

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

and

State University of New York at Cobleskill

PURPOSE

Due to the critical need for teachers of Agricultural Education at both the state and national level, the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the State University of New York at Cobleskill (SUNY Cobleskill) and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) are proposing a collaborative agreement to facilitate the admission of qualified SUNY Cobleskill students into Virginia Tech's Master of Science Career and Technical Education program with emphasis in Agricultural Education (M.S. CTE).

AGREEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATIONS

The universities agree that:

1. SUNY Cobleskill will serve as a feeder program into Virginia Tech's master's level program in which SUNY Cobleskill students may earn licensure to teach in Virginia public schools after fulfilling the major and basic professional content area studies licensure requirements at SUNY Cobleskill, as outlined in Exhibit A.
2. Students must satisfactorily complete the M.S. CTE program in order to complete requirements for licensure in Virginia.
3. Upon graduation from the M.S. CTE program, students seeking a New York initial teaching certificate will need to submit their Virginia licensure verification, graduate transcript, and NY licensure application to the New York Department of Education. Students will be required to pass the following New York required teaching exams: Liberal Arts and Science Test (LAST), Secondary Assessment of Teaching Skills – Written, and the Content Specialty Test (CST) in agricultural education. Finally, all New York State teacher certification applicants must have fingerprint clearance.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of each of the agreements (aligned with the aforesaid activities) will be as follows:

1. The students must complete their undergraduate degree program at SUNY Cobleskill, including all of the courses outlined in Exhibit A.
2. Students from SUNY Cobleskill must meet one of the following Virginia alternative basic skills test requirements for admission to the M.S. CTE program: (a) Virginia passing scores on Praxis I, (b) SAT scores of at least 530 each on the math and verbal tests with a total of at least 1100 on both, (c) ACT composite score of at least 24 with math at least 22 and English plus reading at least 46,

or (d) passing scores on the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA, reading and writing tests) with a minimum passing mathematics score on the Praxis I, SAT, or ACT. Prior to the student teaching experience, students must pass the VCLA.

3. SUNY Cobleskill graduates must apply to the Virginia Tech Master's program as regular M.S. CTE students, with a minimum 3.0 GPA on the last 60 credits required for admission. (SUNY Cobleskill students with GPAs of 2.80 – 2.99 may be accepted provisionally.) At Virginia Tech the students will complete their field experiences, the teaching preparation classes, any additional coursework and tests required for licensure, and the Virginia Tech Master's degree program.
4. Students who have completed their Bachelor of Technology degree in Agricultural Business/ Agricultural Education at SUNY Cobleskill will be eligible to complete the M.S. CTE program and licensure at Virginia Tech in 12-13 months.
5. Neither SUNY Cobleskill nor Virginia Tech may impose restrictions on the other's policies.
6. There shall be no cost to either institution to implement this partnership.

PRIMARY CONTACTS

Primary contacts for this program will be:

1. The Director of the Virginia Tech School of Education.
2. The Chairperson of the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, Virginia Tech.
3. The Assistant Director, Student Success Center, SUNY Cobleskill.

FUNDING

All activities associated with the MOU shall be contingent upon the availability of sufficient financial resources for both parties.

DURATION

The agreement shall become effective on the day representatives of both organizations affix their signatures and seals, will be in force for a period of three (3) years, and is subject to revision or modification by mutual written agreement. It is also understood that either organization may terminate the agreement at any time upon ninety (90) days' prior written notice to the other party, although it is assumed that such action would only be taken after mutual consultation in order to avoid any possible inconvenience to the other organization. Any SUNY Cobleskill Student who applies to and is admitted to Virginia Tech prior to termination of this Agreement shall be allowed to matriculate in the M.S. CTE degree program.