Partnership Agreement in Nursing (RN to BSN)

Including Optional Upper-division Courses Offered for
Westchester Community College Students

Empire State College (SUNY Empire) and Westchester Community College (WCC), both of the State University of New York, agree to a Partnership Agreement in Nursing. The agreement is designed to support transfer students during their transition to SUNY Empire, and intends to:

- Ensure a smooth transfer for WCC graduates to SUNY Empire;
- Ease the transition process for graduates changing from classroom-based learning to an educational model comprised significantly of online coursework;
- Provide an affordable and convenient baccalaureate degree option for WCC graduates who want to remain close to their homes and/or community;
- Provide clear guidelines for WCC graduates to follow during the transition.

SUNY Empire will offer nursing graduates and senior nursing students from WCC an opportunity to participate in the Nursing Partnership Program into the bachelor's of science in nursing (BSN) degree program. WCC graduates will be able to transfer all 64 credits earned as part of their associate degree in nursing to SUNY Empire upon enrollment.

Admissions Requirements

- Completed A.A.S. degree in Nursing
- Possession of an active, unencumbered New York State Nursing license (RN)
- Completed SUNY Empire admissions application

With advisement, students in the Nursing Partnership Program may elect to register for up to 15 additional credits at WCC. These lower-division credits will be applied toward the baccalaureate degree program. The minimum number of credits to be taken at SUNY Empire will be at least 45 upper-level credits, which would include 41 credits in nursing. Up to 79 total lower-division credits could be included from WCC towards the 124 credit bachelor's degree at SUNY Empire.

A benefit for WCC is the potential to receive additional tuition revenue for up to 15 credits for each Nursing Partnership Program student.

As part of the agreement, SUNY Empire will provide the following: (1) outreach to faculty and transfer office staff at WCC to provide program information, (2) include this agreement in college publications and webpages, and (3) offer information sessions for students on the WCC campus, at SUNY Empire locations, and online.

WCC agrees to provide: (1) access for partnership students to campus facilities and resources (i.e. Library, academic support, computer labs), (2) promotion of the program on campus to current students and faculty advisors, as well as alumni, and licensed RNs in the community and (3) to include this transfer agreement in any college publications where such agreements are listed (i.e. college catalog, website, transfer office brochures).

Nursing students may enroll at Empire State College on a full or part-time basis.

Benefits for Westchester Community College Transfer Students

Empire State College will provide the following benefits for participating WCC students:

- Waiver of the $50 orientation fee
- Provision of a $100 transfer scholarship in the first term of matriculated enrollment at Empire State College
- Guaranteed admission to a bachelor's degree program

A unique code for interested students to use during the admissions application process will be created by Empire State College and provided to appropriate staff members in the nursing program and the transfer counseling office at WCC. Participants must enter the code upon submission of their online application for admission to receive the benefits. WCC will make good faith efforts to not make the code publicly available.

Upper-division Nursing Courses Offered for Westchester Community College Students and Alumni

Empire State College may offer up to two upper-division courses for students at WCC. This option is designed to serve two different groups of students: (1) current WCC students who are in their final term of their pre-licensure program, or recent graduates who have yet to become licensed RNs, and (2) graduates of associate degree nursing programs who are licensed RNs and want to begin working towards a bachelor's of science in nursing degree.

- Pre-licensed Nursing Students –

WCC students who have not yet earned their RN license may take these upper-division courses as non-matriculated (non-degree) students with SUNY Empire. Interested students should go through the non-degree application process found at www.esc.edu/nursing.

- Licensed Registered Nurses (RN)
  Licensed associate degree nurses have two options for how they can take these Empire State College courses. One option is to enroll as a non-matriculated (non-degree) SUNY Empire student. Credits completed will be counted as fulfilling core requirements towards the bachelor's of science in nursing program upon matriculation at SUNY Empire.

  The second option is to enroll directly into SUNY Empire as a full or part-time student. For more information or to apply, please go to www.esc.edu/nursing.

Please note that non-matriculated students are not eligible for financial aid. Students who are accepted to Empire State College as a degree-seeking, matriculated student will be eligible for financial aid.

Students who wish to apply or have application or registration questions should contact:

Westchester Community College	Empire State College
Norma Katz	Nursing.Program@esc.edu
Chair, Department of Nursing	
(914) 606-8804	
Norma.katz@sunywcc.edu	

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

Signatures to the Agreement

EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

_____   12/4/2020
Elizabeth R. Berlin   Date
Officer in Charge

_____   12/3/2020
Meg Benke   Date
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

_____   11/24/2020
Bridget Nettleton   Date
Dean, School of Nursing and Allied Health

WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
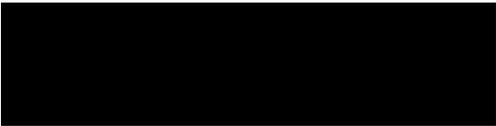
_____   12-21-2020
Belinda Miles   Date
President

