**East Tennessee State University**

**Noyce Scholarship Program**

**for**

**Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science,**

**Engineering/Engineering Technology, and Biology**

**Pre-Service Secondary Teachers**

**Scholarship Agreement**

**and**

**Promissory Note**

**I. Scholarship Agreement**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Number** | **Amount of Scholarship/Loan** | **Total Scholarship/Loan to Date** | **Date and Term** | **Signature of Borrower** |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |

The East Tennessee State University (ETSU) Robert Noyce Scholarship Program is designed to increase the number and diversity of teachers graduating from ETSU in physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, and engineering/engineering technology. **As of March 2024, students with biology majors are also eligible for Noyce scholarships.** The ETSU Noyce program has 3 major goals that include 1) recruitment through early teaching experiences, 2) preparation of physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology, computing, and engineering/engineering technology teachers through the Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program, and 3) extensive induction for graduates of the program aimed at retaining quality teachers in these five subject areas in high needs school districts.

**This Noyce program provides scholarships to the MAT program for students with bachelor's degrees in one of these subject areas. Students selected to receive the ETSU Noyce Scholarship ( “Scholarship”) for the MAT program must comply with all program requirements. The scholarship will be available for up to 1 year at up to $31,211 or the cost of attendance at ETSU, whichever is less. Continued receipt of this scholarship or stipend is contingent upon meeting all eligibility requirements and execution of this Agreement. Read and carefully consider the commitments contained herein before signing this document. Criteria are:**

* 1. I verify that I meet the minimum criteria required under the ETSU-Noyce scholarship program. The minimum requirements include an undergraduate degree with a major in either Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, Engineering/Engineering Technology, or Biology.
  2. I understand and agree that I must maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 in the MAT program.
  3. I understand and agree that I must make adequate and continuous progress towards completion of the program, and I must demonstrate appropriate professional dispositions.
  4. I understand and agree that I must participate in ETSU-Noyce evaluations (e.g. surveys, interviews, focus groups, teaching observations) as part of the ETSU-Noyce continuing assessment program.
  5. I understand and agree that I am required to submit a written report to the ETSU-Noyce scholarship committee or a designated representative each semester on a regular schedule, indicating how well I am continuing to meet the above criteria listed in paragraphs 1-4 above.
  6. I understand and agree that if I do not meet the requirements listed in 1-5 above, then I will be notified and counseled by appropriate ETSU-Noyce scholarship personnel. I further understand and agree that I will not receive the Scholarship for the following semester if I do not meet the requirements listed in 1-5 above.

**Teaching and Reporting Requirements:**

1. I understand that as Scholarship recipient I will be required to report yearly on professional activities following my graduation from ETSU. These activities must be reported to the ETSU Noyce scholarship committee or a designated representative until the end of 8 years following graduation for scholarship recipients.
2. I understand and agree that I will commit to teaching two (2) years as a physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, engineering/engineering technology physical science and/or biology teacher in a high school or middle school in a high-need school district. I understand that this commitment must be completed within the 8 year period following graduation.
3. High-need school districts are defined as having: (a) a high percentage of individuals from families with incomes below the poverty line, (b) a high percentage of secondary science and/or mathematics school teachers not teaching in the content area in which the teachers were trained to teach, or (c) a high turnover rate.
4. I understand and agree to participate in ETSU Noyce evaluations (i.e. surveys, interviews, focus groups, teaching observations) as part of the ETSU-Noyce continuing assessment program.
5. I understand and agree to participate in the ETSU induction program within the period which ends 2 years following graduation from the MAT program.
6. I agree to provide annual certifications of my employment and current contact information to ETSU-Noyce designated representative(s) within the ETSU reporting period.

**Miscellaneous**

1. Amendment: This agreement may be amended at any time by the mutual written Agreement of the parties.
2. Governing Law: The validity, interpretation and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the state of Tennessee.

The ETSU Noyce scholarship recipient will complete this Agreement and a promissory note upon identification as a Noyce recipient, which is considered satisfied if all teaching and follow-up requirements are completed. Annual review of student compliance checks the criteria listed in this contract and determines consequences of defaults. The scholarship/stipend will be treated as a “forgivable loan” during coursework and following graduation. If the Noyce scholarship recipient fails to comply, the promissory note, or portion thereof, becomes due and payable with interest. ETSU has well established policies and procedures in place to monitor, track, and encourage compliance with financial aid agreements and we intend to take advantage of this expertise as necessary.

Please indicate your acceptance of the terms and conditions contained in this ETSU-Noyce Agreement by signing and returning it to Dr. Beverly Smith in Brown Hall 273, or at P.O. Box 70652, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Johnson City TN 37614, or designated representative.

Noyce Scholarship Recipient Signature: My signature below certifies that I have read and agree to the commitments presented in this Agreement.

