



SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

THIS PROMISSORY NOTE/MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 20____, by and between the Board of SHEFA for the Municipality of Saipan within the Office of the Mayor of Saipan and _____, and/or with his/her parent, _____, if below 18 years, hereinafter referred to as the “Debtor” at the address: _____ (permanent & current postal address) residing in _____ (village) of Saipan.

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Saipan Local Law (SLL) 13-21 established the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance within the Office of the Mayor of Saipan to be governed by the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Board (SHEFA);

WHEREAS, the SHEFA Board, in administering the SHEFA fund, will enter into a legally binding and enforceable promissory note/memorandum of agreement with a qualified and eligible resident of Saipan together with a parent if the recipient of SHEFA financial assistance is below 18 years, prior to the disbursement of any SHEFA fund. In entering into a mutually binding promissory note/ memorandum of understanding, the SHEFA Board becomes the “Lender” of record for SHEFA fund and the recipient of SHEFA financial assistance together with the parent if the recipient is below 18 years, becomes individually and collectively the “Debtor” of any and all type and amount of SHEFA financial assistance received and acknowledged herein pursuant to § 165-20.1-105 including:

1. Grant-in-Aid,
2. Scholarship, and
3. Loan.

WHEREAS, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) is established as a supplementary financial assistance to eligible residents of the Municipality of Saipan, inclusive of the Northern Islands who desire to pursue post-secondary education at a U.S. accredited institution of higher learning on Saipan or abroad, or SHEFA approved skilled, trade



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or vocational institution, with the intention of returning to Saipan pursuant to SHEFA rules and regulations for purposes of employment and to provide services to the private or public sector or both, in recognition of the need for educated citizenry and workforce on Saipan and other contributions to the local and national interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of SHEFA financial assistance, including grant-in-aid, scholarship, and loan, which the recipient/debtor received and acknowledged by signing this promissory note/memorandum of understanding between the Debtor and the Lender, the Debtor agrees, covenants and represents as follows:

1. The Debtor is admitted to or enrolled in _____ (name of institution, a U.S. accredited post-secondary institution of higher learning, or SHEFA Board approved trade/vocational institution) in pursuit of a degree or certificate in _____ (specify the type of certificate or degree, e.g., A.A., B.A., M.A., PH.D., J.D., MD. Etc. and field of study).

2. The Debtor shall utilize all financial assistance for educational expenses directly related or incidental to attendance and continued attendance at an institution of record and shall enroll in at least a minimum of 12 credits for undergraduate; full-time status as defined by the institution for graduate; and full-time status as defined by the institution for advanced standing and maintain the minimum or higher grade point average (GPA) in accordance with the SHEFA Rules and Regulations.

3. The Debtor shall complete the required credits for each term that financial assistance was received (mark one):

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| i. Certificate and Undergraduate Full-Time: | Twelve or more credits |
| ii. Graduate Full-Time: | As defined by the institution |
| iii. Advanced Full-Time: | As defined by the institution |

4. The Debtor shall maintain at the end of each term the required cumulative grade point average and term grade point average as it applies below by marking the appropriate category:



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i. Undergraduate:	2.5 Cumulative GPA Twelve or more credits
ii. Performance-Based Scholarship:	3.5 Term† GPA; Twelve or more credits for undergraduates
iii. Graduate:	Pass (P) on a letter grade system or 3.0 CGPA on a grade point system as defined by the institution
iv. Advanced:	Pass (P) on a letter grade system or 3.0 CGPA on a grade point system as defined by the institution
v. Priority Field of Study:	2.5 Cumulative GPA
vi. Loan Applicant/Recipient:	2.5 Cumulative GPA
vii. Trade/Vocational Recipient:	Pass (P) on a letter grade system or 2.0 cumulative GPA on a grade point system or 70% on a Numerical grade point system. Must be enrolled full time per term as defined by the institution.

