



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

University of South Carolina Aiken and Piedmont Technical College

The following agreement between University of South Carolina Aiken and Piedmont Technical College is designed to enhance the transfer of students from Piedmont Technical College to the University of South Carolina Aiken. This collaboration is intended to serve students by providing program support and services which facilitate the transfer process and prepare and acclimate students desiring to matriculate at the University of South Carolina Aiken.

Overview

This program utilizes existing policies, programs and services in a defined and targeted way for students beginning at Piedmont Technical College who wish to matriculate at University of South Carolina Aiken. Policies governing the admission, enrollment and transfer of students are the sole purview of each institution.

Students served by the program begin their academic studies at Piedmont Technical College. Transfer consideration generally requires at least 30 semester hours of transferable work for traditional students and at least 60 semester hours of transferable work specifically applicable to the student's major for students wishing to enter the *junior status*.

University of South Carolina Aiken and Piedmont Technical College will promote associate degree attainment to interested students. This includes, but is not limited to, completing all necessary coursework and hours to earn an associate's degree at Piedmont Technical College or the reverse transfer of courses back to Piedmont Technical College upon successful completion of coursework and hours at University of South Carolina Aiken. Piedmont Technical College and University of South Carolina Aiken will work together to develop equated courses and articulated curricula in mutually desired academic disciplines.

Promotion/Eligibility

The program is intended for Piedmont Technical College students who are recent high school graduates or adult learners. Participation in the program is determined by the student's express desire to eventually matriculate to the University of South Carolina Aiken.

Students will be identified in the following ways:

- Students denied admission to the University of South Carolina Aiken either for academic or space available reasons and who live in the Piedmont Technical College service area will be notified of the program option by the University of South Carolina Aiken Admissions Office.
- Piedmont Technical College will notify prospective and/or newly matriculated students who desire to transfer to a four-year college about the availability of Piedmont Technical College bridge programs with four-year colleges, including the University of South Carolina Aiken.

Once students are identified by University of South Carolina Aiken or Piedmont Technical College and students have provided a release to share their contact information, student names and contact information will be sent to the University of South Carolina Aiken Admissions Office and the Piedmont Technical College Admissions Office for system input and tracking.

Admission

All admission policies and procedures, including the admission standards of individual academic departments of the University of South Carolina Aiken and Piedmont Technical College, will be in force.

Initial admission to the first year at Piedmont Technical College is determined by Piedmont Technical College while subsequent transfer is determined by existing transfer admissions policy at the University of South Carolina Aiken. Each institution will provide updates of admission policy changes as soon as practical. Any official policy change is subject to change without notice.

Program Components

Fall & Spring

- × Focus will be on awareness of University of South Carolina Aiken programs and policies.
- × Focus will be on the application and admissions process.
- × University of South Carolina Aiken will host a transfer day on-campus in early spring.
- × Bridge program students will have the opportunity to meet and interact with admissions, financial aid, student affairs and career services.
- × Students will have an opportunity to meet with representatives from their chosen academic area.
- × Students will also have an opportunity to take a campus tour.
- × Students will be allowed to participate in other activities on campus, including Transfer Friday open house programs and personal daily tours of campus.

- ✦ access to priority registration at USC Aiken, assuring their ability to register for classes before other new students
- ✦ enhanced academic advising including comprehensive on-site advising from both the two-year campuses and USC Aiken advisors
- ✦ Access to the Gregg-Graniteville Library at USC Aiken, free admission to some sporting events, student activities, events featuring guest speakers, and cultural productions

All Bridge Program contact personnel at Piedmont Technical College will be provided a list of contacts from the University of South Carolina Aiken's administrative and academic departments.

Special Opportunities

To reinforce student engagement and support the transition from Piedmont Technical College to the University of South Carolina Aiken, students will be offered the opportunity to participate in identified University of South Carolina Aiken programs and events while still in attendance at Piedmont Technical College. These opportunities may include, but are not limited to recreational, campus and cultural events, provided students meet the eligibility criteria for these programs. The University of South Carolina Aiken and Piedmont Technical College will collaborate to assess program effectiveness through the use of student surveys and enrollment data. USC Aiken will provide Piedmont Technical College with admission, enrollment and GPA information on students who transfer from Piedmont Technical College to USC Aiken so that both colleges can jointly assess program quality and make modifications as needed to enhance student transfer success.

In addition, students in the Bridge program will receive benefits to include a waiver of the University of South Carolina Aiken application fee and consideration for additional scholarships as available from the institution or other resources. The students will also be assigned an admissions counselor or a student mentor to help guide them through the transfer process. In addition, students will be assigned advisors to guide them through their initial semester at University of South Carolina Aiken.


The University of South Carolina Aiken will share average semester GPA of Piedmont Technical College student transfers as a comparison with the average semester GPA of native University of South Carolina Aiken students. This information will be shared between the offices of Institutional Effectiveness beginning with the Fall 2012 cohort of Piedmont Technical College transfer students.

Summary Comments

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

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

For Piedmont Technical College:

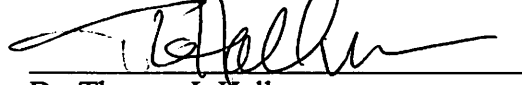


Dr. L. Ray Brooks

President

4/18/2012
Date

For University of South Carolina Aiken:



Dr. Thomas L. Hallman

Chancellor

4/18/12
Date

Susan Timmons

Vice President Academic Affairs

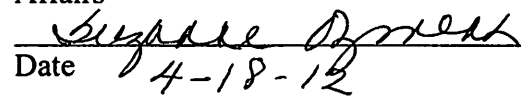


Date

18 Apr 12

Dr. Suzanne Ozment

Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Date

4-18-12