

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

**Between the University of South Carolina Columbia
And
South Carolina State University**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into as of the 19th day of April, 2021, by and between the University of South Carolina Columbia, hereinafter referred to as UofSC, and South Carolina State University, hereinafter referred to as SCSU. Both parties are educational institutions and agencies of the State of South Carolina.

1. PURPOSE

South Carolina has a significant need to develop well-trained and diverse nuclear engineering professionals from institutions across the State. This agreement establishes the South Carolina State University – University of South Carolina Nuclear Engineering Accelerated Graduate Program (NE-AGP) to address this need. This program enables qualified students in SCSU's Nuclear Engineering (NE) B.S. program to take graduate courses from the University of South Carolina's Nuclear Engineering graduate program while pursuing undergraduate NE program at SCSU. The purpose is to offer UofSC graduate courses to SCSU undergraduate students that (a) are applicable to and enhance the content of their B.S. NE degree, and (b) can reduce the time to earn a M.S, M.E., or Ph.D. degree in Nuclear Engineering from UofSC. This includes the ability for SCSU student to complete a UofSC master's degree in Nuclear Engineering in one year upon full matriculation to UofSC.

2. ACCELERATED GRADUATE PROGRAM

- 2.1. Students of SCSU who plan to participate in the NE-AGP will declare their intent to participate in the program by the end of their sophomore year.
 - 2.1.1. Where possible, the qualified students are expected to participate in internship at UofSC during the summer of their sophomore year.
- 2.2. Before the end of the Spring term of their junior year, a SCSU student with a total of 90 credit hours and a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better can apply for admission into UofSC graduate School as non-degree graduate student. The application must be accompanied by an endorsement signed by a designated representative of both SCSU and UofSC's College of Engineering and Computing. Parallel to the UofSC Nuclear Engineering graduate program admission standards, NE-AGP students must submit their transcripts documenting completion of at least 90 credit hours prior to admission to non-degree Graduate admission at UofSC. Students will indicate "NE-AGP" on their application. A SCSU student with 90 credit hours and a cumulative GPA of 3.00 will receive a fee waiver code to use when submitting the non-degree application.
- 2.3. During the summer at the end of their Junior year, the SCSU students are expected to take six credit hours (two courses of 3 credit hours each) from a select list of graduate courses from UofSC's courses as non- degree students.
- 2.4. The two graduate courses taken at UofSC can be transferred as NE electives to SCSU NE program.
- 2.5. During the following year (Senior Year) the SCSU students will be expected to take additional six hours (2 courses of 3 hours each) during the summer.

- 2.6. By the end of the summer of their senior year, SCSU NE students would have accumulated up to 12 credit hours of NE courses at UofSC.
- 2.7. NE-AGP students should apply for full admission to the UofSC M.S., M.E., or Ph.D. program in Nuclear Engineering prior to the published admission deadline for the summer or fall semester.
- 2.8. SCSU students' participation in the NE-AGP program does not preclude the admission requirements, including the GRE scores or waiver requirement, for matriculation into UofSC's Graduate School.
- 2.9. Following the non-degree semesters and having met the admissions requirement for the UofSC Graduate School and Nuclear Engineering graduate programs, students are eligible to matriculate into the UofSC Nuclear Engineering M.S., M.E., or Ph.D. program as early as the summer following the completion of requirements for the B.S. degree at SCSU. If a student maintains a GPA of at least 3.0 in the non-degree semesters and meets the GRE score or waiver of the GRE score requirement and other admission requirements of UofSC, the student will be granted admission in the desired Nuclear Engineering degree program. Students will be given a fee waiver code to use when submitting the degree-seeking application.
- 2.10. Up to 12 credit hours of classes completed at UofSC as a non-degree seeking graduate student will transfer to SCSU and satisfy degree requirements of SCSU's Nuclear Engineering B.S. program.
- 2.11. Up to 12 credit hours of classes satisfactorily completed as a non-degree seeking graduate student will satisfy degree requirements for the Nuclear Engineering M.S. M.E, or Ph.D. Degree from UofSC upon full matriculation into the UofSC graduate program.

