# Memorandum of Understanding between Hillsborough Community College and New College of Florida Guaranteed Admission Program

# PURPOSE OF THIS MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is to memorialize an agreement between Hillsborough Community College ("HCC") and New College of Florida ("NCF") to ensure qualified HCC students are guaranteed admission to NCF upon successful completion of an Associate of Arts ("AA") degree from HCC and application for admission to NCF. Students will use a prescribed academic pathway ("Pathway") while at HCC to ensure transfer entrance to associated NCF academic areas of concentration. Each Pathway will describe the curriculum a student should complete while pursuing their AA for a specified area of study at NCF. All Pathways shall be in writing and executed by authorized representatives of HCC and NCF and shall be incorporated into this MOU as supplemental addenda. Students eligible for the Guaranteed Admission Program (GAP) will be expected to earn an Associate of Arts degree ("AA") from HCC within eight semesters, not to exceed thirty-two (32) months, from the start of the student's AA degree and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00.

### PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW OF THIS PROGRAM:

The primary purpose of the GAP is to increase access for intellectually engaged, high achieving students to enroll and complete degrees at both HCC and NCF. Further, the GAP will allow for more students within the State of Florida to remain in the state to pursue higher degrees of education to impact the state economy positively. These students will receive support and mentoring to guarantee the applicants' admission to NCF upon completion of an AA at HCC. The students will be invited to meet with academic advisors at HCC to discuss GAP, and ensure proper advisement occurs for coursework necessary to transition to NCF, including being informed that failure to adhere to the terms of GAP will result in loss of guaranteed admission to NCF. All Pathway courses shall be completed prior to official enrollment at NCF provided that the pathway courses have been offered at HCC during the students' enrollment. If HCC has not offered pathway courses during the student's enrollment at HCC, NCF will consider reasonable alternatives on a case-by-case basis. HCC students shall be held to the standards of each institution's Student Code of Conduct and Honors Code.

#### TARGET AUDIENCE:

Any HCC student who is interested in transferring to NCF after completing an AA at HCC.

# **COMMITMENTS FROM HCC:**

- Identify students who may be interested in NCF.
- Code potential NCF students for the GAP program.
- Communicate to students about student engagement opportunities at HCC and NCF.
- Provide appropriate reports on progress of students; subject to FERPA.
- Advise students appropriately to ensure that necessary coursework is met for admissions into NCF.

## **COMMITMENTS FROM NCF:**

- Provide regular curriculum updates to HCC.
- Provide HCC with data on success stories of HCC GAP transfer students.
- Provide graduation data for GAP students commencing with the graduation of the first cohort of students transferring under this MOU.
- Invite students to attend information sessions with details on NCF's admissions process and points of contact.
- Provide welcome/encouragement letter to students that have self-identified as pursuing GAP admission.
- Encourage GAP students to attend activities (academic/social programming) to make connections with NCF students.
- Admit students who have satisfied the requirements outlined herein, who apply as a transfer student to NCF.

#### **TERM OF THIS MOU**

This MOU shall take effect on September 1, 2021 and remain in place for one (1) year. It shall automatically renew on an annual basis unless either institution provides the other institution written notice no later than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the expiration of the preceding term that it wishes to terminate this MOU. If either institution fails to follow the terms and conditions of the MOU, as set forth herein, the other institution has the right to terminate this MOU immediately upon written notice. If this MOU is terminated, the status of the students matriculated, enrolled, or accepted in programs contemplated under this MOU shall not be affected.

### **OPERATIONAL DETAILS:**

- HCC and NCF will meet to review MOU and make appropriate amendments and/or addenda, when either party identifies a need to do so.
- HCC and NCF academic administrators will communicate annually and may meet to address the
  unique academic needs of both institutions. Administrators or designees may review regional
  academic programming needs and plans with a particular focus on baccalaureate degree
  offerings.
- HCC and NCF will identify members in their respective institutions to monitor the progress of the students and the program.
- If either institution requests a change to a Pathway, the institutions will cooperate to develop and execute a new Pathway.
- Advertisements, press releases, flyers and other print or electronic publicity created and
  disseminated by each institution regarding programs or activities related to this MOU shall be
  approved in advance by designated representatives of both parties.
- Neither party shall discriminate on the basis of sex (including pregnancy or gender identity), race, religion, age, national origin/ethnicity, color, marital status, disability, genetic information, or sexual orientation in any of its educational programs, services, or activities, including admission and employment.

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