

**EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN
UNITED STATES ARMY ENGINEER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER
AND
MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY**

INTRODUCTION

This agreement establishes the basis for mutual understanding and cooperation between the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) and Mississippi State University (MSU) in the implementation of a "Partnership in Education" program.

The supportive relationship is established in recognition of the importance of science and technology education to the future political and economic well-being of the nation as well as the importance of MSU to the business, industrial, and governmental institutions in this region.

It is understood that this Educational Partnership Agreement provides a framework to pursue cooperative educational collaborations. Any exchange of funds or other tangible resources in furthering the purposes of the Agreement will require execution of a separate written instrument, such as an Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement or Cooperative Research and Development Agreement.

PROGRAM PURPOSE:

The purpose of this partnership is:

1. To encourage and enhance academic study in engineering and scientific disciplines.
2. To support graduate study and research in engineering and scientific areas of mutual interest.
3. To establish the policies and procedures (see Appendix A) for MSU to participate as a member of the ERDC's Graduate Institute.

GENERAL SCOPE OF THE EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT:

COMMITMENTS BY ERDC:

1. To involve students of MSU in ERDC research by hiring students through employment programs such as the Cooperative Education and Contract Student Programs.
2. To involve interested faculty of MSU in ERDC research by facilitating participation in programs such as Intergovernmental Personnel Agreements and the Army Research Office's Summer Faculty Research Program.
3. To provide a framework to pursue collaborative research in areas of mutual interest.

4. To identify and develop, in partnership with MSU, specific areas of research where MSU students can obtain academic credit for work at ERDC.
5. To enhance engineering and scientific education by mutually agreed upon loans of ERDC laboratory equipment to MSU and/or mutually agreed upon transfer of surplus ERDC equipment to MSU.
6. To establish and conduct an evaluation process to measure the success of this partnership and identify potential improvements.

COMMITMENTS BY MSU:

1. To publicize the Educational Partnership Program within the university and to encourage participation of students and faculty in the program, including student employment programs within ERDC.
2. To understand the research areas of ERDC and delineate research that is complementary with the expertise of MSU faculty including areas of research where MSU students can obtain academic credit.
3. To identify University, faculty and students' needs appropriate for the program.
4. To maintain proper records and accountability for property loaned to the University.
5. To provide assistance including organizing students, providing faculty sponsorship and coordinating transportation for site visits to ERDC facilities.
6. To participate in establishment and conduct of an evaluation process to measure the success of this partnership and identify necessary changes.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:

The administration of this partnership program and the selection of the specific activities, which comprise the program, will be the joint responsibility of the designated group managers from MSU and ERDC.

The Associate Director of ERDC will serve as the Partnership Program Manager (PPM) on behalf of the ERDC. The ERDC PPM will work with the PPM for MSU to identify and select interested and qualified faculty and students to participate in activities within the program. The ERDC PPM will coordinate the program activities with the appropriate elements within the ERDC to comply with the legal and administrative requirements of the Federal Government and the Department of the Army.

The Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the Bagley College of Engineering will serve as the Partnership Program Manager (PPM) on behalf of MSU. The MSU PPM will work with the ERDC PPM to identify and select faculty and students. The MSU PPM will coordinate the program activities within MSU to comply with the legal and administrative requirements of MSU.

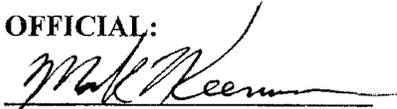
PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION:

The establishment of the Educational Partnership is authorized and governed by Section 2194 of Title 10 of the United States Code.

PERIOD OF AGREEMENT:

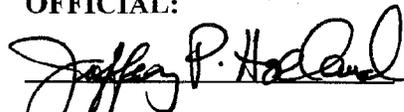
This agreement becomes effective on the latter date of official approval by the President of MSU and the Director of the ERDC. The initial term of this agreement is four years from the effective date. Prior to its expiration, the parties will review the agreement and will determine if the same should be extended for an additional period of time. Modification can be made at any time by mutual agreement of the signatories or their successors. Either participating organization may withdraw from this agreement at any time by providing the partner with a 30-day written notification to that effect.

OFFICIAL:



Mark E. Keenum, Ph.D.
President
Mississippi State University

OFFICIAL:



Jeffery P. Holland, Ph.D., PE
Director
U.S. Army Engineer Research and
Development Center

DATE: 6/10/13

DATE: 5/10/13

APPENDIX A
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

1. PURPOSE

The U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) established the Graduate Institute as a center for graduate education to develop the research capabilities of ERDC scientists and engineers. The Institute is an association of universities and ERDC through which academic credit and graduate degrees can be earned from Member Universities through graduate course work offered at ERDC. The Institute provides a formal means to enhance the exchange of scientific and technological information between the faculty at a Member University and the researchers at the ERDC and to support graduate study and research capabilities.

2. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

The Institute functions through joint agreements between ERDC and Member Universities. Coordination and direction is given by the Graduate Institute Administrative Board, a group composed of one representative from ERDC and each Member University. The board shall be chaired by the ERDC representative. The Board's responsibility shall be to establish and maintain appropriate academic standards of the graduate program offered through the Graduate Institute.

The Institute's administration is the responsibility of ERDC.

