



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Partnership for Articulation
Marymount University
And
Montgomery College

This Memorandum of Understanding (the "MOU" or "Memorandum") is entered into on August 19, 2024 (the "Effective Date"), by and between Marymount University (MU), located at 2807 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207, and Montgomery College (MC) located at 9221 Corporate Blvd., Rockville, Maryland 20850

1. MISSION

The partnership on which the Parties intend to collaborate has the following intended mission in mind:

We aim to forge a dynamic, collaborative partnership between Montgomery College and Marymount University. Together, we are committed to enhancing our recruitment of transfer students and collaborating in Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) status through diverse initiatives. These encompass scholarships, engaging campus events, fostering faculty gatherings, and driving impactful joint projects. Our shared vision is to create an inclusive and empowering educational environment that celebrates diversity, elevates Hispanic student success, and strengthens our commitment to higher education excellence.

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a collaboration between Marymount and Montgomery College for the purpose of providing transfer opportunities and pathways for the students, including the responsibilities of each party and opportunities for students who choose to follow a Transfer Pathway, in an effort to facilitate transfer and degree completion at the respective institutions. For each department, major, or track at either MU or MC desiring to establish a Transfer Pathway, the parties shall enter into a separate addendum under this Agreement (each, an "Addendum"), specifying the department, major, or track of MC sending students to MU, the department, major, or track of MU awarding transfer credit, and other relevant information.

3. OBJECTIVES

The Parties shall endeavor to work together to develop and establish policies and procedures that will promote and sustain a market for Establishing a collaborative partnership between Montgomery College and Marymount University to enhance MC student transfer opportunities For all transfer students under this master agreement.



4. **RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES**

Any Party may decide not to proceed with the partnership contemplated herein for any reason or no reason. A binding commitment concerning the partnership described herein will result only from the execution of definitive agreements, subject to the conditions. Notwithstanding the two preceding sentences of this paragraph, the provisions under the headings Governing Law and Confidentiality are agreed to be fully binding on and enforceable against the Parties.

The following are the individual services the Parties contemplate providing for the partnership.

Marymount University (MU) shall render and provide the following services that include, but are not limited to:

Collaborate with MC on Scholarship Programs:

MC and MU will collaborate to create scholarship opportunities for all students transitioning from MC to MU. Scholarships will be awarded based on academic achievement, financial need, and commitment to furthering higher education. MC students will qualify for up to \$20,500 in scholarships and grants per year before filing a FAFSA.

MC Priority Program:

- Every transfer student is awarded a merit scholarship upon admission to Marymount. These awards range from \$10,000 to \$16,000 based on the student's GPA. (GPA of 3.2 or higher qualifies for \$16,000 yearly merit scholarship, \$10,000 yearly merit scholarship starts at 2.25 GPA)
- Students who graduate from MC with an Associate's Degree will receive a \$2,500 scholarship annually from Marymount.
- Students with 30+ hours from MC who will not earn their Associate's Degree before attending Marymount will receive a \$1,500 scholarship annually.
- Marymount offers a \$2,000 scholarship to Community College students who are members of Phi Theta Kappa.

Campus Events:

Both institutions will organize joint cultural and educational events celebrating Hispanic heritage and promoting diversity.

Events may include lectures, workshops, film screenings, and art exhibitions open to students, faculty, and the community.

Faculty Gatherings:

MC and MU will facilitate regular gatherings where faculty members from both institutions



can share expertise and collaborate on research projects. These gatherings will foster a culture of academic exchange and innovation.

Student-Centered Focus:

MC and MU will facilitate communications between student organizations for the mutual benefit of using shared resources and providing support for the transfer population from MC. **Mentorship Programs:** MU students can mentor MC students, guiding the transition to a four-year institution, academic success strategies, and career planning. This helps MC students navigate their path toward a bachelor's degree.

Research on Hispanic Student Success: Collaborative research projects with students and faculty can investigate factors affecting the success of Hispanic students, including barriers and support systems. The findings can inform both institutions' efforts to improve retention and graduation rates.

Community Outreach and Engagement: MU and MC students can work together on community service projects that directly benefit the Hispanic community in Washington, D.C. This includes initiatives like tutoring, ESL programs, or volunteering at local organizations.

Cultural Awareness Events: Organize joint events that promote Hispanic culture and raise awareness about the challenges and achievements of Hispanic students. These could include Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, art exhibitions, or panel discussions. **Language Exchange Programs:** Facilitate language exchange programs where MC students with Spanish-speaking proficiency can partner with MU students to improve their language skills, fostering cultural exchange and understanding.

