



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA BY AND ON
BEHALF OF VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY AND
TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY



DENTON DALLAS HOUSTON

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into by and between The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of Valdosta State University (hereinafter called "VSU") and Texas Woman's University (hereinafter called "TWU") as providers of the graduate degrees in the Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Those states without a teacher of deaf training program will hereinafter be called "Trainee States."

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this MOU is to address student demand for a master's level degree program in Special Education with a concentration in Deaf and Hard of Hearing or a master's degree in Education of the Deaf, which is not currently offered by 19 U.S. states and five U.S. territories. This MOU is the foundation of a consortium agreement entitled, Deaf Education Academic Framework (DEAF) Consortium between TWU and VSU. Admission to either institution under this MOU is available only to students living in states without a teacher of the deaf training program. TWU and VSU will provide direct instruction through distance education (100% online) to eligible students from those states in which teacher training in Education of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing is not currently available. TWU and VSU will not independently solicit other online students for enrollment from states or territories in which a teacher of the deaf training program currently operates under the terms of this MOU.
2. **Objectives.** The specific objectives of this MOU include:
 - a. To maximize the collaborative education of the deaf resources of both TWU and VSU through inter-institutional collaboration;
 - b. To provide educational opportunities leading to attainment of a master's degree for students in states in which teacher of the deaf training opportunities are not available;
 - c. To facilitate transfer of credit for courses taken at one institution to the other partner institution;
 - d. To enhance faculty and student mentoring development through such activities as cooperative programs, workshops, seminars, and conferences;
 - e. To offer collaborative interdisciplinary seminars, research, and professional activities between TWU, VSU and professionals in the trainee states;
 - f. To encourage and facilitate joint planning efforts by the faculty of both institutions.
3. **Responsibility of Member Institutions.** This MOU establishes a consortia relationship to facilitate transfer of course credit in which the partner institutions share responsibility for

developing and delivering courses that meet mutually agreed upon standards of academic quality. Each institution retains responsibility for oversight of all degree requirements at the degree-granting institution.

4. **Admissions.** Students will apply to the university from which they plan to graduate. This university will be known as the "degree-granting institution." Applicants will apply to the graduate school of the degree-granting institution. Students participating in the consortium will abide by the university policies and graduate school policies at the degree-granting institution and by the policies and guidelines of the consortium in regard to structure of the advisory committee and other committees, conduct of examinations, and all other aspects of their programs of study. Students will be classified as degree-seeking only at the degree-granting institution. Both VSU and TWU are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.
 - a. Students requesting consideration for the Master of Education in Special Education with a concentration in Deaf Education and Hard of Hearing from VSU or the Master of Science in Education of the Deaf from TWU should meet the following admission requirements:
 - i. Students must apply online and be accepted by VSU's or TWU's Graduate School.
 - ii. Students must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally-accredited institution with a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 Scale (VSU) or 3.0 on a 4.0 Scale (TWU).
 - iii. Students must take and submit test scores from either the GRE or the MAT to the degree-granting institution and meet the minimum score for that institution (Verbal score plus either Quantitative score or Analytical score) with a Verbal score.
 - iv. Students must submit official transcripts from all institutions previously attended to the degree-granting institution.
 - v. Students applying to VSU as the degree-granting institution must provide documentation of the satisfactory completion of DEAF 2999 - Entry to the Profession.
 - vi. Students must provide evidence of American Sign Language (ASL) fluency indicated by an Intermediate or higher rating on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI), a Level 2 or higher rating on the American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI), or holding national interpreting certification. Students not providing documentation of ASL fluency at the time of admission must complete an additional six (6) hours of undergraduate coursework (DEAF 3100 and DEAF 3150) at VSU or an additional nine (9) hours of undergraduate coursework in ASL at TWU as a graduation requirement.

Note: Requirements may occasionally change to adhere to accreditor, state, or federal regulations, so students are encouraged to check the TWU Graduate School website (<http://www.twu.edu/gradschool/admission-requirements.asp>) and VSU Graduate School website (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/>) for the most current admission requirements.

- b. Students enrolled in the online Master of Education in Special Education with a concentration in Deaf Education and Hard of Hearing (VSU) or the Master of Science Education of the Deaf (TWU) are required to register for courses and subsequently pay applicable tuition and fees as set forth on VSU's or TWU's institutional website. The current fee schedule for VSU is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/financial-services/students/services/tuition-and-fee-schedules.php>. The current fee schedule for TWU is available at <http://www.twu.edu/tuition-fees-estimator.asp>. Tuition and fees do not include instructional materials, such as textbooks, and may vary depending on the scholastic term in which the student is admitted.
- c. Students desiring to enroll in a course not offered by the degree-granting institution should apply as a non-degree seeking student to the partner institution's Graduate School.
- d. If applicable at the conclusion of the program, students are responsible for requesting an official transcript be sent from the teaching institution to the degree-granting institution to facilitate the transfer of academic credit.

