THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE
COLLEGE OF EMERGING & COLLABORATIVE STUDIES

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") was made between the University of Tennessee-Knoxville on behalf of its College of Emerging and Collaborative Studies (CECS) undergraduate programs and NorthEast State Community College, is effective on July 1, 2025.

The purpose of this MOU is to implement additional transfer admission pathways for students from NorthEast State Community College who seek admission to UTK (CECS) through Guaranteed Admission or Priority Admission beginning in fall 2025. Guaranteed Admission is designed to provide a guaranteed admission pathway for students from NorthEast State Community College desiring a Bachelor of Science degree from CECS in Applied Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, or Innovative Transdisciplinary Studies. NorthEast State Community College students who do not qualify for Guaranteed Admission may qualify for Priority Admission. Priority Admission is another transfer admission pathway, whereby students from NorthEast State Community College who meet qualifications, would be considered prior to those NorthEast State Community College students seeking admission through the regular admission review process. The qualifications for Guaranteed Admission and Priority Admission are outlined below.

Students can apply to the UTK CECS at UTK Undergraduate Admissions.

Guaranteed Admission into a UTK CECS Bachelor of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, or Innovative Transdisciplinary Studies:

To qualify for **Guaranteed Admission** to UTK CECS, a student must:

- Receive an Associate of Science (A.S.) or Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree from NorthEast State Community College; AND
- Earn a minimum of 60 transferable credit hours; AND
- Achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher by the time of application to UTK CECS, and must maintain that 2.5 or higher average until the time of matriculation at UTK CECS; AND

- Submit a completed transfer application for admission, including a well-written response to one of the required essay questions within the application, by no later than July 1st of the same year seeking fall entry or by no later than December 15th of the prior year seeking spring entry.

Priority Admission into UTK CECS Bachelor of Science in Applied Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, or Innovative Transdisciplinary Studies:

To qualify for **Priority Admission** to UTK CECS, a student must:

- Receive an Associate of Science (A.S.) or Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree from NorthEast State Community College; AND
- Earn a minimum of 60 transferable credit hours; AND
- Achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher by the time of application to UTK CECS, and must maintain that 2.0 or higher average until the time of matriculation at UTK CECS; AND
- Submit a completed transfer application for admission, including a well-written response to one of the required essay questions within the application by no later than July 1st of the same year seeking fall entry or by no later than December 15th of the prior year seeking spring entry.

UTK CECS agrees to the following:

1. UTK CECS provides Guaranteed Admission and Priority Admission opportunities for qualified students who meet the requirements in this MOU. Guaranteed Admission for qualified students may be limited based on program capacity.
2. Students denied admission into the Guaranteed or Priority admission pathway may be considered for admission into the CECS undergraduate programs through the regular application review process.
3. Admitted students are highly encouraged to apply for university scholarships that are made available specifically for transfer students. Admitted students with at least a 3.25 calculated UT GPA are automatically awarded the Volunteer Transfer Scholarship up to $5,000 each year over two years. More information about this scholarship and others can be found online at UTK Transfer Scholarships.
4. UTK CECS will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by federal or state law.

5. Students wishing to transfer credits to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville must meet the admissions requirements for the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and the parties acknowledge and agree that the University of Tennessee, Knoxville reserves the right to reject any such admission to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in accordance with its standard policies and procedures. These students must also provide an official transcript of courses completed. Students must meet the admissions criteria of their selected program, apply to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and be admitted. If admitted, the students shall become subject to all the University of Tennessee, Knoxville policies, procedures and rules.

NorthEast State Community College agrees to the following:

1. NorthEast State Community College will communicate and recommend qualified students, as defined in this MOU, to consider applications for Guaranteed Admission or Priority Admission opportunities.
2. As needed, NorthEast State Community College will encourage interested students to engage with any relevant on-campus student/academic support services (e.g., writing centers) for assistance with their writing on the essay portions of the UTK transfer application for admission.

Term:

1. This MOU has a term of three (3) years from the Effective Date. The MOU will be reviewed annually and changes or revisions necessary will be made by mutual agreement of all parties.

Term Extension and Termination:

1. The MOU may be extended or amended only by written agreement authorized officials of the parties. The MOU may be terminated by either party for any reason or no reason with a minimum of 90 days' notice, in writing, of the termination date.

Signatures on the Following Page

In Witness Whereof:

_____

AVC for Finance & Administration Date:

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

_____

President Date:

Northeast State Community College

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Dr. Flora Tydings

Chancellor Date:

Tennessee Board of Regent