†Term refers to fall term and spring term per academic year for applicant or recipient on a semester system; fall term, winter term, and spring term for applicant or recipient on a quarter system; winter and spring term GPA may be combined in computing the higher of the term GPA for purposes of GPA scholarship. GPA scholarship for the semester term is awarded on the fall and spring semesters and fall and winter/spring for the quarter term.

5. The Debtor shall submit a copy of their official grade report/transcript promptly after the conclusion of each academic term directly from the institution of record to the SHEFA Office. The grade report submittal will determine the eligibility for continued assistance every subsequent term. Within ninety days upon matriculation from the institution of record, the Debtor shall submit a copy of their college degree and proof of employment on Saipan or the Northern Islands. The Debtor also fully understands and agrees to their legal obligations pursuant to the explicit and implicit terms and conditions set forth in this promissory note/memorandum of agreement.



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6. The Debtor understands, acknowledges, and accepts the maximum duration of eligibility for financial assistance from the SHEFA fund:

2 Academic Years - Associate Degree

4 Academic Years - Bachelor's Degree††

2 Academic Years - Graduate Degree

2 Academic Years - Advanced Degree†††

Less than 2 Years – Certificate/Diploma

††maximum of five academic years for specialized majors and/or specialized certification by the institution of record.

†††maximum of three academic years not including summer, with a provision for up to three additional academic years for dissertation writing, dissertation defense, and internship requirements or medical degree training requirement, and up to two years for jurisprudence work or related residence internship or related training requirements.

7. The Debtor hereby declares that they are not pursuing an academic program that leads to a religious studies degree, and shall not take religion courses not specifically prescribed in the Individualized Degree Plan (IDP).

8. The Debtor shall agree, except as provided by and subject to the provisions of paragraph 11, to return to Saipan within nine (9) months after the completion of their degree plan or six (6) months within the termination of or non-enrollment from the institution of record, and provide services by working on Saipan for any employer-whether in the private or public sector or both. The Debtor further agrees to perform services in the private or public sector or both on Saipan for a period equal to the period for which the Debtor received financial assistance under § 165-20.1-105(a)(b) from the Lender, subject to paragraph 11. The Debtor agrees to pay back twenty-five percent of the total amount of the loan received under § 165-20.1-105(c) and a minimum of three years of service either in the private or public sector on Saipan. If the recipient of SHEFA financial assistance does not return to Saipan after the completion of their studies,



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Or non-enrollment from school or termination from the institution of record, they must, except as provided by paragraph 11, repay the entire debt on all SHEFA funds received under § 165-20.1-105(a)(b)(c) with interest in accordance with this promissory note/memorandum of agreement.

9. The Debtor understands and hereby agrees that failure to comply with any part of sections 1-8 of this promissory note/memorandum of agreement and the SHEFA rules and regulations will constitute a material breach of the promissory note/memorandum of agreement and default and will require the Debtor to pay the entire award received. If such a default occurs, the Debtor must repay their entire debt to the Lender with equal monthly payments within six years of the default. The Debtor may repay according to any of the following repayment options as shown below.

Total Debt for repayment	Per Month 12 months	Per Month 24 months	Per Month 36 months	Per Month 48 months	Per Month 60 months	Per Month 72 months
\$1,000 - \$4,999	\$84 - \$417	\$42 - \$209	\$28 - \$139	\$21 - \$104	\$17 - \$84	\$14 - \$70
\$5,000 - \$9,999	\$417 - \$834	\$209 - \$417	\$139 - \$278	\$104 - \$209	\$84 - \$167	\$70 - \$139
\$10,000 - \$14,999	\$834 - \$1,250	\$417 - \$625	\$278 - \$417	\$209 - \$313	\$167 - \$250	\$139 - \$209
\$15,000 - \$19,999	\$1,250 - \$1,667	\$625 - \$834	\$417 - \$556	\$313 - \$417	\$250 - \$334	\$209 - \$278
\$20,000 - \$24,999	\$1,667 - \$2,084	\$834 - \$1,042	\$556 - \$694	\$417 - \$521	\$334 - \$417	\$278 - \$348
\$25,000 - \$29,999	\$2,084 - \$2,500	\$1,042 - \$1,250	\$694 - \$834	\$521 - \$625	\$417 - \$500	\$348 - \$417
\$30,000 - \$34,999	\$2,500 - \$2,917	\$1,250 - \$1,459	\$834 - \$973	\$625 - \$730	\$500 - \$584	\$417 - \$487
\$35,000 - \$40,999	\$2,917 - \$3,334	\$1,459 - \$1,667	\$973 - \$1,111	\$730 - \$834	\$584 - \$667	\$487 - \$556



