a student first enrolls at MDC will be honored by AU if the student completes an AA degree and successfully transfers to AU within 4 years of initial enrollment at MDC.

E. Upper Division Scholars Program for Transfer Students

1. MDC students who meet the eligibility requirements described in this MOU and have a GPA of at least 3.8 at the time of application will qualify for upper-level honors courses at AU.
2. These students will be considered for competitive merit scholarships based on their past academic performance and indicators of future promise. Notification of awards will be concurrent with the offer of admission for those students eligible for the Upper Division Scholars Program.
3. The MDC Dean of the Honors College will recommend a qualifying MDC student for an AU Upper Division Scholars Program merit scholarship to the MDC President, who in turn will make a recommendation to the AU President.

### **III. Collaboration between American University and MDC**

A. American University agrees:

1. to begin an advising process with the MDC student shortly after receiving the *Letter of Intent*,

2. that MDC *Letter of Intent* students who meet the February 1<sup>st</sup> application deadline for the following fall semester matriculation will be informed of their admission and financial aid by March 1<sup>st</sup>,
3. that AU will waive the application fee for MDC students who apply under the terms of this agreement,
4. that admitted MDC students who have a 3.5 GPA based on a 4.0 scale are eligible to pre-register for courses in the semester prior to matriculation at AU,
5. that all support services will be readily available to MDC students. Such services include, but are not limited to, all workshops (*The Digital Student, Time Management, Effective Reading, Note Taking Skills*, etc.) and individual consultation offered by the Academic Support Center, the Writing Lab, Supplemental Instruction in courses where available, and the Peer Tutoring program. AU also offers a *Transfer Transitions* orientation program for new transfer students that provides opportunities for meeting peers, learning about resources and services, finalizing class schedules, and providing assistance with parking permits, photo IDs, and setting up bank accounts, and
6. that MDC students will be eligible for the combined bachelors/masters programs if such programs are available in their major.

B. MDC agrees:

1. to use its best efforts to ensure that students recommended for admission to American University are academically qualified to attend and succeed at American University,
2. to inform AU of any changes in *Letter of Intent* MDC students' status with respect to this agreement, and
3. to provide a recommendation for a merit scholarship for the most qualified MDC transfer student.

#### **IV. Coordination of MOU**

American University and MDC agree to:

1. communicate to each other changes to policies or requirements of their respective institutions that affect this MOU,

2. review the MOU annually or earlier upon the request of either party. This review will include among other items, specific program articulation, course-by-course equivalencies, academic achievement, retention and graduation rates, and transitional experience of participants,
3. designate a primary contact for the respective institutions to serve as liaison for the purposes of monitoring this MOU,
4. announce this relationship on the respective institutions' websites, and other marketing venues as appropriate,
5. provide accurate and timely information about the relationship to prospective students, and
6. provide updated course catalogs to the other immediately upon their availability.

#### **V. Term, Termination, and Other Provisions**

- A. This MOU may be amended from time to time by the written agreement of the parties. These amendments may include without limitation terms related to specific program articulation and course-by-course transfer articulations.
- B. The MOU is made effective on the date that both parties have signed the agreement and shall continue for three (3) years, unless earlier terminated as provided in this MOU.
- C. The MOU may be terminated:
  1. by mutual agreement of the parties, or
  2. by either party upon 180 days prior written notice to other party of an intention to terminate.
- D. MDC students who have submitted a *Letter of Intent* at the time of MOU termination will be permitted to transfer to AU under this MOU.
- E. No Intended Third-Party Beneficiaries: This MOU is between MDC and American University and shall not be construed, interpreted, or deemed to confer any rights whatsoever to any student or other third-party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the date set forth below:

For American University:

  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4/18/12  
Scott A. Bass, Ph.D. Date  
Provost

For Miami Dade College:

  
\_\_\_\_\_ 4/26/2012  
Rolando Montoya, Ed.D. Date  
Provost

