PATHWAYS TRANSFER PROGRAM ARTICULATION AGREEMENT
FOR THE TRANSFER OF STUDENTS FROM SUNY ERIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
INTO THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMS AT SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

Empire State College (ESC) and Erie Community College (SUNY Erie), both of the State University of New York, agree to enter into this Pathways Transfer Program articulation Agreement (Agreement). This Agreement assures that qualified students completing any Associate in Arts (AA), Associate in Science (AS), or Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree at SUNY Erie will be able to transfer seamlessly to ESC.[1] This Agreement also establishes procedures for graduates of SUNY Erie to obtain the appropriate bachelor's degree (BA, BS, and BPS) at ESC.

How the Pathways Transfer Program Works

During their first year at ESC, students in the Pathways Transfer Program may, with advisement, opt to cross-register for up to 15 additional credits at SUNY Erie beyond the associate degree.[2] These lower-division credits will be applicable to the baccalaureate degree program by satisfying SUNY General Education requirements or needed pre-requisite courses.

Up to 79 total lower-division credits can be transferred in, leaving at least 45 upper-division credits to be completed towards the 124 credit bachelor's degree at ESC. This includes 24 upper-division credits within the student's selected concentration, consistent with the College's requirements for a bachelor's degree. Each participating student will be able to transfer all credits earned as part of their associate degree to ESC, as long as they fit into the student's designed bachelor's degree program.

Academic Programs

Empire State College offers a wide range of bachelor's degree program options that align with many of the associate degree programs at SUNY Erie. For a list of bachelor's degree programs, please refer to Appendix A of this agreement, or go to www.esc.edu/degrees-programs/.

In addition, students have the option of designing a bachelor's degree program that builds on their associate degree and is tailored to their unique interests and goals. Working with a faculty mentor, students may customize their own degree concentration within one of 12 broad areas of study or the School of Nursing and Allied Health.

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[1] As per ESC policy, Associate in Occupational Studies (AOS) degrees are evaluated on a course-by-course basis. D grades earned as part of an AOS degree are not transferable, even if the student completed the AOS.
[2] Students may transfer up to 79 lower-division credits, or 93 total advanced standing credits, to Empire State College.

Students at Empire State College can earn their degree without having to leave their home community. The flexibility of the educational model allows them to customize their courses to fit around their family, work and community commitments. Students are able to combine a number of course modalities into their degree program including online courses, independent studies, seminars and small group studies, residencies, and cross registration at other colleges (with advisement).

Benefits for SUNY Erie Community College Transfer Students

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

- Waiver of the $50 admission / orientation fee
- Provision of a $100 transfer scholarship in the first term of matriculated enrollment at ESC
- Guaranteed admission to a bachelor's degree program (except for ESC's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program)

To be eligible, SUNY Erie transfer students must have completed an associate degree within the last 3 years, or be in (or entering) their final semester of completing an associate degree.[3]

A unique application benefits code for interested students to use during the admissions application process will be created by ESC and provided to appropriate staff at SUNY Erie for distribution.

Benefits for Employees of SUNY Erie Community College

Employees of SUNY Erie may participate in the Pathways Transfer Program and become students at ESC by way of this Agreement. Employees who already hold an associate degree are eligible for the benefits as listed above for transfer students, regardless of when they received their degree. Further, employees who hold a bachelor's degree and wish to pursue a graduate degree at Empire State College are eligible for the following benefits:

- Waiver of the $50 graduate admission / orientation fee
- $100 graduate student scholarship in the first term of matriculated enrollment in the School for Graduate Studies
- A single point of contact at the School for Graduate Studies to guide new students through the admissions, enrollment and orientation process
  Evan Reese
  Graduate Outreach and Academic Advisement Coordinator
  Evan.Reese@esc.edu
  (800) 847-3000 ext. 2904

For a complete list of graduate level degree and certificate programs offered by Empire State College, or to apply, please go to https://www.esc.edu/graduate-studies/.

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[3] Note that this applies only to the completion date of the associate degree, and not when all of the courses within the degree were completed. Please refer to "Guidelines of the Agreement", item #4.

