

Memorandum of Understanding
between
Central Piedmont Community College
and
Appalachian State University

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made on the 1st day of November 2020, by and between Appalachian State University ("Appalachian") and Central Piedmont Community College ("CPCC") to establish the Aspire Appalachian Co-Admission Program.

Aspire Appalachian is a co-admission program between Appalachian and CPCC intended for successful community college students who plan to transfer to Appalachian after completing the Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), or Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees through an institutional or state-wide articulation agreement.

The Aspire Appalachian program creates predictable pathways from CPCC to Appalachian and is designed to provide North Carolinians affordable access to higher education. Aspire Appalachian also provides advising support for students during their education at CPCC and prepares them for a successful transition to Appalachian.

THEREFORE, the parties to this MOU mutually agree as follows:

1. CPCC students who are admitted to the Aspire Appalachian program must meet all Appalachian Admissions standards at the time of matriculation to Appalachian including but not limited to academic success and academic standing, including any criminal or disciplinary issues.
2. CPCC students have up to 3 years from date of acceptance into the Aspire Appalachian program to complete the Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), or Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree through an institutional or state-wide articulation agreement and matriculate through this co-admission program.
3. Students admitted into the Aspire Appalachian program and who are enrolled at CPCC will receive:
 - a. Access to academic advising by designated Aspire Appalachian liaisons/advisors at CPCC and Appalachian to ensure co-admitted students select courses that minimize their time to baccalaureate degree completion and optimize academic achievement
 - b. Access to financial aid advising and planning to aid students in maximizing their aid and minimizing student debt.
4. CPCC graduates with a 2.25 GPA or higher who earn an Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), or Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree through an institutional or state-wide articulation agreement and will then matriculate to Appalachian will receive:
 - a. Admission into an Appalachian undergraduate degree program. *(Note: students are not guaranteed admission into a particular major, as some high demand programs may have admission requirements*

beyond those for general admission to Appalachian.)

- b. Eligibility to apply for financial aid, subject to financial aid eligibility requirements.
 - c. Invitation to Aspire Appalachian program events designed to aid students with their transition to Appalachian and promote timely and successful completion of their baccalaureate degree.
 - d. Opportunities for students who indicate their intent to enroll by the recommended deadline to participate in the Transfer Pre-Orientation Program (T-POP) which provides enhanced orientation programming and early registration.
5. Appalachian agrees to provide to CPCC:
- a. Established admission procedures and criteria for the Aspire Appalachian program. Selection will be determined by Appalachian in consultation with the Aspire Appalachian liaison(s) on the CPCC campuses.
 - b. Access to Appalachian advising tools for the Aspire Appalachian liaison(s) on CPCC campus(es).
 - c. Open sharing of data as it relates to Aspire Appalachian students and their performance at Appalachian. For purposes of this MOU, the parties are considered to be "school officials with legitimate educational interests" under FERPA and may share Aspire Appalachian student data between them.
 - d. Use of Appalachian logo on Aspire Appalachian recruitment, advertising, and reporting materials. Neither party shall identify the other in any promotional, marketing, advertising or other materials to be disseminated to the public or to use the name or trademark, service mark, symbol, nickname or logo of either party, without the prior written consent of the other party's authorized representative, except to identify the existence of the Agreement and the nature of the relationship or location of program.
6. CPCC agrees to provide to Appalachian:
- a. Designated Aspire Appalachian liaison(s) on the CPCC campus(es) to serve as a point of contact for Aspire Appalachian students on campus; to help identify, recruit, and select Aspire Appalachian students; to help facilitate visits and program activities of Aspire Appalachian staff or other campus representatives on the CPCC campus(es); and to serve on a Aspire Appalachian advisory board.
 - b. Use of CPCC logo on Aspire Appalachian recruitment, advertising, and reporting materials. Neither party shall identify the other in any promotional, marketing, advertising or other materials to be disseminated to the public or to use the name or trademark, service mark, symbol, nickname or logo of either party, without the prior written consent of the other party's authorized representative, except to identify the existence of the Agreement and the nature of the relationship or location of program.
 - c. Open sharing of data as it relates to Aspire Appalachian students. For purposes of this MOU, the parties are considered to be "school officials with legitimate educational interests" under FERPA and may share Aspire Appalachian student data between them.
7. CPCC and Appalachian agree to the objectives, benefits and requirements for the Aspire Appalachian Program as detailed in the attached Aspire Appalachian Co-Admission Program Agreement (Attachment A to this MOU).
8. By entering into this contract, Appalachian State University agrees to provide Central Piedmont Community College enrollment and graduation data for all former Central Piedmont Community College AA, AS and AAS graduates who participated in the Aspire Appalachian program at Central Piedmont Community College and are continuing with the program at Appalachian State University once each year, no later than July 1 of each year.

