

DragonNext between Southern State Community College and Tiffin University

THIS AGREEMENT: (the “Agreement”) is entered into as of **July 1, 2026** (the “Effective Date”) and by and between Southern State Community College (“SSCC”), with an address at 100 Hobart Drive, Hillsboro, OH, 45133; and Tiffin University (“TU”), with an address at 155 Miami Street, Tiffin, OH, 44883. SSCC is a state community college established under Section 3358 of the Ohio Revised Code, and TU is an institution of higher education under Ohio nonprofit corporation law. (*Effective Date preferred to align with beginning of “Fiscal Yr”*)

BACKGROUND: Through this agreement, SSCC and TU seek to create a seamless and coherent educational pathway for students who wish to pursue both an associate’s and bachelor’s degree. This program aims to provide students with a clear roadmap for completing their educational goals by enabling them to transition smoothly from SSCC to TU.

This program/agreement allows TU to offer students a cost-effective and convenient pathway to earn a four-year degree. DragonNext will also help to strengthen the educational partnership between the two institutions to support the broader educational needs of the area.

During their time in the DragonNext program at TU, students will be assigned an academic advisor who will work with them to ensure they are on track to complete their degree in a timely manner. This individual will also serve to provide guidance and offer support throughout their academic journey. Students will have access to all academic and career resources, regardless of their modality, which also includes networking events.

ACCORDINGLY: in consideration of the foregoing, other promises and mutual covenants contained in this Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

INSTITUTION

Tiffin University is committed to keeping the requirements of a preferred partnership simple. Below are the preferred requirements that we ask of DragonNext partners.

A. Eligibility Requirements:

- Be regionally accredited
- Allow and promote on-campus visits from a TU representative to recruit your student body
- Be invited to special events on your campus that target your student body
- Be willing to collaborate with TU to plan events specifically for interested DragonNext students

- Provide a **list of graduates at the end of each semester** so that TU may reach out directly
- Build and maintain a webpage that promotes the partnership
- Comply with processes to submit a final official transcript at the time of degree conferral for TU records
- **Tailored advising training (*clarify*)**

STUDENT

A. Eligibility Requirements:

SSCC associate degree students who are enrolled in one of TU's bachelor's degree programs are eligible for the DragonNext program. The SSCC student must have a cumulative 2.0 college GPA and a minimum of 12 transferable credit hours to be eligible to apply and be admissible at TU, but only students with a conferred associate degree will be considered a DragonNext student.

B. Application Process:

Students may apply and be admitted to the DragonNext program once they have completed 12 credit hours at SSCC and have a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative college GPA. The application for DragonNext can be found on TU's website, as well as SSCC's website. Students would begin the DragonNext program by applying for an associate degree at SSCC, while purposely planning to transfer to TU for a bachelor's degree completion. Once the student has earned their associate degree at SSCC, they will then be considered a DragonNext student, and then they will start their undergraduate degree at TU. TU offers many modalities that a student can complete their degree (i.e. on-campus or online). DragonNext students can complete their degree in any of these modalities if the degree is offered in that format.

1. The TU application fee will be waived. A transcript consent form will be collected at the point of application to TU to allow necessary information to be shared between TU and SSCC when necessary and as required by this agreement. Once a student has completed their associate degree at SSCC, an official transcript will be sent to TU immediately on behalf of the student at no charge.
 - a. **The DragonNext Transcript Consent Form** plays a pivotal role in ensuring a smoother transition for applicants by allowing us to request their prior institution's transcripts on their behalf. Below are a few reasons why this is both efficient and secure for both institutions and our students:
 - b. **Enhanced Convenience and Efficiency:** The Transcript Consent Form streamlines the process for applicants, eliminating the hassle of individually obtaining and submitting transcripts from prior institutions. By granting approval through this form, applicants authorize Tiffin University to request