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:

- Pre-enrollment advising and an Evaluated Education Plan (EEP) with a review of anticipated transfer credits prior to enrollment
- Waive all mandatory fees for military members (active-duty, guard, reserve and veterans) along with their spouses. Waived 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 (spouses not included at this time but grants may be available; check with OVME)
- Support military-aligned students through VA and TA funding processes
- Access to the Office of Veteran and Military Education (OVME) and its dedicated resources to support student success all the way through to degree completion.

Terms of the Agreement

1. ESC agrees, for those students who successfully complete an associate degree (AA, AS, AAS) at SUNY Erie and meet ESC's admissions requirements, to accept the entire associate degree from SUNY Erie into a bachelor's degree program.[4] ESC's nursing program is selective and has additional program specific admission requirements, and therefore is not included in the guaranteed admission option.
2. SUNY Erie students have the ability to transfer up to 79 lower-division credits towards an ESC bachelor's degree, with the remaining 45 credits (of the 124 credit bachelor's degree) to be completed at the upper-division level with ESC. Upon completion of an associate degree, SUNY Erie students, with appropriate advisement, may complete additional credits up to the 79-credit limit at SUNY Erie.
3. The maximum amount of advanced standing a student may be granted at ESC is 93 total credits. This total would include lower and upper-division transcript credits, pre-evaluated credit (such as ACE, NCCRS, or ESC's Professional Learning Evaluation program), military credits, and individualized prior learning assessment, as long as those credits fit into an approved degree program. Additional details are found in the "Academic Guidelines" section of this Agreement.
4. Both SUNY Erie and ESC agree to give the widest possible publicity to the establishment of this Agreement, such as inclusion of procedures and descriptions in catalogs, bulletins, marketing publications, and webpages. This literature should clearly specify the persons or offices to contact at each institution.
5. SUNY Erie agrees to advise interested students, alumni and faculty advisors of the provisions of this Agreement.
6. ESC will provide pre-enrollment advising and/or information sessions for prospective transfer students onsite and online as appropriate. Further, ESC will provide outreach to SUNY Erie faculty and staff regarding ESC information and this Agreement.
7. This Agreement becomes effective when all signatures are affixed and remains in effect for five years thereafter. Matters of concern that affect this articulation Agreement should be brought

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[4] As per ESC policy, Associate in Occupational Studies (AOS) degrees are evaluated on a course-by-course basis.

to the attention of the Director of Academic Development in the Office of Academic Affairs at ESC, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs at SUNY Erie for discussion and amendments. The Agreement may be amended or renewed by mutual Agreement in writing.

8. Either party may terminate this Agreement with thirty calendar days of advanced notice, in writing, sent via certified mail return receipt requested to:

Empire State College	*SUNY Erie Community College*
Dr. Brian Goodale	Dr. Douglas Scheidt
Director of Academic Development	Provost & Executive Vice President for
One Union Avenue	Academic Affairs
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866	6205 Main Street
	Williamsville, NY 14221

9. In performing its obligations under this Agreement, each party shall comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, institutional policies, and accreditation standards.
10. This Agreement is not exclusive to SUNY Erie.
11. ESC and SUNY Erie agree that each is acting independently of the other, that they are not a joint venture, and that neither party is an agent of the other.
12. Both parties acknowledge that this Agreement does not create a partnership as defined by New York Partnership Law, nor is either Party acting as the agent for the other. The parties agree that each is acting independently of the other, in a cooperative collaboration.
13. 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 authorized purposes, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Student information will not be shared with third parties, and all FERPA regulations will be adhered to.