_____   12/14/2020
Vanessa Morest
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs   Date

Appendix A:
Sample Degree Plan
RN to BSN

Westchester CC – A.A.S. Nursing

NURSE 102 Dosage Calculations for Nurses	1		ENG 101 Writing and Research	3
NURSE 109 Nutrition for Health Care	3		MATH 117 College Quantitative Reasoning (or higher)	3
ADN 120 Nursing I Fundamentals of Nursing (with lab and clinical study)	8		BIOL 121 Anatomy & Physiology I	4
ADN 131 Nursing 2 Mental Health Nursing - Maternity Nursing (with lab and clinical study)	8		BIOL 123 Anatomy & Physiology II	4
ADN 221 Nursing 3 (with lab and clinical study)	8		PSYCH 101 Introduction to Psychology	3
ADN 231 Nursing 4 (with clinical study)	12			
BIOL 202 Pharmacology (for Nurses)	3			
BIOL 221 General Microbiology (with lab)	4			

Total Credit   64
Potential additional lower-division credits at WCC[1]   15
Total lower-division credits   79

Upper-division SUNY Empire courses for WCC students and alumni: NURS 3010 Advanced Health Assessment (4); NURS 3015 Pharmacology (4)	8

SUNY Empire State College – B.S. Nursing (BSN)

NURS 3020 Nursing Informatics	4		NURS 3005 Educational Planning: Transition to Baccalaureate Nursing	4
NURS 3025 Nursing Research	4		General Education (upper-division)	4
NURS 4005 Health Care Delivery Systems and Policy	4			
NURS 4010 Professional Issues and Leadership in Contemporary Nursing	4			
NURS 4015 Community Health Nursing	4			
NURS 4020 Advanced Clinical Experience	5			
Nursing elective	4			

Total Empire State College Credit   45
Degree Program Total   124

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[1] Any of these 15 credits not completed at WCC will be completed at Empire State College. Students should seek advisement from an SUNY Empire advisor in advance of selecting which courses to take to ensure they will fit into the baccalaureate degree plan.

Appendix B:
Empire State College Policies and Procedures for Transfer

1. Students successfully completing degree requirements for an A.A., A.S., or A.A.S. and transferring in the entire associate degree will be able to transfer to SUNY Empire all credit earned for the associate degree, including "D" grades that are part of the completed degree. If the entire associate degree is not used toward the SUNY Empire degree program, "D" grades are not transferable.

2. The maximum advanced standing (lower and upper-division credits; prior learning assessment credits) allowed toward a bachelor's degree in nursing is 79 credits, which means that students must complete at least 45 upper-level credits in residence at SUNY Empire.

3. Any courses taken at WCC beyond the associate degree will be evaluated for transfer separately from the associate degree based on SUNY Empire's advance standing policies.

4. There is no statute of limitations regarding the age of acceptable learning substantiated by transcript except in some areas, technologies and science for instance, where that learning may be outmoded and may not be accepted if it is crucial to the structure of a degree program concentration.

5. Students earning a bachelor's degree from SUNY Empire must fulfill all graduation requirements, which include completing 45 advanced-level credits of which at least 24 are in the concentration. SUNY also requires the completion of 30 general education credits across 7 of 10 designated areas, including mathematics and basic communication.

6. All students need to complete the application process and meet all admissions criteria before being accepted to SUNY Empire. Degree seeking students must submit the SUNY Empire Application for Admission form along with an official transcript(s) of their completed course work to the Office of Admissions, Empire State College, 2 Union Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. These forms can be found at www.esc.edu/admissions.

7. Both colleges acknowledge the confidential nature of student information that may be exchanged between them. As such, both colleges agree that this information must be kept secure, confidential, and only disclosed for academic reasons. Student information will not be shared with third parties, and all FERPA regulations will be adhered to.

Appendix C:
Benefits for Active Military, Veterans, and Spouses

Empire State College has a long-standing commitment of supporting active military, veterans and family members, and enthusiastically pledges to maintain its commitment to provide the following benefits and services to military-aligned students and as they may be amended from time to time by SUNY Empire:

- Pre-enrollment advising and an Evaluated Education Plan (EEP) with a review of anticipated transfer credits prior to enrollment
- Waive or otherwise pay on the eligible student(s)' behalf, all mandatory fees for military members (active-duty, guard, reserve and veterans) along with their spouses. Waived or otherwise covered fees include: orientation fee, college fee, student activity fee, technology fee, health and wellness fee, portfolio (assessment) fee, and program amendment fee.
- Individualized Prior Learning Assessment (iPLA) fees are waived for military members
- Support military-aligned students through Veterans Affairs (VA) and Tuition Assistance (TA) funding processes
- Access to SUNY Empire's Office of Veteran and Military Education (OVME) and its dedicated resources to support student success all the way through to degree completion.

Active, Reserve and Guard Army soldiers should apply and register through the GoArmyEd portal - https://www.goarmyed.com.

Active military, veterans, and spouses may contact SUNY Empire's Office of Veteran and Military Education (OVME) for assistance at military.programs@esc.edu or 518-587-2100 ext. 2779.