

Middle Tennessee State University

Admissions and Standards Committee

Minutes

Voting Members: Kim Sadler (BAS)-via Zoom, Vajira Manathunga (BAS), Anne Anderson, Chair (BUS), Katherine Mangione (COE)-via Zoom, LaShonda Mims (CLA)-via Zoom, Yuan-Ling Chao (CLA), Tammy Donham (ME), MA Higgs (UC)-via Zoom, Mary Goncalves (Student Rep), and Luisa Mattos de Costa (Student Rep)

Ex-Officio Members Present: Amy Aldridge Sanford (Vice Provost for Academic Programs), Susan Myers-Shirk (True Blue Core), Laurie Witherow (Admissions and Enrollment Services), and Robert Summers (International Affairs)

Guest Present: Teresa Thomas

- Anne Anderson, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. in Cope 112.
- Roll call was given by Darlene Fults, Coordinator of Academic Affairs.
A motion was made to approve the minutes from the August 29, 2022, meeting. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

- **Discussion of Dantes- Vajira, MA, Anne**
 - Twenty-five percent of credits with 36 credit hours of upper division is required at MTSU. (Teresa)

 - To keep us competitive and to maintain retention, accepting more of CLEP and recognizing Dantes is important. It effects military and first-generation students. (MA) Jeremy Winsett (Veterans and Military Center) was consulted regarding veterans. He says if we get rid of Dantes it only affects about 5 students (military).

 - Dantes - Dept of Defense and credit by exam UT-KNOX does not accept either. To get credit is legitimate. (Vajira)

 - Dantes- Military can get courses for free at MTSU. DSST is the text recognized by American Council on Education (ACE). DSST paves the way to recognize students' knowledge. (MA)

 - Dantes vs DSST- University College has many non-traditional students. Those students would greatly benefit from our accepting credits.

 - Refer to Teresa's report in Drobox: Dantes numbers are based on our criteria. Data shows it is NOT being used much for credit. (Anne)

 - There were 8 total Dantes course credits given from Fall 2017 to Fall 2022. Students need more opportunities for acceptable credit. We need to expand those—speaking for University College and Veterans (MA).

- It will be up to chairs to expand for equivalency--each individual department. (Teresa)
- Students could at least get elective credit. (Anne)
- There are exceptions for electives. If we post all this credit, then it consumes financial aid. Hardly any count for majority of majors-few electives. Then students are not meeting upper-division requirements. No aid is left to finish their degree. This prevents them from graduating on time. (Teresa)
- If advisors remove credits so that they can get more financial aid, that sounds manipulative and fraudulent. (Laurie)
- Are they required to use advanced standing credit right then, or can you wait to request what they need? Are we asking the student if they want it posted? When do we find out if they have Dantes, CLEP, or A/P credit? It is posted when it is received by MTSU. (Anne, Amy, and Teresa)
- (i.e.,) A Chemistry major enrolls in course and takes it, but can they pick and choose? They receive A/P credit, but they take the course because they realize the importance of taking it. (Teresa)

(i.e.,) An international student transfers into MTSU with an earned bachelor's degree and few credits are accepted. The student needs lots more. The student loses so much credit that they decide to enroll in another undergraduate major instead of completing a master's degree. If the student completes a bachelor's degree at MTSU and transfers for their continuing master's degree, there will be no financial aid left. (Luisa and Mary)

- Students have up to 180 credit hours attempted to apply for financial aid. If a student will not complete degree with remaining hours to 180, per Federal guidelines MTSU can cut it off earlier than 180. But if withdrawing, changing majors, etc., then aid runs out quickly. We follow federal regulations. ~~*If we have international, they already spent federal financial aid.~~ For differing degree plans, elective credit can be consumed by prior work. Degree plans change by changing major. (Laurie)
- There are lots of barriers to traditional students. Should we rewrite the policy to non-traditional and traditional students? (Anne to MA)
- For SACS accreditation: Are we ensuring quality and equivalency is there? Doing one set of guidelines for some students and another one for others. We must strive for what is best overall. If the University does not give ACE credit, then how can we compete? Twenty-eight institutions in TN are giving credit. We cannot use ACE as an argument. (Amy and Teresa)

- We used Get college.com website. We will also check at the university-level websites for more information. Check to see if other universities still use DSST (Anne). We will follow up. (MA and Anne)

➤ **Discussion of Peer Schools and Cambridge**

- Look at peer institutions. The other LGI's are our biggest competition (Laurie)
- ETSU does accept DSST but only for 13 exams with a minimum score set by ETSU. (Vajira)
- (Anne): Next step: See what our LGI's are doing. The Jones College of Business does not take any DSST. Different accreditation.
- <https://www.mtsu.edu/transfer-equivalencies/TN/001804> (Teresa)

Shows list of DSST's and what they equate to. Why have we not listed this in catalog? There have just not been enough students. Do we have minimum score requirements? We need to be consistent when we give credits for courses (Anne, Amy and Teresa).

- [http://catalog.mtsu.edu/content.php?catoid=34&navoid=7867#Advanced_Standing\(Anne\)](http://catalog.mtsu.edu/content.php?catoid=34&navoid=7867#Advanced_Standing(Anne)): (1st paragraph). We need to add courses here. Can we add a minimum score? (-To MA).
- Would we use a P for Pass or an actual score?
- Teresa's list on Dropbox is the list that we transferred in. That was not an MTSU decision. Departments did not actually just sign off. The student could have been given credit by another school. At MTSU they get 2 courses, and at some other schools they might get only 1. Teresa will get a new updated list of what has actually been accepted. (Teresa Laurie)

➤ **New Business (Anderson)**

- We have 6 LGI schools. Check on DSST and Dantes. Look at DSST -minimum scores and list of courses.

TN Tech and University of Memphis (Mary)

TBR (Laurie)

Austin Peay and ETSU (Vajira)

TSU (Chao)

UT Knoxville: Not an LGI but still look at it. Include UT Southern, UT Martin, and UT Chattanooga (Kat)

MTSU

- Why not do CLEP and not just DSST? Probably used to be military only. Dantes was a military thing. We have testing center here on campus now. Teresa could go back to prior catalogs to see if they used to use it. (Anne and Teresa)
- Get opinions from department chairs on a longer list of courses and what that will mean. Do this for next meeting. CLEP is always administered here and better understood and transferrable. A/P is too. I/B not as familiar. (Anne)
- IB is popular in some international areas—they accept the entire diploma and not just certain courses. (Robert Summers)
- Post your research on peer schools to Dropbox **by Oct 10**. Next meeting Oct 17. Anne will summarize by Oct 14-Friday before we meet.

➤ **Good of the Order/Announcements**

- Thank you to the committee for being engaged; for Anne's leadership; and for the students' participation and role as members of this committee. (Amy)

➤ **Adjournment (Anderson)**

- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

*This statement is being omitted.

The date was added to the minutes as of 12/05/2022.