Guidelines of the Agreement

1. SUNY Erie students who successfully complete associate degree requirements for an AA, AS or AAS will be able to transfer to ESC all credits earned for the associate degree, including "D" grades that are part of the completed degree. If a student transfers to ESC without a completed associate degree, "D" grades are not transferable.
2. For a bachelor's degree at ESC, students must minimally complete 31 upper-division credits in residence towards a 124-credit bachelor's degree (see "Academic Guidelines" section for more details).
3. Any courses taken at SUNY Erie beyond the associate degree will be evaluated for transfer separately from the associate degree based on ESC's advanced standing policies.
4. There is no time limitation on transfer credits substantiated by a transcript except in areas where that learning may become outdated, such as in computer technologies and the sciences. Such credits will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis and may not be accepted if it is crucial to the structure of a degree program or concentration.
5. Students will be given the opportunity to complete all requirements for the bachelor's degree in a closely related area of concentration. For students who have completed associate degrees that are not closely related to the desired bachelor's degree area of study, additional courses may be required to complete their degrees and, in these cases, transcripts will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis to achieve maximum transferability.

6. All students need to complete the application process and meet all admissions criteria before being accepted to ESC.
7. Students may enroll at ESC on a full-time or part-time basis.
8. SUNY Erie will notify ESC of any substantive changes and/or alterations of its existing program and/or modifications related to accreditation status and/or program registration with registry agencies, if any, within 30 days of initial notification.

Academic Guidelines

At ESC, students may self-design their bachelor's degree using approved area of study guidelines and the State University of New York (SUNY) and ESC degree requirements. Students pursuing a degree at ESC through this Agreement work with an assigned faculty mentor to determine the most appropriate degree for their interests and goals, and how best to apply the advanced standing transfer credits in designing their degree. Students are encouraged to complete the degree planning process as soon as possible after matriculating at ESC, however, the process must be completed before a student registers for the final 16 credits of their degree program.

Table 1
Empire State College Bachelor's Degree Requirements

Degree	Total Credits	Maximum Advanced Standing Credits	Minimum ESC Credits in Residence	Minimum Upper-Division Credits	Minimum Upper-Division Credits in the Concentration	Minimum Liberal Arts and Sciences Credits
B.A.	124	93	31	45	24	94
B.S.	124	93	31	45	24	62
B.S.N.	124	93	31	45	40	62
B.P.S	124	93	31	45	24	32

❖ Area of Study and Concentration guidelines are used to structure the student's individualized degree program curriculum.
❖ To satisfy SUNY General Education requirements, every ESC bachelor's degree program must include at least 30 credits in seven general education knowledge and skill areas, as well as the areas of Mathematics and Basic Communication.
❖ Every ESC student must take 4-8 credits in Educational Planning.

Possible sources of additional Advanced Standing Credits:

- Individualized Prior Learning Assessment[5]
- Transcript credit from a regionally accredited college or university
- Standardized exams, such as CLEP or other exams[6]
- Military credit evaluated by the American Council on Education (ACE)
- Licenses or training evaluated by Empire State College

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[5] Individualized Prior Learning Assessment (iPLA) is credit awarded for verifiable college level learning acquired through work, life experience or independent study
[6] https://www.esc.edu/why-esc/credit-for-prior-learning/

General Information

Further information about ESC may be obtained by calling the Empire State College Student Information Center at (800) 847-3000 ext. 2285 (8:30am-5pm, Monday-Friday).

All transfer students must submit the Empire State College Application for Admission form along with an official transcript of completed course work from all colleges previously attended to the Office of Admissions, Empire State College, 111 West Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. These forms can be found at https://www.esc.edu/admissions/.

For Further Information

SUNY *Erie Community College*   **Empire State College**

Debb Schmitt   Karen Bertolini
Coordinator for Advanced Studies   Channel Recruiter
North Campus   Western New York Region
Schmitt@ecc.edu   Karen.Bertolini@esc.edu
(716) 851-1270   (716)686-7835 ext. 3835

Tuition and Fees

To learn more about Empire State College's current SUNY tuition and fee schedule, please refer to: https://www.esc.edu/tuition-financial-aid/tuition-rates/.

Signatures to the Agreement

EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE

- _____   May 4, 2020
  Jim Malatras   Date
  President

- _____   Apr 9, 2020
  Meg Benke (Apr 9, 2020)
  Meg Benke   Date
  Provost and Executive Vice President of
  Academic Affairs

SUNY ERIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- _____   May 4, 2020
  Douglas Scheidt   Date
  Provost and Executive Vice President

Appendix A:
SUNY Empire State College
Undergraduate Degree Programs

Empire State College offers a variety of bachelor's degree options (B.A., B.S., B.P.S.). Students may customize a program in a broad area of study, develop a focused concentration within an area of study, or select from one of the structured degree options. As of the signing of this Pathways agreement, the College offers the programs listed below. For the most current listing, please refer to the "Degrees & Programs" section of the ESC website (www.esc.edu).

