

## Attachment C: SHEP Scholars Program

### SHEP Scholars Program

Northern Kentucky University's Supported Higher Education Project (SHEP), the School-Based Scholars program and Owen County Schools desire to establish a mutually beneficial partnership to develop an NKU SHEP Scholars Program. SHEP is a federally designated Comprehensive Transition Program that provides inclusive learning opportunities to young adults with an intellectual or developmental disability. The establishment of the NKU SHEP Scholars Program would expand college opportunities to high school students who meet the admission requirements for SHEP, and are engaged in transition planning for life after high school. Participation in the program will enhance skill development in the areas of self-determination and independent living, including but not limited to communication, problem-solving, decision-making, self-advocacy and collaboration.

This Memorandum of Agreement covers the period from the signing of the MOA, when implementation of the courses will begin, until the end of Academic Year 2021-2022. It is the intention of this partnership that access to NKU courses for dual credit be offered to eligible students in Owen County Schools as part of the SHEP Scholars Program every year. Courses may include any regularly offered 100-200 academic courses (or upper level courses with instructor permission), as deemed appropriate by the SHEP program and its partnering school district. In addition, students will complete on-campus internship opportunities according to their interests and career aspirations, as outlined in their person-centered plan.

The SHEP Scholars Program is designed for upper-level high school students with a disability who meet the following requirements:

1. High school seniors and those in the 18-22 age range
2. Must have an IEP indicating the need for services under an IDEA disability category related to Intellectual or Developmental Disability
3. Identified as eligible by the high school IEP transition team as determined through a person-centered planning process
4. Accepted into the SHEP program at NKU

Students interested in dual-credit at NKU must complete a School-Based Scholars application packet (online application, disclosure, and transcript). Admission will be based on the recommendation of the partnering school district, acceptance into SHEP at NKU, and completion of the School-Based Scholars application packet.

Once in the program, students must make adequate yearly progress, as determined through the person-centered planning process and IEP team. In collaboration with NKU faculty, students may opt to take a course for audit versus credit during the first week of classes, based on the strengths and needs of each student, content, and instructional strategies used in the course. When auditing, it is expected that students continue to attempt all assignments and assessments, although modifications to those activities can be made based on student need. If courses are audited, then students will forfeit the Kentucky Dual-Credit Scholarship.

## Responsibilities of NKU

- Collaborate with the school district to identify key requirements to meet the SHEP Scholars requirements set forth by NKU:
  - See Admissions Criteria under “Admission Policy”
- Determine maximum number of students admitted per year.
- Administer the admissions process for the NKU SHEP Scholars Program:
  - Online application(s)
  - Letters of Recommendation
  - Interview
  - Transcripts
  - Disclosure forms
- Provide a liaison between NKU and the school district.
- Correspond with district superintendent, or designee, on NKU SHEP Scholars requirements, needs, and development.
- Coordinate planning meetings with district/school administrators and educators.
- Coordinate student schedules of NKU SHEP Scholars with advising and the school district’s master schedule.
- Identify internship placements.
- Solicit peer mentors.
- Establish mentoring plans and provide on-going training and support of peer mentors.
- Collaborate with the school district in the person-centered planning process.
- Provide access to the NKU campus to school district personnel to meet with students on campus.

## Responsibilities of the School District

- Provide transportation to students to campus.
- Collaborate with NKU SHEP Scholars in the person-centered planning process.
- Make recommendations of potential students for the program.
- Provide on-campus support when indicated through the IEP.
- Maintain progress-monitoring data for measuring IEP outcomes.

## Mutual Responsibilities

- Data sharing on measurable impacts on student learning.
- Collaborate to conduct research.