5. Responsibilities.

TWU and VSU will:

- a. Facilitate the admission, enrollment, advisement, registration, financial aid award, and fee payment of Master of Science in Education of the Deaf (TWU) students at TWU or the Master of Education in Special Education (VSU) with a concentration in Deaf Education and Hard of Hearing students at VSU.
- b. Collaborate to provide financial aid opportunities with the following conditions: For students who wish to receive federal financial aid through TWU, a minimum enrollment of at least six credit hours at TWU in the term aid is required. Exceptions include enrollment in thesis, professional paper, or dissertation, where three credit hours is acceptable. A Consortium Agreement between the financial aid offices of TWU and VSU will be used to coordinate credit hours, cost of attendance for financial aid purposes, financial aid payments, and enrollment reporting. For students wishing to receive federal financial aid through VSA, the Consortium Agreement will be used to include the

cost of tuition, fees, and books, for courses taken at TWU, and the number of credit hours taken at TWU, in the financial aid calculations at VSU.

- c. **Notify students in advance of all textbooks or materials needed for a course and provide textbook acquisition information to enrolled students through the TWU bookstore or VSU bookstore.**
- d. **Annually, provide a Master of Science in Education of the Deaf (TWU) and Master of Education in Special Education with a concentration in Deaf Education and Hard of Hearing (VSU) course rotation to students in trainee states to aid in students' planning.**
- e. **Provide for administrative assistance as necessary to support the activities of this consortium agreement.**
- f. **Meet regularly, either in person or by electronic means such a videoconferencing technology, to recommend academic policies and to make operational decisions on implementing academic policies within the consortium agreement.**
- g. **Offer coursework by both TWU and VSU member institutions. TWU and VSU agree to accept transfer coursework between both institutions and apply that credit toward the student's degree requirements. Students will adhere to any institutional limits on transfer credit hour limits. Instances which may potentially exceed transfer limits should be discussed with the respective program coordinator prior to enrolling in the course so that a policy exception may be considered. In all cases, a student must complete at least one-third of credits toward a graduate degree through instruction offered by the degree-granting institution.**
- h. **Offer coursework to students living in states only in which TWU or VSU is authorized to operate, thereby complying with State Distance Authorization Rules.**

Trainee States will:

- a. **Allow VSU and TWU students living in their states enrolled in the Master of Education in Special Education with a concentration in Deaf Education and Hard of Hearing program (VSU) or the Master of Science in Education of the Deaf (TWU) the option to complete their student teaching at an in-trainee state campus supervised by either qualified trainee state personnel or faculty from either VSU or TWU. This would include assigning an experienced and qualified mentor teacher and completing relevant student teacher placement agreements for each student.**

- b. Inform VSU and TWU students of any trainee state policies or procedures before any field experience begins.
 - c. Inform the VSU's Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education Department Head and Coordinator of the Deaf Education and Hard of Hearing Program and TWU's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Department Head and Coordinator of Education of the Deaf of any concerns pertaining to students who are enrolled in field/clinical practice.
- 6. **Term.** This MOU is effective for the period of August 15, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The institutions, under the same terms and agreements, may renew this MOU by executing a renewal letter. Each renewal will run concurrent with the fiscal year of the State of Georgia.
- 7. **Modification of Termination.**
 - a. **Modification.** Modifications of this MOU may occur any time with mutual consent of both Parties. Effective date of the initiation of agreed upon modifications will proceed the forthcoming semester in which the modifications are made. Modifications to this MOU or portions thereof will be consecutively numbered, accepted/approved by signature, and appended thereto as application.
 - b. **Termination.** This MOU will automatically terminate when replaced by a new written agreement. Either Party may terminate this MOU by the submission of a written notification to the other Party at least one semester in advance of the proposed termination date. Irrespective of termination, VSU and TWU will continue to serve any student enrolled in the program in an appropriate teach-out plan.
- 8. **Notices.** Notices shall be in writing sent by the U.S. Mail, confirmed email delivery, or by hand delivery to the address of each Party set out on the signature page to this MOU.
- 9. **Governing Law.** This MOU shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas and State of Georgia.

In witness whereof, the parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

[Signatures on following page]

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of **Valdosta State University**:

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LynnTVlinor, Ed.D.
Interim Dean, Dewar College of Education and Human Services Valdosta
State University

_____ Date:

Brian L. Gerber, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Valdosta
State University

Texas Woman's University by:

 _____ Date: 11 gH /strissul~

Ron Hovis, M.B.A.
Interim Dean, College of Health Sciences Texas
Woman's University

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Robert Neely, Ph.D. /