Scholarship Awareness Campaigns: Develop campaigns that raise awareness about scholarship opportunities available to Hispanic students at MC and MU. This can include creating informative brochures, hosting workshops, and providing one-on-one application assistance.

Cross-Institutional Student Organizations: Establish a joint student organization that brings together MC and MU students interested in promoting HSI initiatives. This organization can plan and execute various projects throughout the academic year.

Peer-to-Peer Support Programs: Launch peer mentoring programs where MU students guide MC students through the transfer process, sharing their experiences and insights.

Montgomery College (MC) shall render and provide the following services that include, but are not limited to:

MC will actively promote scholarship opportunities among eligible students.

MC will promote Marymount University in print and on its website, along with pathways created between its faculty and programs with approval of appropriate leadership from each institution. Resigning of full document not needed for program changes or additions.



MC will maintain an active web presence regarding the HSI partnership and our transfer agreement with Pathways.

Both institutions will contribute resources and personnel to the planning and execution of campus events.

Faculty members from both MC and MU will actively participate in faculty gatherings and collaborative projects.

5. TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING

The term of this Memorandum shall be for 3 years from the Effective Date and may be extended upon written mutual agreement of both Parties.

6. LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The Parties acknowledge and understand that they must be able to fulfill their responsibilities under this Memorandum in accordance with the provisions of the law and regulations that govern their activities. Nothing in the Memorandum is intended to negate or otherwise render ineffective any such provisions or operating procedures. The Parties assume full responsibility for their performance under the terms of this Memorandum.

If at any time either Party cannot perform their duties or responsibilities under this Memorandum consistent with such Party's statutory and regulatory mandates, the affected Party shall immediately provide written notice to the other Party to establish a date for resolution of the matter.

7. FORCE MAJEURE

The performance of the Articulation Agreement by either party shall be subject to force majeure including, but not limited to, acts of God, fire, flood, natural disaster, war or threat of war, acts or threats of terrorism, civil disorder, unauthorized strikes, governmental regulation or advisory, recognized health threats as determined by the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, or local government authority or health agencies (including but not limited to the health threats of COVID-19, H1N1, or similar infectious diseases), curtailment of transportation facilities, or other similar occurrence beyond the control of the parties, where any of those factors, circumstances, situations, or conditions or similar ones prevent, dissuade, or unreasonably delay the undergraduate/graduate program, or where any of them make it illegal, impossible, inadvisable, or commercially impracticable to hold the undergraduate/ graduate program or to fully perform the terms of the Articulation Agreement. The Articulation Agreement may be canceled by either party, without liability, damages, fees, or penalty, for any one or more of the above reasons, by written notice to the other party.



8. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

No rights or limitation of rights shall arise or be assumed between the Parties as a result of the terms of this Memorandum.

9. NOTICE

Any notice or communication required or permitted under this Memorandum shall be sufficiently given if delivered in person or by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address outlined in the opening paragraph or to such address as one may have furnished to the other in writing.

10. GOVERNING LAW

Each will be governed by the laws of the state in which it operates.

11. Miscellaneous

This Agreement is between the parties and shall not be construed, interpreted, or deemed to confer any rights whatsoever to any student or other third-party.

This Agreement does not create among the parties any joint venture, partnership, or agency, or any other business relationship other than the specific relationship provided by the terms of this Agreement. The parties at all times and for all purposes shall be considered independent contractors of each other. In dealing with third parties, each party agree to avoid creating any appearance that it is as acting as an agent for the other and to avoid making any representation which might reasonably be construed as creating or suggesting an agency relationship.

12. AUTHORIZATION AND EXECUTION

The signing of this Memorandum does not constitute a formal undertaking, and as such it simply intends that the signatories shall strive to reach, to the best of their abilities, the goals and objectives stated in this MOU.



This Agreement shall be signed by Marymount University (MU) and Montgomery College (MC) and effective as of the date first written above.

Irma Becerra, Ph.D.
Marymount University
2807 North Glebe Road
Arlington, Virginia 22207

8/28/24

Date

Pamela Slaven-Lee
Interim Provost
Marymount University
2807 North Glebe Road
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8/29/24

Date

Jermaine F. Williams, Ed.D.
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Montgomery College
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8/28/24

Date

Deidre Price, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs/College Provost
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8/27/24

Date