

Agenda Item: I.G.

**DATE:** July 26, 2012

**SUBJECT:** New Academic Policy: A5.0 Dual Admissions

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Approval

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Tennessee Code Annotated §49-7-202 as amended by Public Chapter 3, Acts of 2010 (1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session) requires that “the commission, in consultation with the board of regents and the University of Tennessee board of trustees, shall develop policies under which any person who satisfies the admissions requirements of any two-year institutions governed by the board of regents and any four-year institution governed by the board of regents or the University of Tennessee board of trustees may be admitted to both such institutions.”

While Commission staff worked closely with TBR and UT academic staff to develop a protocol for developing dual admissions agreements and policies, a formal policy has not been adopted. In a recent audit of the Commission, UT and TBR on the status of implementation of the Complete College Tennessee Act, the Comptroller’s Division of State Audit determined that the Commission had not complied with the intent of the legislation. This policy is being brought to address that finding.

**Section Title:** Academic Policies

**Policy Title:** Dual Admissions

**Policy Number:** A5.0

5.0.10 **Scope and Purpose.** In accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-7-202 as amended by Public Chapter 3, Acts of 2010 (1<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Session) it is the policy of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission that the two systems will introduce system dual admission policies under which any person who satisfies the admissions requirements of any two-year institutions governed by the board of regents and any four-year institution governed by the board of regents or the University of Tennessee board of trustees may be admitted to both such institutions. Admission to the four-year institution does not guarantee admission into a particular program.

To facilitate the process, the two systems are encouraged to utilize the Dual Admissions Partnership Agreement template (Attachment A).

Approved: July 26, 2012

# Dual Admissions Program

\_\_\_\_\_ University

and

Tennessee Board of Regents Community Colleges

## Overview

The Dual Admission Program (DAP) between community colleges in the Tennessee Board of Regents System (TBR) and universities in the Tennessee Board of Regents System offers students a structured, guaranteed pathway for attaining a Bachelor's degree. The goal of this agreement is a seamless transition by providing one curriculum plan for earning the associate and bachelor's degrees. The purpose of Dual Admission is to ease the transfer process and foster students' academic success. The advantage of a dual admission agreement as opposed to an articulation agreement is that students have direct contact with both community college and university faculty and staff throughout the program. In addition, the dual admission program provides enhanced advisement and transition support services.

## Eligible to Apply for Dual Admission

A student must meet the following conditions to be eligible:

- planning to pursue a Bachelor's Degree
- meets current admission criteria for a TBR community college
- Earned 29 or fewer college-level semester hours and a cumulative GPA of 2.0; cumulative 2.75 GPA for the A.S.T. Degree
- enters a community college under the 2004 or later catalog (the common general education core curriculum was implemented in fall 2004)

## Students' Responsibilities

TBR community college students who fulfill the requirements of the DAP are guaranteed acceptance to \_\_\_\_\_ University.

- Students must apply and be admitted to a TBR community college.
- Students must complete an application for Dual Admission and a non-binding Intent-to-Enroll form.
- Students must earn an A.S., A.A. or A.S.T. degree from a TBR community college. Students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA (2.75 for the A.S.T. Degree) to be in good standing in the Dual Admission program.

- All required high school courses must be completed prior to transition to \_\_\_\_\_ University.
- Any courses required for the major not completed at the community college must be completed at the public university to progress into the major.
- Students must complete the community college Intent to Graduate form.
- Students who attend another institution between the time they graduate from a TBR community college and enroll at \_\_\_\_\_ University must re-apply as a transfer student.
- Students must re-apply to the Dual Admission Program if there is a break of more than a year in their attendance at the community college.
- Students must complete financial aid paperwork for \_\_\_\_\_ University prior to enrolling.

### **Institutions' Responsibilities**

- A TBR community college will provide \_\_\_\_\_ University with a copy of the DAP application, community college application and high school transcript
- Both the TBR community college and \_\_\_\_\_ University will track Dual Admission students in their student information systems.
- Both the TBR community college and \_\_\_\_\_ University will assign each student to an advisor from each campus.
- Each institution will develop a web site specifically for the Dual Admission Program.
- At the end of each semester, the TBR community college will provide \_\_\_\_\_ University a transcript for each participant in the DAP, and student work at the TBR community college will be posted as transfer credit in the student information system at the receiving university.
- Each institution will establish a primary and secondary campus contact.
- A TBR community college will accept any appropriate credit taken at \_\_\_\_\_ University by the student towards the associate degree.

### **Terms of Ineligibility**

- A student may participate in only one Dual Admission Program at a time.
- Failure to complete the Associate degree at the TBR community college where the student attends.
- Failure to adhere to the provisions of the DAP.
- A written withdrawal from the program in writing to the TBR community college where the student attends.

### **Advantages for the Participating Institutions**

- TBR community colleges can attract highly motivated students who plan to attend a TBR university after they earn their associates degrees.
- With increased ease of transitioning between institutions, institutions will achieve a higher transfer rate.

- An improved community college transfer rate will lead to increased baccalaureate attainment.
- TBR community college students will be encouraged to pursue a bachelor's degree after completing an associate's degree, which will increase students' educational attainment levels.
- TBR community colleges can track educational achievement of their graduates.
- TBR community colleges and universities can enjoy joint recruitment in area high schools.
- Students will arrive at TBR universities better prepared for upper division courses in their major fields of study.
- Universities in the Tennessee Board of Regents System will have a qualified and identified source of students that require minimal recruitment effort.

### **Advantages for TBR Community College Students**

- Students are guaranteed acceptance to a TBR university rather than to a particular college or major. Admission to a major requires following the requirements designated by that major.
- Students can save money by enrolling for their first two years at a TBR community college with lower tuition and fees.
- Students will become familiar with university staff and academic advisers, which should facilitate the transition process.
- Students will be able to view their entire degree plans at the onset of their college career.
- Students will receive academic advising from both institutions including early advisement from the receiving university.
- Students will be able to register during the priority registration time period at the receiving university the semester of graduation from a TBR community college.