



West Texas A&M
UNIVERSITY™

Today's agreement between Ascension Academy and West Texas A & M University will change the trajectory of education for students in the Panhandle of Texas who aspire to earning a college degree. But why is our largest and most respected regional university entering into such a partnership with Ascension Academy?

Ascension Academy prepares students to not only get into college, but to graduate with degrees. With an annual 100% college acceptance rate for our senior classes, Ascension teachers have proven they know how to prepare students for college-level academics. Seventy-five percent of Ascension's Class of 2015 have already received their undergraduate degrees in 4 years or less, well ahead of national and state completion rates.

The 20 students of this year's Class of 2019 have been awarded \$2,187,920 in scholarship offers, an average of \$109,396 per student. That is a direct result of their having studied with some of the region's finest teachers who have prepared them to excel on those entrance exams that colleges value so highly:

- The SAT, where the class average of 1241 was 231 points above the College Board benchmark for college success;
- The ACT, where the class average of 26.85 was 5.6 points above the ACT benchmark.

Most importantly, Ascension students all graduate with no fewer than four Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and as many as 11 APs, which along with our extensive dual-credit relationship with Amarillo College, propel our graduates into college with between 25 and 60 earned college credits.

Ascension Academy is committed to doing one thing as well as it can be done: to give students the academic tools and disciplines they will need to graduate from the college or university of their choice. Middle and high school students who come to Ascension become better scholars, artists, athletes and leaders at our school, giving them the breadth and depth of knowledge and experience that translates into accomplishment and independence in their adult lives.

The Memorandum of Agreement between Ascension Academy and West Texas A & M University signals a new opportunity for young people in our region to secure the best preparation for college that will open doors for them to earn college degrees. And it will create a new wave of knowledgeable and equipped adults, many of whom, by graduating from WT, will choose to stay in the Panhandle to add their expertise and leadership in bolstering our economy and cultural development in these important decades that lie ahead.

Article 1

The objective of the Institutions shall be to create a framework for guaranteeing admission for Ascension Academy students to West Texas A&M University by meeting specified criteria, with no limit on the number of admissions.

Article 2

Ascension Academy students who: graduate from Ascension Academy with a 2.0 GPA or greater; have a recommendation by the Head of School (Rev. William R. Summerhill, Jr, Ph.D.); meet Texas Uniform Admission Policy or have the following exemption: submit the HB 3826 exemption form signed by a school official that shows you completed coursework that is "equal in content and rigor" to one of the state's graduation programs; and submit an application for admission at applytexas.org will be automatically admitted to West Texas A&M University.

All candidates must be verified by the Director of Admissions for WTAMU as outlined by the "Individual Admitting" authority.

Article 3

Ascension Academy students who meet all of the specified admissions criteria will also be automatically awarded for one of West Texas A&M University's academic scholarships if they meet the following:

AWARD LEVEL	AMOUNT PER YEAR	ACT OR SAT SCORE *		GPA **
PRESIDENT'S SCHOLAR	\$6,000	32/1420	AND	4.0 GPA on a 4.00 scale
PROVOST'S SCHOLAR	\$4,000	28/1300	AND	3.96-3.99 GPA on a 4.00 scale
HONOR SCHOLAR	\$3,000	26/1230	AND	3.90-3.95 GPA on a 4.00 scale
ACADEMIC SCHOLAR	\$2,000	24/1160	AND	3.80-3.89 GPA on a 4.00 scale
DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR	\$1,500	22/1100	AND	3.70-3.79 GPA on a 4.00 scale
DISCOVERY SCHOLAR	\$1,000	24/1160	OR	3.50-3.69 GPA on a 4.00 scale

All awards are based on available funds, renewable for 4 consecutive long semesters as long as the student meets the scholarship required minimum renewal GPA and is in good academic standing. Award levels are subject to change on an annual basis.

Article 4

All qualifying Ascension Academy students will be provided an application fee waiver, with express admissions.

Article 5

Ascension Academy students meeting the following criteria will be automatically admitted to the William H. and Joyce Attebury Honors Program: 26 or greater ACT Composite or 1270 or greater SAT Score (math + critical thinking)

When Ascension Academy students do not meet the automatic admission criteria and upon an Ascension Academy recommendation students may be evaluated individually by the Director of the William H. and Joyce Attebury Honors Program.

This MOU will take effect at the time it is signed by both Institutions and it will last for a period of five (5) years from the effective date. The Institutions will confer concerning the renewal of the MOU six (6) months prior to its expiration. This MOU may be terminated at any time upon the written notice of either party no less than six (6) months prior to the termination date wished, with the understanding that any existing commitments to students will be honored.

Each Institution shall conduct all activities in connection with this MOU in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. If any part of this MOU is determined to violate federal, state, or local laws, rules, or regulations, the Institutions shall negotiate in good faith revisions to any such provisions. If the Institutions fail to agree within a reasonable time to revisions required to bring this MOU into compliance, either Institution may terminate this MOU upon 30 days' written notice to the other.

West Texas A&M University is an agency of the State of Texas and nothing in this MOU waives or relinquishes West Texas A&M University's right to claim any exemptions, privileges, and immunities as may be provided by law.

This MOU is not intended to create a partnership or joint venture between the Institutions. Neither Institution may bind the other or otherwise act in any way as the representative of the other, unless specifically authorized, in advance and in writing, to do so, and then only for the limited purpose stated in such authorization.

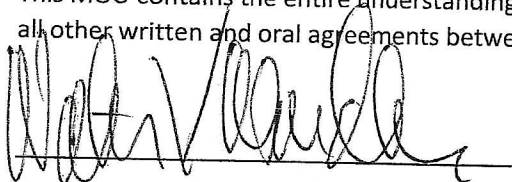
Any notices required or permitted under this MOU will be deemed given: (a) three business days after it is sent by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, (b) the next business day after it is sent by overnight carrier, (c) on the date sent by facsimile or email transmission with confirmation of transmission and receipt, if sent during the recipient's normal business hours and if not, on the next business day, or (d) on the date of delivery if delivered personally, and in each case, addressed to the intended recipient at the address below or such other address as the intended recipient may specify in writing:

West Texas A&M University: Canyon, TX 79106
PHONE: 806-651-2100
jmayo@wtamu.edu

Ascension Academy: PO Box 50729
Amarillo, TX 79159
PHOND: 806-342-0515
FAX: 806-342-0535
wsummerhill@ascensionacademy.org

Each provision of this MOU is severable. If any provision is rendered invalid or unenforceable by statute or regulations or declared null and void by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions will remain in full force and effect if the essential terms of this MOU remain valid, legal, and enforceable.

This MOU contains the entire understanding of the Institutions as to its subject matter and supersedes all other written and oral agreements between the Institutions as to that subject matter.



Walter V. Wendler
President and CEO
West Texas A&M University

May 21, 2019



Rev. William R. Summerhill, Jr., Ph.D.
Head of School
Ascension Academy

May 21, 2019