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Student Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature Date

**II. PROMISSORY NOTE**

I agree that if I fail to meet the conditions described in Item I titled “Scholarship Agreement,” or if I have ceased to pursue the courses stipulated for Noyce Scholars in the ETSU Masters of Arts in Teaching program, I will repay either the full amount of the scholarship received or a prorated amount according to the fraction of teaching employment obligation not completed.

A. Collection Charges: I agree to pay all reasonable collection costs, including, but not limited to, attorney fees, as determined by ETSU.

B. Repayment:

1. I agree to enter repayment status on the first day of the first month after the earliest to occur of any of the following: (i) ETSU has determined that I have ceased to be enrolled in the Masters of Arts in Teaching program as a full-time student yet have not completed the program; or (ii) The date that I inform ETSU that I do not plan to fulfill my teaching employment obligation; or (iii) The latest date on which I must have begun teaching employment in order to have begun such employment within six years after teacher certification for which the scholarship was awarded, as determined by ETSU. The teaching commitment must start within six (6) years after graduation from the MAT Program. The two-year teaching commitment must be completed within eight (8) years after graduation from the MAT program. Once repayment status has been entered, future teaching employment beyond the six year deadline will not relieve me of any repayment obligation. (iv) The date that ETSU ascertains that I have ceased to be employed in an eligible school system prior to fulfilling my employment obligation.

2. I agree to make monthly payments to ETSU which cover outstanding principal and five percent interest, and any incurred reasonable collection costs, including, but not limited to, attorney fees, according to a monthly payment schedule established by ETSU, which calls for complete repayment within five years after I enter repayment status (except as provided in Items IIC and IID). Minimum monthly payments will include at least 1/60th of the total amount due, plus applicable interest and a portion of reasonable collection costs. If I fail to make any monthly payment as required by the schedule established by ETSU, and such failure persists for a period of 180 days, ETSU, without further notice, may accelerate the balance of the outstanding principal due, and I promise to pay such amount and reasonable collection charges, including, but not limited to, attorney fees, to ETSU. It is further my understanding that if I do not make the monthly payments as required by the schedule established by ETSU, ETSU will engage in collection efforts, including notification of credit bureaus concerning my default and litigation, similar to the collection efforts which are used by lenders and guarantee agencies in the guaranteed student loan program.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Annual Percentage Rate | Amount of Loan | Prepayment |
| The annual percentage rate of the Noyce Scholarship/Loan | The amount of the Noyce Scholarship/ Loan(s) made to you | If you pay off early, you will not have to pay a penalty. See the promissory note for any additional information about nonpayment, default, and any required repayment in full before the schedule date |
| 5% | $ |  |

C. Deferment: I understand that I will not be considered in violation of the repayment schedule if I promptly request a deferment in writing and am granted a deferment during the time that I am:

1. Serving, not in excess of three (3) years, on active duty as a member of armed services of the United States.

2. Temporarily disabled, for a period not to exceed three (3) years, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified physician.

3. Unable to secure or continue employment as a teacher in a qualifying school for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months by reason of the care required by a spouse who is disabled.

4. Actively seeking and unable to find employment as a physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, engineering/engineering technology, physical science and/or biology teacher in a qualifying school for a period not to exceed twenty-four (24) months prior to initial employment, or for a period not to exceed twenty-four (24 months) after initial employment.

During the time I qualify for any of the exceptions described in this Item IIC, I need not make the scholarship repayments described in Item IIB. In order to qualify for any of these exceptions, I must promptly notify ETSU of my claim and provide supporting documentation acceptable to ETSU. ETSU shall extend the five-year scholarship repayment period described in Item IIB(2) by a period equal to the length of time I meet any of the conditions in Item IIC, or if I am unable to complete the scholarship repayments within this five-year period because of my financial condition which has been established to the satisfaction of ETSU, and on which basis ETSU has granted to me a reduced schedule of repayments reflecting my financial condition.

D. Cancellation: ETSU shall cancel my repayment obligation if it determines:

1. On the basis of a sworn affidavit of a qualified physician, that I am unable to work as a 7-12 teacher because of an impairment that is expected to continue indefinitely or results in death.

2. That I have become totally and permanently disabled as established by a sworn affidavit of a qualified physician.

3. On the basis of a death certificate or other evidence of death that is conclusive under Tennessee law.

4. Circumstances have occurred that ETSU considers as a compelling reason to excuse repayment.

E. General:

1. I agree to advise ETSU promptly in writing of any change in name, address, or deferment status as described in Section IIC.

2. I understand that I may appeal any determination made by ETSU that I am not in compliance with any of the requirements of the program.

3. I understand that I must be enrolled full-time in the Masters of Arts in Teaching program at ETSU to receive this scholarship.

Student Recipient Signature: My signature below certifies that I have read and agree to the commitments presented in this Promissory Note.

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Student Name Printed

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Student Signature Date