3. INSTRUCTION

- 3.1. NE-AGP students will have options to take UofSC classes delivered either online or by traditional face-to-face instruction during their senior/NE-AGP year.
- 3.2. Classes will be selected from a list of Nuclear Engineering graduate courses offered by the College of Engineering and Computing. SCSU and UofSC have agreed on the classes included on this list. Annually, the list of classes will be reviewed by both parties and amended by mutual agreement.
- 3.3. Advisement for graduate coursework during their senior year will be through UofSC's Nuclear Engineering Graduate Program Coordinator.

4. STUDENT SELECTION

- 4.1. The accelerated graduate program is open to qualified SCSU students who have completed at least three years (90 credit hours) of undergraduate study and maintained a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- 4.2. Students must meet the established institutional admission and retention criteria in all stages of the program.
- 4.3. Undergraduate students will be selected jointly by SCSU and UofSC on the basis of academic merit and suitability for undertaking an advanced and accelerated curriculum.
- 4.4. Each institution reserves the right to limit the number of students participating in the accelerated graduate program. Further, each institution reserves the right to suspend or dismiss a student for just cause through the established procedures of the home institution.

5. STUDENT OBLIGATIONS

The obligations of the participating students shall be jointly determined by the institutions, consistent with the following principles:

- 5.1. NE-AGP students are responsible for contracting for and obtaining their own medical insurance in accordance with the policy of UofSC.
- 5.2. Each NE-AGP student enrolled in a UofSC course will enjoy the same rights and privileges as the student of UofSC and will be expected to abide by the rules and regulations of the university.

6. OBLIGATIONS OF THE INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

- 6.1. Each institution will provide NE-AGP students with a contact person who will be responsible for assisting students with enrollment and academic success.
- 6.2. Records will be established for NE-AGP students as if they were regularly enrolled students at UofSC. At the completion of any non-degree year, the student will authorize UofSC to issue an official transcript of course work and grades to SCSU.
- 6.3. To the extent appropriate in the institution's judgment and to the extent consistent with the institution's policies and procedures and applicable laws, each institution will use reasonable efforts to assist its participants.
- 6.4. Each institution agrees to provide participating students with relevant, current, and sound academic advice for completing both the B.S. at SCSU and a graduate program at UofSC in a timely manner.
- 6.5. Each institution will be responsible for their respective accreditation needs.
- 6.6. Whenever necessary, UofSC may be asked to provide SCSU with accreditation related information such as student work, the number of NE-AGP student graduates who are retained or graduated, job placement of graduates and so on.

7. DURATION

This agreement shall govern a relationship between SCSU and UofSC and will operate from the date of signing. This agreement is subject to revision, modification, or termination at any time by mutual agreement of SCSU and UofSC. The agreement may be terminated by either party by written notification of no less than 6 months. Upon termination, no new students will be accepted for enrollment into the accelerated graduate program; however, the parties hereto acknowledge that notwithstanding such termination SCSU and UofSC will continue to offer those courses necessary for degree completion, with the time limits prescribed by the host institution, for all cohorts that have been fully admitted to a graduate program at UofSC and commenced classes prior to the date of such termination.

8. TERM AND AMENDMENT

- 8.1. This amendment sets forth the entire understanding of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof. Any previous agreements or understandings between the parties regarding the subject matter hereof are merged into and superseded by this agreement. No change, modification, or amendment of this agreement, or any provisions hereof, shall be valid unless the same shall be in writing and signed by both parties. This agreement will be reviewed for update on an annual basis.
- 8.2. The institutions must maintain required standards in accordance with the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) guidelines, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) accreditation standards.

9. SUPPORT OF AGREEMENT

It is understood that both parties shall support and promote the spirit of this agreement to encourage academic collaboration and to facilitate as much as possible the academic progress of the NE-AGP students.