3. MEMBER UNIVERSITY

A Member University shall be an accredited academic institution in the United States that offers graduate degrees in scientific or technical fields of interest to the mission of the ERDC. Each Member University shall appoint one (1) faculty member to serve on the Graduate Institute Administrative Board. Each University shall recognize approved graduate courses offered at the Graduate Institute.

Each participating Member University will maintain its own requirements for graduate admission into an academic department, a degree program, residency, academic advisory committee, and tuition and fees.

4. GRADUATE INSTITUTE FACILITIES

The ERDC Vicksburg site will be the main campus of the Graduate Institute. Other ERDC sites may occasionally be incorporated into the Institute as academic and research needs dictate. The facilities of the ERDC may be provided to Institute faculty and graduate students for Institute coordinated research on a space-available basis after successful execution of any necessary agreements.

Classrooms and lecture halls, Institute faculty offices and graduate student office space will be provided by the ERDC. Access to Library, copy services and limited administrative support will be provided to support the teaching functions of the Institute.

5. INSTITUTE COORDINATED RESEARCH

Institute coordinated research is that research carried out either by Graduate Institute faculty from Member Universities or graduate students. It may be: 1) cooperative with ongoing ERDC research programs or 2) research supported by some other funding source. Cooperative research will have higher priority for use of laboratory space and facilities. Any exchange of funds or other tangible resources in furthering the purposes of the Agreement will require execution of a separate written instrument, such as an Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement (IPA) or Cooperative Research and Development Agreement.

6. GRADUATE INSTITUTE STUDENTS

Graduate students shall include persons enrolled in a Member University taking courses through the Institute. They may enroll either as non-degree students or as students enrolled in a graduate degree program at a Member University. It is expected that most students will be Corps of Engineers employees or ERDC Contract Students.

7. GRADUATE INSTITUTE FACULTY

Graduate Institute faculty shall be drawn from the graduate faculty of Member Universities and professional staff at ERDC, including person(s) employed by ERDC under an IPA agreement. Graduate Institute faculty shall offer graduate courses through the Institute at the convenience of both the faculty and the Institute.

- a. **Faculty from Member Universities.** Faculty drawn from Member Universities shall be selected through a mutual agreement of the faculty, the academic department head and college dean. Faculty that may be supported by ongoing ERDC research programs shall be selected based on academic and research needs and availability of facilities at ERDC.
- b. **Faculty from ERDC.** Member Universities may elect to offer adjunct faculty positions to employees of ERDC. ERDC may submit candidates to Member Universities for consideration as adjunct faculty. These candidates may be employees of ERDC or another Corps office, or faculty from a non-member university working at ERDC under an IPA or other types of agreements. Candidates seeking an adjunct faculty position may apply to the Institute Director. To become adjunct faculty, candidates must be approved by the Institute Director and by the academic department head and college dean of the Member University through which they have applied. Adjunct faculty will be authorized to offer graduate courses, under the name of the Member University, at the Institute.

Adjunct faculty may serve as the chairs, co-chairs or members of graduate student advisory committees.

Adjunct faculty shall receive compensation for every course taught. This sum shall be paid for by the Member University which offered the adjunct faculty position. The mechanism for payment shall be negotiated between the member University and ERDC. When an Institute adjunct faculty member teaches a course at a Member University, he or she shall be paid by the Member University under arrangements with the Member University where the course is delivered. (See 9 for more details.)

8. COURSE DELIVERY

Adjunct faculty from ERDC who teach courses for a Member University shall utilize the course delivery method required by the Member University. The Member University shall provide technical and software training and support in course delivery for adjunct faculty in teaching status. (See Appendix B for current method of course delivery.)

9. CONSULTANT AGREEMENT FOR TEACHING

Courses operate on a self-sustaining basis. Salaries and expenses of instructional programs depend upon resources generated by student enrollments. Compensation shall be based upon class size. Academic deans and department heads are responsible for decision on course offerings and teaching assignments.

10. ACADEMIC CREDIT, ENROLLMENT AND TUITION

The Graduate Institute shall prepare and maintain a "Graduate Catalog" that describes all course offerings and the expected frequency of offering. Students wishing to receive graduate credit for Institute courses, regardless of them seeking or not seeking an advanced degree, will enroll in a Member University as a degree or non-degree student.

- a. **Degree Students.** Students seeking enrollment in a degree program must select the Member University through which they wish to earn the degree and must meet the admissions and graduation requirements established by that university. Graduate credit toward an advanced degree shall be granted for Institute courses that have been approved by the student's academic advisor and for which acceptable grades have been earned. The Member University in which the student is enrolled shall confer the degree earned.
- b. **Non-Degree Students.** Students wishing to receive graduate credit for Institute courses, but not seeking an advanced degree, may enroll in a Member University as a non-degree student and receive academic credit for courses taken.
- c. **Tuition.** Tuition and fees, equal to the total credit hours taken at the Institute, will be paid either by the student or by ERDC to the academic institution in which the student is enrolled.

APPENDIX B

COURSE DELIVERY

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

The Bagley College of Engineering is committed to providing quality academic courses and programs utilizing a web-based, interactive design that supports learning through multiple formats which can be delivered in an efficient manner. Resources should be available without barriers to location and time while increasing access to non-traditional students. Adjunct faculty shall develop and deliver interactive course materials containing online activities in support of distance course and programs.

The Bagley College of Engineering at Mississippi State University shall provide software, technical and software training, and support in course delivery for adjunct faculty at ERDC who teach engineering courses for Mississippi State University.