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The Debtor must inform the Lender which repayment schedule they have accepted within thirty days of the default. If the Debtor does not select a repayment schedule within thirty days, the Debtor will be deemed to have selected the “Per Month 72 Months” repayment schedule listed above. The Debtor’s first monthly payment shall be due on the first of the month following the default, but at least thirty days after the default. All subsequent payments will be due on the first of each following month until the Debtor repays the entire debt to the Lender. Note: the Debtor may pay the balance in full at any time within the schedule plan.

10. If the Debtor fails to pay any monthly payment or any part of any monthly payment (“payment default”), then the whole principal sum shall become immediately due and payable at the option of the Lender, without notice, and interest shall accrue at the rate of five percent per annum on the total amount outstanding. Interest shall accrue until Debtor fully cures the payment default by paying all past due monthly payments and all accrued interest. Payments received shall be applied first to the accrued interest and then the balance thereof to the principal.

11. **Military Deferral; Return and Work Waiver.** The time for the Debtor to comply with the requirements of section 8 above shall be extended indefinitely upon request if the Debtor enlists in the armed forces of the United States of America. Specifically, the Debtor’s obligation to comply with the requirements of section 8 shall be deferred, upon request, until the Debtor’s service in the armed forces ends. Once the Debtor’s service in the armed forces ends, the Debtor shall have to comply with the requirements of section 8. All deferrals granted under this section are invalid unless approved in writing by SHEFA. The Debtor must renew their deferral annually. Every full month of military service so deferred shall be credited against the return-to-Saipan-and-work requirement of section 8 up to 100% of the return-to-Saipan work requirement and said return-to-Saipan-and-work requirement shall be waived and deemed satisfied to such extent.

12. In the event of commencement of suit to enforce payment of this promissory note/memorandum of agreement, the undersigned agree to pay the Lender for attorney’s fees as the Court in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands may deem reasonable.



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13. The recipient of SHEFA financial assistance, together with the parent, if the applicant is below 18 years, fully understands and agrees that compliance with the provisions in this promissory note/memorandum of agreement and all provisions of the SHEFA rules and regulations shall constitute a condition for any and all financial assistance herein by SHEFA as hereby acknowledged and attested to by both the recipient and parent if the recipient is below 18 years. Moreover, this agreement shall authorize SHEFA to request and obtain any necessary information from other agencies related to the application for financial assistance. It shall further authorize the SHEFA Office to provide essential information and data such as resume, diploma, or degree name and contact mailing or e-mail addresses to a potential employer(s) on Saipan, including posting such information and data on SHEFA's website or its affiliate on Saipan.

14. The parties agree that the courts of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Superior Court and Supreme Court) shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any action involving this promissory note/memorandum of agreement.

This agreement shall be interpreted using the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the recipient (Debtor) and/or parent, if the recipient is below 18 years, have hereunto set their or their hand(s) on the date first above written.

Print Recipient Name / Signature

Date

Print Parent Name / Signature
(if recipient is below 18 yrs.)

Date



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NOTARY PUBLIC:

On this ____ day of _____ (month) 20____, before me appeared
_____ and _____ (recipient
parent, if the recipient is below 18 years), who executed the agreement contained herein,
and duly acknowledged to me that he/she and parent if the recipient is below 18 years,
executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

Notary Public (Print & Sign)

My Commission expires: _____