



**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**Between**  
**Southwestern Community College and**  
**Lees-McRae College**  
**Guaranteed Admission Program**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020, by and between Lees-McRae College (“LMC”) and Southwestern Community College (“SCC”) to establish a Guaranteed Admission Program (GAP) for all SCC students who meet certain academic requirements to transfer and complete a bachelor’s degree at LMC.

This agreement furthers the efforts of both institutions to meet the educational needs of the citizens of North Carolina and to work cooperatively to improve access to private higher education. This agreement is intended for successful SCC students who plan to transfer to LMC after completing an Associate’s degree. Any SCC student who earns an Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.), Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.), and Associate in Fine Arts (A.F.A.) will be automatically admitted to LMC, with cumulative grade point averages as listed below.

Each student seeking to transfer from SCC to LMC will be admitted and earn the necessary academic credits needed through a state-wide articulation agreement, an institutional program-to-program articulation agreement, or a transfer credit evaluation. Furthermore, SCC students admitted to LMC will receive academic merit scholarships that range in amounts up to and including 60% off LMC annual tuition. These merit-based awards are greater than amounts other transfers to LMC will receive and are guaranteed for the duration of the student’s stay at LMC, provided the student remains in good academic standing.

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

1. All SCC students seeking transfer to the LMC main campus academic programs, with an A.A., A.S., A.A.S., or A.F.A. degree and an overall grade point average of 2.2 or higher, are guaranteed admission into the following programs:
  - Business Administration (B.S.)
  - Criminal Justice (B.A., B.S.)
  - English (B.A.)
  - History (B.A., B.S.)
  - Nutrition Science (B.S.)
  - Psychology (B.A., B.S.)
  - Sport Management (B.A., B.S.)
  - Theatre Arts Administration (B.S.)
  - Communication Arts & Design (B.S., B.A.)
  - Emergency Medical Services & Management (B.S.)
  - Exercise Science (B.S.)
  - Musical Theatre (B.F.A.)
  - Outdoor Recreation Management (B.S.)
  - Religious Studies (B.A., B.S.)
  - Theatre Arts (B.A., B.S.)

## 5. Academic Merit Scholarships

SCC students who are admitted to one of LMC's main campus programs as part of this GAP will automatically receive the following academic scholarships. These scholarships are termed New Horizon Transfer Scholarships and are awarded only to full-time students (enrolled in 12 or more credits a semester).

- **3.9 GPA and above** \$14,000 per academic year (\$7,000 per semester)
- **3.6-3.8 GPA** \$13,000 per academic year (\$6,500 per semester)
- **3.3-3.5 GPA** \$12,000 per academic year (\$6,000 per semester)
- **3.0-3.2 GPA** \$11,000 per academic year (\$5,500 per semester)
- **2.2-2.9 GPA** \$10,000 per academic year (\$5,000 per semester)
- **Phi Theta Kappa Members\*** \$2,000 per academic year (\$1,000 per semester)

\*Members of Phi Theta Kappa are awarded the \$2,000 in addition to any other academic scholarship offered. This must be listed on SCC official transcript or on official letterhead from an appropriate SCC employee.

Note: New Horizon Transfer Scholarships are awarded to transfer students based off their academic performance at SCC prior to enrolling at LMC. Students must remain in good academic standing with a cumulative GPA of a 2.0 or better while enrolled at LMC in order to maintain this scholarship.

SCC students who enroll in one of LMC's online degree completion programs will receive a discounted tuition price of \$320 per credit hour.

## Additional Requirements

- All SCC students must fill out the LMC application for admission, or they can submit the Common Application. The application fee will be waived for all SCC students who submit an application to LMC with the LMC institutional application.
- SCC must submit an official transcript to LMC. Students must meet all LMC admissions standards listed in this MOU at the time of matriculation to LMC, including but not limited to academic success and academic standing. This includes an evaluation of any criminal or disciplinary issues.
- Credit is automatically given for courses completed with a grade of C or better.
- Courses with "C-" or "D" grade may also be granted by the appropriate dean, chair or faculty member provided the course does not alter requirements of the student's major of study and LMC graduation requirements.
- Details contained in specific academic program-to-program articulation agreements will override items contained in this Guaranteed Admission Program. This does not change the guaranteed admission and scholarship amounts listed in this MOU.
- SCC students should apply for admission to LMC and directly to the intended major/academic program of study during the second semester of sophomore year at SCC.

- Qualified graduates entering LMC under the terms of this Guaranteed Admission Program who decide to enroll at LMC must pay a non-refundable \$250.00 enrollment commitment fee. This fee signals the student's intent to enroll at LMC and serves as the mandatory fee for new student orientation, academic advising, course registration, welcome week activities, and all services provided to incoming transfer students through the LMC Office of New Student Engagement.
- SCC students are encouraged to apply for additional financial aid by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The LMC Title IV School Code is 002939.
- SCC students whose GPA falls below the minimum required for guaranteed admission may still be accepted on a case-by-case basis upon thorough review of their application and any supporting documentation.

## Agreement

LMC and SCC will enter this agreement beginning with Spring Semester of 2021, and this entire document will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis and revised as needed. It is understood by both parties that this agreement is subject to review and revision as deemed necessary by both parties to ensure compliance with all local, state, and national accrediting bodies' policies and expectations.

Both LMC and SCC give mutual assurance that in performing their duties under this agreement, they will not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, citizenship status, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or other protected group. Reasonable accommodations for participation by disabled persons will be made in compliance with Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As soon as the proper college officials of the two aforementioned institutions have signed this agreement, each is free to publicize and utilize this arrangement as deemed appropriate.

For Lees-McRae College:

Kevin J. Phillips

Kevin J. Phillips  
Vice President for Enrollment Management

9/16/20

Date

For Southwestern Community College:

Dr. Don Tomas

Dr. Don Tomas  
President

9-17-2020

Date

Dr. Thom Brooks

Dr. Thom Brooks  
Executive VP for Instruction & Student Services

9/17/20

Date