



TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM: II.A.

MEETING DATE: May 16, 2024

SUBJECT: Off-Campus Center
University of Tennessee, Martin – Springfield Center

ITEM TYPE: Action

ACTION RECOMMENDATION: Approval

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-7-202(q)(3), the Tennessee Higher Education Commission is to review and approve or disapprove all proposals for off-campus locations at public institutions.

Per THEC Policy A1.4A Off-Campus Instruction for Community Colleges and Universities, an off-campus center is defined as a location that is geographically apart from the main campus where students can enroll and complete academic programs. Additionally, there must be a continuing administrative presence, evidenced by at least one (1) full-time or part-time administrator housed on-site.

The University of Tennessee, Martin (UT Martin) requests a center code for the Springfield Center on the Volunteer State Community College (VSCC) – Highland Crest Campus premises located at 150 Laureate Ave, Springfield, TN 37172 to be effective August 2024. Volunteer State Community College established its Springfield campus in 2011 to serve Robertson County and the surrounding region. The proposed center will provide programming to traditional learners, local adults, and high school students. Upon enrollment, students can complete coursework in four (4) degrees including Agricultural Business, Bachelor of Science (BSAB), Interdisciplinary Studies, Bachelor of Science (BIS), Agriculture and Natural Resources, Master of Science (MSANR), and Master of Business Administration (MBA).

UT Martin projects an annual enrollment of 25 full-time equivalent (FTE) students with an increase of five (5) FTE students per year, totaling 45 students by the 2028-2029 academic year. These projections are based on student interest from a previous partnership and expected population growth (7.3 percent from 2022-2027) and increasing job growth in Robertson County.

In addition to traditional face-to-face classes, UT Martin will leverage a mix of delivery methods, including flipped classrooms, online and distance learning coursework, and hybrid offerings to provide more effective utilization of resources and high-quality instruction for students seeking to continue their educational journey. This site requires one-time financial resources for signage and small equipment needs. UT Martin also plans to hire a center director, one (1) full-time faculty member, and several adjunct faculty as needed. UT Martin anticipates all expenses will be offset by yearly tuition and fee revenue acquired by the center.