Areas of Study	Structured Degree Programs
The Arts	Accounting (B.S.)
Business, Management and Economics	Addiction Studies (B.S.)
Community and Human Services	Allied Health (B.S.)
Cultural Studies	Business Administration (B.S.)
Educational Studies	Human Resource Management (B.S.)
Historical Studies	Management (B.S.)
Human Development	Psychology (B.A.)
Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary Studies	Nursing (RN to BSN)
Labor Studies	
Public Affairs	
Science, Mathematics and Technology	
Social Science	

Many associate degree programs can transfer into several different bachelor's degree program areas, including Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary Studies. Empire State College faculty mentors work with each transfer student to determine which program best fits with their career goals while maximizing transfer credits. The following is a list of associate degree programs at Erie Community College and the Empire State College bachelor's degree programs that best align with them. Other bachelor's degree programs may also be an option, though additional prerequisite coursework may be needed.

SUNY Erie Community College Associate Degree Programs	SUNY Empire State College Bachelor's Degree and Area of Study Options
Biotechnological Science	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Business Administration	Accounting Business Administration Business, Management and Economics Human Resource Management Management
Business Administration: Office Management	Business Administration Business, Management and Economics Management
Clinical Laboratory Technician	Allied Health

	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Communication and Media Arts	The Arts Cultural Studies Public Affairs
Computer Aided Drafting/Design Technology	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Computer and Electronics Technology	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Computer Science	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Criminal Justice	Community and Human Services Public Affairs Social Science
Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement	Community and Human Services Public Affairs Social Science
Culinary Arts	Business, Management and Economics Management
Dental Laboratory Technology	Allied Health Science, Mathematics and Technology
Early Childhood	Educational Studies Human Development
Emergency Management	Community and Human Services Public Affairs Social Science
Emergency Medical Technology/Paramedic	Allied Health Community and Human Services Science, Mathematics and Technology
Environmental Science	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Fine Arts	The Arts
Fire Protection Technology	Community and Human Services Public Affairs Social Science
Food Service Administration - Dietetic Technology	Allied Health Science, Mathematics and Technology
Health and Wellness Promotion	Business, Management and Economics Community and Human Services Human Development Science, Mathematics and Technology
Health Information Technology	Business, Management and Economics Science, Mathematics and Technology
Hotel Restaurant Management	Business, Management and Economics Management
Humanities	The Arts Cultural Studies Educational Studies Historical Studies Human Development Labor Studies Public Affairs

	Social Science
Information Technology	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Liberal Arts and Science - Childhood Education Grades 1-6	Educational Studies
Liberal Arts and Science - General Studies	The Arts Cultural Studies Educational Studies Historical Studies Human Development Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary Studies Labor Studies Public Affairs Social Science
Mathematics	Business, Management and Economics Science, Mathematics and Technology
Medical Assisting	Allied Health Business, Management and Economics Science, Mathematics and Technology
Mental Health Assistant - Substance Abuse Counseling	Addiction Studies Community and Human Services Human Development
Natural Science	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Nursing	Allied Health Nursing (RN to BSN)
Occupational Therapy Assistant	Allied Health
Paralegal	Labor Studies Public Affairs
Physical Education Studies	Educational Studies Human Development Science, Mathematics and Technology
Police Science	Community and Human Services Public Affairs Social Science
Radiation Therapy Technology	Allied Health Business, Management and Economics Science, Mathematics and Technology
Respiratory Care	Allied Health Business, Management and Economics Science, Mathematics and Technology
Social Science	Community and Human Services Human Development Labor Studies Public Affairs Social Science
Sports and Leisure Studies	Educational Studies Human Development Science, Mathematics and Technology

Visual Communications Technology	The Arts Cultural Studies Public Affairs Science, Mathematics and Technology