

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

**NBKR Institute of Science and Technology
&
The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**

December, 2023

Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) summarizes an educational partnership agreement between NBKR Institute of Science and Technology (NBKRIST) and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (UMassD), Dartmouth, MA to provide graduate study opportunities for students who may attend both institutions in the field of Engineering/Sciences. Both institutions are committed to provide students a unique opportunity to successfully complete their academic goals; an Accelerated Pathway for NBKRIST undergraduate students to earn a masters' degree in Data Science (<https://www.umassd.edu/data-science/graduate/requirements-ms/>) at UMassD. This agreement ensures that each institution serves the needs of students by providing them with appropriate guidance and advising information.

Specifically, the MOU addresses course transfer as well as articulation agreement.

Goals

The goals of this agreement are to:

- Increase student educational opportunities
- Foster collaboration between the two institutions
- Increase student interest in each institution
- Establish collegiality and communication among NBKRIST and UMassD faculty and administrators

NBKCRIST and UMassD hereby enter into the following agreement:

Provisions of Articulation Agreement

1. The institutions will develop and maintain an expanded articulation crosswalk (see Appendix A).
2. This specified plan will be an informal contract between the two institutions and the students who choose to participate. This plan will guarantee to the student that the prescribed courses may be used toward the baccalaureate degree at NBKCRIST and the Master's degree in Data Science at UMassD. This is provided by the crosswalk in Appendix A and will be reviewed yearly for curriculum updates.
3. Students may apply to the accelerated pathway upon achieving classification as 3rd year students (juniors) with a major in engineering/Sciences or a closely related field and have a 3.0/4.0 or better GPA overall. Depending on the student's preparedness in data science fundamentals, the admission committee may request the student to take an additional bridge course drawing from data structures and algorithms, object-oriented programming, probability, or statistics. Students will apply to the accelerated program during the spring semester of their 3rd (junior) year no later than May 1st. In consultation with the Data Science Graduate Program Directors at UMass Dartmouth, students will choose three online courses (from those listed in Appendix A) and take them remotely during their 4th (senior) year. The students will be considered as non-degree students at UMassD while taking these online courses. Once a student successfully completes the three courses and is admitted to the master's program at UMassD, the courses will be internally transferred to count towards the MS program in Data Science. Details of the application process will be developed and agreed upon by both institutions.
4. UMassD tuition and fees for online courses will apply to the graduate-level UMassD courses taken prior to the student's matriculation as a graduate student.
5. The students in the program are not guaranteed to receive teaching or research assistantships.
6. A minimum GPA of 3.0 based on the three courses taken remotely is required for progression to the regular program at UMassD. Students cannot take the same course more than twice.
7. After successfully completing the three online classes, students must attend in-person classes at UMassD to complete the rest of the courses and masters project or thesis to fulfill the degree requirements.
8. Through this agreement, UMassD does not guarantee F-1 visa and it is the student's responsibility to acquire a visa.

9. If a student fails to get a visa, they can defer their admission to the master's program for up to one year.
10. The institutions will engage in joint marketing efforts to promote the articulation partnership. Promotional efforts will include, but are not limited to, links on respective websites, information in institutional catalogs, and information in other university publications.
11. The institutions will strive to meet annually with the discipline faculty and administrators.

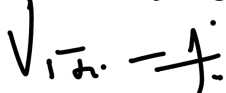
Period of Agreement

This agreement will come into effect from the date of signature by both parties and will remain in force until terminated by either party provided one-year written notice is given to the other party. Any students who have already been enrolled in the program at the time this Agreement is revised or terminated will be permitted to complete the designated duration of the stay.

Notice

In witness whereof, the authorized representatives of the parties have executed this agreement.

NBKRIST, Vidyanagar



V Vijaya Kumar Reddy
Director

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth



Ramprasad Balasubramanian
Interim Provost & Vice Chancellor for
Academic Affairs

Date: 09 Dec 2023

Date: 12.04.2023

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Appendix A

NBKCRIST and UMassD agree that NBKCRIST students who successfully complete three of the below listed courses with a grade of C or better and a Grade Point Average based on the three courses of 3.0 or better can apply up to nine credits toward the MS degree in Data Science at UMassD. Students must take at least one course from the list-1.

List-1

- CIS 552 - Database Design
- CIS 550 - Advanced Machine Learning
- CIS 522 - Algorithms & Complexity
- CIS 530 - Advanced Data Mining
- CIS 580 - Paradigmatic Software Development
- CIS 602 - Computer Security
- CIS 532 - Software Systems Design
- CIS 542 - Digital Forensics
- CIS 568/DSC530 - Data Visualization
- CIS 570 - Adv Computer Systems

List-2

- POM 500 - Statistical Analysis
- POM 681 - Business Analytics and Data Mining
- MIS 674 - Applied Business Analytics & Information Visualization
- MIS 681 - Business Intelligence and Knowledge Management