This MOU shall be effective from the date last signed below for a period of three years or until it is cancelled by either Appalachian or CPCC by submitting a written notification to the other party at one year prior to the effective date of termination to allow students that have been admitted to complete their respective programs. Either institution may terminate this agreement by submitting a written notice of intent at least 90 days in advance prior to termination, but subject to the proviso that such termination shall not become effective until the end of the then current academic

semester at the terminating member's institution. Students currently enrolled will be given up to two academic years to complete the program. Both institutions agree to abide by these guidelines and review them annually by representatives of each institution, prior to the anniversary date of the agreement. The purpose of the annual review shall be to ensure that the academic content and quality of all courses offered by Central Piedmont are comparable to the corresponding courses regularly offered by Appalachian State University. These include not only those specifically taught by areas of the university where the agreement resides but also those taught by supporting departments of Appalachian State University. The Agreement will be renewed every three years or earlier as needed. Any alterations or modifications to the Agreement shall be in writing and signed by authorized representatives of each party.

Governing Law: This Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina applicable to agreements made and to be performed entirely within North Carolina.

Force Majeure: The parties obligations under this Agreement are subject to acts of God; war; government order; locally declared State of Emergency; epidemic or pandemic (such as: SARS, COVID-19); threats or acts of terrorism or similar acts; governmental travel advisories; disaster; strikes; civil disorder; curtailment of transportation facilities; or any other cause beyond the parties' control; making it inadvisable, illegal or impossible to perform their obligations under the agreement.

The undersigned support the MOU between CPCC and Appalachian.

Signed:

Appalachian State University

Central Piedmont Community College

Dr. Sheri Everts Chancellor
Chancellor

Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer
President

Dr. Heather Hulbert Norris
Interim Provost & Exec. Vice Chancellor

Dr. Heather Hill
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Attachment A:

Aspire Appalachian Co-Admission Program Agreement

DATE

The Aspire Appalachian Co-Admission Agreement between Appalachian State University ("Appalachian") and Central Piedmont Community College ("CPCC") is intended to promote seamless transfer, access to baccalaureate degree completion and to enhance transfer student success.

Objectives of Aspire Appalachian

- Improve student access to undergraduate education;
- Expand educational choices that best meet each student's academic, social, career, and financial needs;
- Improve associate and baccalaureate degree graduation rates;
- Ease student transition between both institutions;
- Provide ready access to support services for student success, regardless of student location;
- Coordinate seamless administration of admission, financial aid and other student support services;
- Improve accessibility of information for student success;
- Co-Admission to Appalachian guarantees general admission to the University; and (Note: students are not guaranteed admission into a particular major, as some high demand programs may have admission requirements beyond those for general admission to Appalachian.)
- Students who indicate their intent to enroll by the recommended deadline will have priority enrollment in the Transfer Pre-Orientation Program (T-POP), which provides enhanced orientation programming and early registration.

Benefits for Students

This partnership provides the following benefits for CPCC students:

- Coordinated federal and state financial aid;
- Coordinated degree completion so students who maintain established academic standards move seamlessly to Appalachian to complete upper-division coursework;
- On-site admissions and academic advising; and
- Access to a CPCC liaison on the CPCC campus(es) who serves as a point of contact for the co-admission program, helps identify and recruit eligible students, facilitates visits, and serves as a liaison to the Division of Enrollment Management at Appalachian.

Requirements for Participation

Students interested in the Aspire Appalachian Co-Admission Program must submit a formal application to the program and meet the following requirements for admission:

- Students must submit official high school transcript or GED scores.
- Students must be willing to commit to full-time status (minimum of 12 credit hours per semester). Students are strongly encouraged to maintain an average of 15 credits per semester (Fall & Spring) to promote timely degree completion.
- Students must have at least 2 semesters of coursework remaining to complete their associate degree.
- Students must complete ACA 122 with a grade of C/2.0 or higher for acceptance into the program.

- GPA requirements of a minimum of at least 2.25 (Cumulative) and at least 2.25 (Term). Each course must have a grade of at least C/2.0 to transfer for credit and meet UGETC transfer for General Education.
- Upon completion of Associate Degree, students must provide a final CPCC transcript documenting the conferred degree.
- Prior to enrolling at Appalachian (by February 15 for Summer/Fall and October 15 for Spring), co-admitted students need to complete the transfer application to ensure all demographic and academic records are up-to-date.
- Students who are co-admitted must meet all Appalachian Admissions standards including but not limited to academic success and academic standing, including any criminal or disciplinary issues.

Requirements for Matriculation to Appalachian

Students must meet the following progression requirements to complete the Aspire Appalachian Program and enroll at Appalachian:

- Complete a minimum of 12 credit hours of coursework per term (recommend 15-17) with a minimum GPA of 2.25;
- Complete the requirements for an Associate in Science, Associate in Arts or Associate in Applied Science through an institutional or state-wide articulation agreement; and
- Central Piedmont Community College verifies with Appalachian that the students are meeting all program requirements at CPCC.

Both institutions will work together to reach the above agreed upon goals to benefit the students we serve.

Signed,

Appalachian State University

Central Piedmont Community College

 Dr. Sheri Everts
 Chancellor

 Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer
 President

 Dr. Heather Hulbert Norris
 Interim Provost & Exec. Vice Chancellor

 Dr. Heather Hill
 Vice President of Academic Affairs