

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**

Texas A&M University-Commerce (herein called the “University” /“College”) and Rains Independent School District (herein called the “School District”), enter the following agreement.

WHEREAS the purpose of this agreement is to outline the collaboration of the partners, as listed above, in creating a program for the delivery of dual-credit courses and a sustainable model for ensuring college readiness,

NOW THEREFORE, the parties to this Memorandum of Understanding mutually agree as follows:

### **TERM**

The term of this agreement shall commence on August 1 2022, and will terminate on August 1, 2026 unless renewed or extended by the partners.

### **PROVISION OF COURSES**

The University/College/College and the School District will collaborate to deliver dual credit courses applicable to the Texas Core Curriculum. Dual Credit distance education classes will follow guidelines published by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Administrative Code, and Texas A&M University-Commerce policy, 11.99.99.R0.01 Standards and Criteria for Off-Campus and Self-Supporting Courses and Programs.

Extension of these opportunities meets statewide goals established under the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board’s strategic plan (60x30), specifically:

- 1.) Supports the goal of sixty-percent of Texans aged 25-34 will have a certificate or degree by 2030.
- 2.) Supports the goal of 550,000 completing a degree annually by 2030.
- 3.) Supports the goal of all Texans who have completed an academic program doing so with possession of identifiable marketable skills.
- 4.) Supports the goal of student loan debt not exceeding sixty-percent of first year wages for those completing a certificate or degree by 2030.

### **COURSE COMPLIANCE**

The University/College is responsible for involving full-time teaching faculty in the process of selecting and implementing University/College courses. This includes ensuring that course goals and standards are understood, and that the same standards of expectation and assessment are applied where University/College courses are offered. Courses offered for dual credit include must include the same content and rigor as courses taught to other college students, utilizing the same curriculum, policies, and instructors with similar if not same qualifications.

The University/College will designate staff/personnel to monitor the quality of instruction in order to assure compliance with the Course Articulation Agreement and the standards established by the State, applicable Accrediting Body, the University/College, and the School District. Provision of dual credit will be in accordance with the provisions of Texas Administrative Code, Title 19 “Education,” Pt. 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter D.

## COURSE APPLICABILITY

Dual credit courses offered by the University/College will apply to the Rains High School requirements for graduation as follows:

University Credit	High School Credit
English 1301/English 1302	College Eng. 1-03220300/ College Eng. 2-03220300
History 1301/1302	College History 1- 03340100/ College History 2- 03340100
Mathematics 1314 (College Algebra)	College Math- 03102500
Mathematics 142 (Pre-Calculus)	College PreCal- 03101100

## ENROLLMENT

Students must demonstrate readiness for college-level work by taking the required college placement exams and meeting the minimum score requirements as determined by the University/College in order to enroll in University/College courses. Upon mutual agreement, the University/College will assist with enrollment at least one time per semester for all students who are qualified and who wish to enroll in academic dual credit courses.

## ELIGIBILITY TO ENROLL IN MORE THAN 6 HOURS OF DUAL CREDIT

Rains High School students meeting the following criteria are eligible to take more than 6 hours of college credit per semester.

- **Have exhibited the maturity and social behavior necessary for college level courses**  
Students must exhibit the maturity and social behavior necessary to participate in a college-level course. Students with prior disciplinary or attendance problems, as defined by The Texas Education Code, section 25.92 Minimum Attendance for Class Credit, are not eligible to enroll in more than 6 hours of dual-credit courses.
- **Have passing scores on all state required STARR EOC tests for the student's high school career:** Students who achieve passing scores on all EOC assessments for their high school career as determined by the Texas Education Agency may enroll in dual credit courses.
- **A sophomore requesting to take dual credit classes must have a qualifying score on the ACT, SAT or TSI assessment.**

## INSTRUCTORS, FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION

School District and University/College will be responsible for evaluating instructor credentials to ensure they meet all state and regional requirements, including, but not limited to Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and Southern Association of Colleges, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). District instructors must meet state certification requirements in their subject area to teach in the state of Texas. University/College faculty will meet the requirements necessary to teach courses for University.

The University/College shall supervise and evaluate instructors of dual credit courses using the same or comparable procedures used for faculty at the main campus of the college. A summary of those expectations is included in the University's dual credit manual for school leadership.

The School District will pay the salary of instructors who teach a high school course. The University/College will pay the salary of faculty who teach the dual credit college-level courses at the high school. Should issues arise regarding University/College faculty, quality of courses, or student issues, the principal will report as soon as possible to the Associate Provost for Academic Foundations.

### **HIGH SCHOOL ORGANIZATION AND FACILITIES**

Courses will be delivered to students, but a high school staff member will serve as an aide to the University/College faculty member. Computers will be provided by School District for use by students and connectivity to the University/College's course management system will be ensured.

### **TUITION AND FEES**

Students will pay statutory tuition of \$150 plus designated tuition of \$100 (\$250 total) for a three hour course.

### **BOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

Rains ISD will provide textbooks. These adoptions will be in coordination with the relevant University academic department. Books will be used for a period of four years from the date of this agreement.

### **SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE**

Dual credit students are eligible to receive all support services provided University/College students.

Specific support and guidance provided as a part of the program include the following:

- 1.) Parent/student orientation, held annually as part of the admissions process.
- 2.) Guidance with admission and academic testing processes, including course placement.

All Dual Credit students will be enrolled in courses that satisfy the Texas Core Curriculum at A&M-Commerce.

### **GRADING POLICY**

University/College grades for dual credit courses will continue to be entered as letters (A, B, C, D, F, Q, W) for University/College purposes.

However, University/College faculty members will provide School District personnel with numerical representations of those grades at the conclusion of each course.

The School District will use those numerical grades for School District grading purposes.

The School District accepts responsibility for addressing parent concerns about numerical grades.

The designated individual responsible on behalf of Texas A&M University–Commerce for examining any claim or counterclaim and conducting any negotiations related thereto as required under Article 2260.052 of H.B. 826 of the 76<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature shall be:


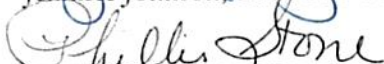
Mr. Travis Ball, CTPM, M.S.  
Chief Procurement Officer & HUB Coordinator  
Texas A&M University–Commerce  
P.O. Box 3100  
Commerce, TX 75429

**TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT**


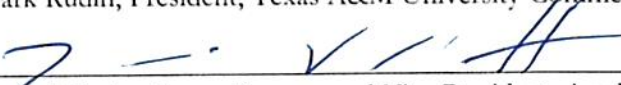
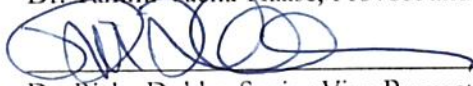
The University/College and School District reserve the right to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding upon service of written notice to the other party 90 days prior to the date of termination. In this event, the date of termination will be the day after the end of the semester during which the 90-day period expires.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the partners have duly approved this AGREEMENT, EXECUTED IN TWO original counterparts on this date of 5/8/2023.**

Rains ISD Signatures

	<u>5/10/23</u>
Jennifer Johnson, Rains ISD Superintendent	Date
	<u>5-8-23</u>
Phillis Stone, Interim Director of Curriculum & Instruction	Date

Texas A&M Commerce Signatures

	<u>5/22/2023</u>
Dr. Mark Rudin, President, Texas A&M University-Commerce	Date
	<u>5/19/23</u>
Dr. Tammi Vacha-Haase, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs	Date
	<u>5/19/2023</u>
Dr. Ricky Dobbs, Senior Vice-Provost	Date