



Meridian University · Ashcombe, ME 04901

Dr. Marcus D. Ionescu
118 Birchwood Lane
Ashcombe, ME 04901

Ashcombe, Maine, August 3, 2026

Subject: Confirmation of Appointment — Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering

Dear Dr. Ionescu,

On behalf of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering and the Faculty Appointments Committee, it is my pleasure to confirm, in writing, the terms of your appointment as Assistant Professor on the tenure track, following the vote of the department faculty on July 21, 2026 and subsequent approval by the Dean of the Meridian College of Engineering. This letter, together with its enclosures, constitutes the department's official record of the appointment and supersedes the verbal offer extended on July 24, 2026.

We were especially persuaded by the trajectory of your work on fault-tolerant consensus protocols and by the letters from your referees describing your effectiveness in the classroom. The Committee's recommendation was unanimous, and I am glad to have the chance to put that enthusiasm into an official record.

Key Terms of Appointment

- **Rank:** Assistant Professor, tenure-track
- **Effective date:** September 1, 2026
- **Base academic-year salary:** \$96,500, paid over 24 installments
- **Tenure clock:** six-year probationary period; mandatory third-year review in Spring 2029 and tenure review in Spring 2032



- **Startup research fund:** \$45,000, disbursed over three years and administered through the Vertex Grants Portal
- **Reporting line:** Chair, Department of Computer Science & Engineering

In recognition of the laboratory build-out described in your proposal, the department has approved a standard 2/2 teaching load reduced to 1/1 (a 50% teaching release) for your first two academic years. The confirmed assignments for your inaugural year are summarized below.

Course	Title	Cap.	Credits
<i>Fall 2026</i>			
CSE 214	Data Structures & Algorithms	65	4
CSE 471	Distributed Systems Seminar	18	3
<i>Spring 2027</i>			
CSE 512	Advanced Distributed Systems	22	3
CSE 690	Directed Doctoral Research (var.)	4	1

Your service assignments for the coming academic year, agreed with the Committee on Committees, are as follows.

- **Graduate Admissions Committee** — member, reviewing PhD and MS applications for the 2027 entering cohort
- **Curriculum & Accreditation Committee** — member, supporting the department's current ABET self-study cycle
- **Distributed Systems Laboratory** — co-principal-investigator liaison for the department's sponsored research agreement with Nexa Research Institute, covering replicated-log infrastructure for the lab's testbed cluster

On the matter of facilities: you will be assigned office 318 in Innovation Hall and shared bench space in the Innovation Hall B-Wing alongside the Concurrent Systems Group, effective from your start date. Compute credits for large-scale experiments are available immediately through the department's standing partnership with Apex Cloud Platforms; the onboarding packet enclosed with this letter explains how to request an allocation. Payroll, benefits enrollment, and tax-withholding forms are processed through the Synapse HR Portal, and you will receive system credentials under separate cover from Human Resources during orientation week.

New Faculty Orientation runs from August 25 through August 27, 2026 in Bellcourt Auditorium and is mandatory for all incoming tenure-track faculty. A detailed agenda, including sessions on IRB procedures, library research services, and the department's mentoring program, will follow by email no later than August 10, 2026. I have asked Professor Daniel Achterberg, your assigned faculty mentor for the coming year, to reach out directly to arrange an introductory meeting before classes begin.

Please countersign the enclosed appointment summary and return one copy to the department office by August 15, 2026 to formalize this agreement. Should any of the terms above differ from your understanding of the offer, contact my office immediately so that we can resolve the discrepancy before your start date.

On behalf of the entire department, welcome to Meridian University. We are genuinely glad you are joining us and look forward to the contribution your research and teaching will make to the department in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Eleanor R. Whitfield, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Computer Science & Engineering

cc: Dr. Priya Handasamy, Dean, Meridian College of Engineering
Mr. Thomas Okafor, Director, Human Resources
Office of the Registrar

encl: Appointment Terms Summary (for countersignature)
Faculty Handbook Excerpt, §§4.2–4.7
Payroll & Benefits Enrollment Packet (Synapse HR Portal)