



VALLEY CITY
STATE UNIVERSITY



Bridges to the Master's Degree:

A Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Graduate School at the University of North Dakota

and

Valley City State University

Objective: The Graduate School at the University of North Dakota (UND), Grand Forks, ND, and Valley City State University (VCSU), Valley City, ND, agree to the development of a partnership that will allow VCSU senior level students to gain advanced standing in master's degree programs at UND.

Background: The UND Graduate School presently offers combined baccalaureate/ master's degree program options for UND students in numerous fields including business, biology, chemistry, and engineering. The combine program allows qualified students to:

- Enroll in six credits of selected graduate coursework prior to completion of their baccalaureate degree program
- Have up to six credits of graduate coursework towards their master's as well as their bachelor's degree
- Have the potential to complete both bachelors and master's degrees in approximately 5 years.

The Bridge to Master's Degree Program will provide a means for The Graduate School at UND to extend the combined master's degree program opportunities to students at VCSU. Specifics of the program are detailed in the following sections:

Entry into the Bridge Program:

- Full-time enrolled VCSU students apply to The Graduate School at UND prior to the beginning of their last year of study at VCSU
 - There must be evidence that the student will have successfully completed at least 90 credits of coursework at VCSU and that they will be able to successfully complete their VCSU degree within 1 year from the time they are admitted to the Bridge Program.
 - Applicants must meet or exceed the minimal admission requirements for the program in order to be considered for admission to the Bridge Program. The requirements for individual programs will be available from the Graduate School at UND. Bridge students will only be admitted to UND in non-degree seeking status.

Overview of the Bridge Program:

- VCSU Bridge students are allowed to enroll in two 500 level graduate courses (6 credits) through the UND Graduate School.
 - The courses will be offered at a distance by UND in a format that is accessible to VCSU students. Correspondence courses are not eligible.
 - The courses are selected in conjunction with VCSU faculty such that they will be eligible for transfer back to VCSU.
 - VCSU will accept at least one of the two 3-credit courses towards fulfillment of the requirements towards a VCSU baccalaureate degree.
 - Bridge students must graduate from VCSU in order to take any additional Graduate level coursework from UND beyond the 6-credit limit.
 - Students who drop out of the Bridge Program will have to reapply to the Graduate School and gain acceptance to a graduate program through the traditional route. Under such circumstances, courses taken as Bridge students will not be allowed to count towards a graduate degree. Bridge students receiving a VCSU degree and who have earned a grade of "B" or better in each of the UND graduate courses will gain admission to the appropriate degree program in the UND graduate school with "Approved" status. Students who have not earned a grade of "B" or better in each of the UND Graduate courses will not be allowed to continue in the Bridge Program. This will not impact their ability to earn their baccalaureate degree from VCSU or their ability to pursue studies in the UND Graduate School in the future.
 - VCSU degree recipients are expected to continue with their Graduate studies at UND without interruption. Students must enroll in UND the next regular semester and continue to make progress towards their degree. Failure to do so will result in the student being dropped from the Master's Program at UND.

The Graduate School at UND Agrees to:

- Admit Bridge students who have successfully completed their VCSU Baccalaureate Degree Program to the appropriate master's program in "Approved" status.
- Deliver the agreed upon Bridge Program courses at a distance in a format that is accessible to the VCSU Bridge students at least once each academic year.
- Recognize the 6 credits of UND graduate work taken by Bridge students as fulfilling 6 credits of the requirements towards the associated Bridge Program Master's Degree.

VCSU Agrees to:

- Accept a minimum of 3 credits and maximum of 6 credits of prescribed UND Graduate School coursework as applicable towards the appropriate VCSU degree for students accepted into the Bridge Program.
- Assist the UND Graduate School in identifying highly qualified undergraduate students for the Bridge Program.
- Provide computer access, if necessary, for Bridge students to access the required 6 credits of online distance courses offered by UND.

Both Parties Agree that:

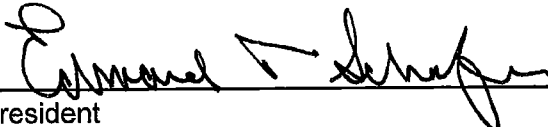
- Students enrolled in the Bridge Program must abide by UND policies and procedures for all courses taken through UND, and by VCSU policies and procedures for all courses taken through VCSU.
- Bridge students are responsible for payment of tuition and fees at each institution.
- UND online courses taken by Bridge students will not be eligible for UND Graduate School Tuition Waivers.
- UND online courses taken by Bridge students taking online distance classes will not be eligible for VCSU tuition waivers.
- Tuition may be remitted to UND in the form of financial aid or scholarships.
- UND Graduate programs wishing to enter Bridge Program agreements with VCSU must provide specific details in the form of an addendum to this overarching agreement. The addendum must be approved by the UND Graduate School Dean and VCSU Vice President of Academic Affairs prior to enrollment of students.
- The program will be evaluated every 5 years, but termination of this agreement can be initiated by either party prior to that, with six months notification to termination.

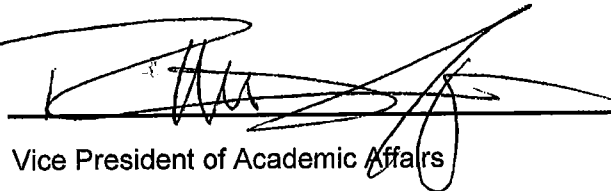
MOU between VCSU and UND January 1, 2016-December 31, 2020

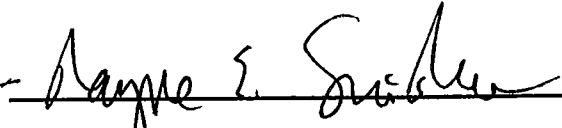
The undersigned agree to and approve the terms of this agreement

Signatures:

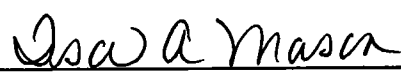
For UND:

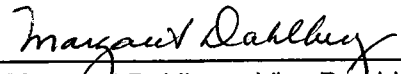
 _____ 5th June 2016
President Date

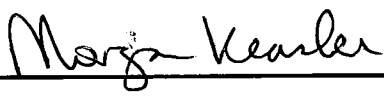
 _____ 6-15-16
Vice President of Academic Affairs Date

 _____ 6-15-16
Dean of Graduate School Date

For Valley City State University:

 _____ 10/19/16
Dr. Tisa Mason, President Date

 _____ 10/18/2016
Dr. Margaret Dahlberg, Vice President of Academic Affairs Date

 _____ 10/18/16
Dr. Brenda Finger, Chair, Department of Business Date
Mrs. Morgan Kessler