



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY AND MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The following agreement between South Carolina State University and Midlands Technical College is designed to enhance the successful transfer of students with associate degrees from Midlands Technical College to South Carolina State University to earn their baccalaureate degrees. This collaboration is intended to serve students by providing program support, articulated academic curricula and services that facilitate the transfer process and successfully prepare and acclimate students desiring to matriculate at South Carolina State University.

Overview

This program utilizes existing policies, programs and services in a defined and targeted way for students beginning at Midlands Technical College (MTC) who wish to matriculate at South Carolina State University (SCSU) after they have earned their associate degree at MTC. Policies governing the admission, enrollment and transfer of students are established by each institution.

Students served by the program begin their academic studies at MTC. These students will transfer to SCSU in junior status after earning their associate degree at MTC. During their enrollment at MTC, these students in the Midlands Technical College to SC State University Bulldog Bridge Program will receive structured advisement, an array of support services and college engagement activities that are designed to promote successful student transfer.

Promotion/Eligibility

The program is open to all MTC students. Participation in the program is determined by the student's expressed desire to eventually matriculate at South Carolina State University.

Students will be identified in the following ways:

1. **Students denied admission to SCSU for either academic or space available reasons.** These students will be notified of the option of attending MTC as freshmen and entering SCSU as transfer students by the SCSU Admissions Office. These students will be referred to enroll at MTC to earn their associate degree and then transfer to SCSU as juniors.

2. **Students who enter MTC as freshmen and then decide to transfer to SCSU to earn their baccalaureate degree.** Midlands Technical College will notify these prospective and/or newly matriculated students about the availability of the MTC-SCSU Bulldog Bridge Program and how they can prepare to successfully transfer to SCSU after attaining their associate degree at MTC.

Once students are identified by SCSU or MTC, and student releases are obtained, students' names and contact information will be sent to the SCSU and MTC Admissions and Bridge Program Offices for tracking student progress toward transfer admission and enrollment.

Admission

All admission policies and procedures, including the admission standards of individual academic units of SCSU and MTC will be enforced.

First year admission is determined by MTC and subsequent transfer admission is determined by existing transfer admissions policies at SCSU.

Each institution will provide updates of admission policy changes as soon as is practical.

Recruitment and Marketing Communications

Midlands Technical College and South Carolina State University may, at the agreement of both colleges, engage in joint marketing and recruitment activities. All joint marketing must be reviewed and agreed to by the Marketing Offices of both colleges.

SCSU communications to prospective MTC students and on-campus visitations at MTC or on-campus at SCSU will be coordinated through the MTC Bridge Program Coordinator and the SCSU Admissions Office.

Program Components

Specific program components may be offered by a variety of methods, to include but are not limited to on-campus activities, as well as virtual delivery via web resources.

Fall Activity, Freshman Year:

MTC and SCSU will present an information and orientation session for prospective Bulldog Bridge Program students. This session will focus on admissions, financial aid and available student success programs and student life activities. The session will also focus on creating awareness of SCSU programs and policies. A schedule of preliminary meetings with program participants will be determined.

Each participant will be provided with a transfer credit guideline sheet for the chosen SCSU academic program or referred to an online program guide. Students also will be provided with a listing of SCSU administrative and academic contacts, including phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Spring Semester and Second Year Activities:

Topics covered in the fall will be explored in greater depth in the spring.

- An on-campus program for Bulldog Bridge Program participants will be held on the campus of SCSU. Activities will include but not be limited to:
 - Admissions
 - Financial Aid, Scholarships and Financial Planning for College Transfer
 - Student Success and Retention Programs Student Life and Leadership
 - Career Center
 - Special Needs, Accommodations and Other Services
- Students will have an opportunity to meet with representatives from their chosen academic areas.
- Students will be offered the opportunity to take a campus tour.
- Students will be offered the opportunity to be paired with a transfer advisor the semester before entering SCSU to answer questions as the Bulldog Bridge student prepares for transfer to SCSU.

Special Opportunities

Bulldog Bridge Program opportunities that will be made available to students to promote successful transfer engagement while enrolled at MTC include, but are not limited to:

- Student advising by MTC and SCSU advisors.
- Sessions specifically designed for Bulldog Bridge Program students to address their academic and career success.
- Career services.
- A 50% discount on the SCSU activity fee, which allows the Bulldog Bridge Program students to be eligible for an SC State University ID. Upon payment to the SCSU Cashier's Office, the student will be eligible for SCSU campus activities, including athletic events, commuter parking and campus meal plans.
- The opportunity to be matched with a transfer student mentor or academic program coordinator the semester before entering SCSU to answer questions as the student prepares for his/her transition to the University. To the extent possible, this mentor will continue to work with the student throughout his/her first year at SCSU, unless an alternative mentor is required.

Early in their first semester at South Carolina State University, students will attend a session specifically designed for Bulldog Bridge Program students that addresses personal and academic success for transfer students.

South Carolina State University and Midlands Technical College will collaborate to assess program effectiveness through the use of student focus groups, surveys and enrollment data. After student releases are obtained, South Carolina State University will provide Midlands Technical College with individual transfer student admission, enrollment and GPA information so that both SCSU and MTC can jointly assess program quality and make modifications as needed to enhance student transfer success. Non-identifiable, aggregate group data on transfer students may be shared without student releases.

Summary Comments

All aspects of the program will be periodically reviewed by representatives of South Carolina State University and Midlands Technical College. Any alterations or new program elements will be implemented when mutually agreed upon by the two institutions.

Midlands Technical College and South Carolina State University agree to the terms of this agreement as indicated by the signatures below:

For Midlands Technical College



Dr. Ronald L. Rhames
President

March 30, 2017

Date

For South Carolina State University



Mr. James E. Clark
President

3/30/17

Date