



Pathways Transfer Program Articulation Agreement in Allied Health

Associate of Applied Science Degree (A.A.S.) in Medical Assistant
to a Bachelor of Science Degree (B.S.) in Allied Health

Empire State College (SUNY Empire) and Niagara County Community College (NCCC), both of the State University of New York, agree to develop a Pathways Transfer Agreement in Allied Health. The agreement is designed to support transfer students during their transition to Empire State College, and:

- Ease the transition process for NCCC graduates to an educational model comprised of online courses, independent study and small group seminars;
- Ensure a smooth transfer for NCCC graduates to Empire State College;
- Provide an affordable and convenient baccalaureate degree option for NCCC graduates who want to remain close to their homes and/or community;
- Provide clear guidelines for NCCC graduates to follow during the transition.

Empire State College will offer graduates with an A.A.S. degree in Medical Assistant from NCCC an opportunity to participate in the Pathways Transfer Program into the B.S. in Allied Health program at Empire State College. NCCC graduates meeting SUNY Empire's admissions requirements will become Empire State College students upon admission.

How the Pathways Transfer Program Works:

During their first year at Empire State College, students in the Pathways Transfer Program may, with advisement, cross-register for additional credits at NCCC beyond the associate degree. These lower-division credits will be applicable to the baccalaureate degree program by satisfying SUNY General Education requirements, or needed prerequisite courses.

Empire State College requires 124 credits for a bachelor's degree, of which NCCC graduates must complete a minimum of 31 credits (in residency) at Empire State College. A minimum of 45 upper-division credits, 24 of which must be in the concentration, are required consistent with Empire State College's requirements for a bachelor's degree. The remaining 79 lower-division credits can be transferred in through transcribed credit or prior learning assessment.

Each participating student will be able to transfer all credits earned as part of their A.A.S. degree to Empire State College, as long as they fit into the student's designed bachelor's degree program (see appendix B for additional details).

Additional sources of advanced standing credits may include:

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

Benefits for Niagara County Community College Transfer Students:

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

- Guaranteed admission to the Allied Health B.S. degree program for A.A.S. degree graduates in Medical Assistant
- Provision of a one-time \$100 *Better Together* transfer scholarship
- Waiver of the \$50 orientation fee
- Waiver of the admissions application essay

To be eligible, NCCC 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.¹ Once SUNY Empire receives the student's official transcript that indicates an earned associate degree, the transfer scholarship will be awarded.

A unique application 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 transfer advisement office at NCCC for distribution.

Benefits for Employees of Niagara County Community College:

Employees of NCCC may participate in the Pathways Transfer Program and become students at Empire State College by way of this agreement. Employees who hold an associate degree are eligible for the same benefits as are outlined above. Students who hold a bachelor's degree and are interested in a graduate degree program are also eligible for the following benefits:

- Waiver of the \$50 orientation fee
- Provision of a \$100 transfer scholarship in the first term of matriculated enrollment at Empire State College
- A single point of contact at the School for Graduate Studies to guide new students through the admissions, enrollment and orientation process. The contact for NCCC employees is:

¹ 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 "Appendix B", item #4.

Evan Reese
Graduate Outreach and Academic Advisement
Coordinator Evan.Reese@esc.edu
(800) 847-3000 ext. 2904

To acquire the admission application code to access these benefits, please contact the transfer advisement office at NCCC.

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 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
- Support military-aligned students through Veterans Affairs (VA) and Tuition Assistance (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.

Guidelines of the Agreement:

As part of the agreement, Empire State College will provide the following: (1) individual educational planning and mentoring for all transferring Medical Assistant students, (2) outreach to faculty and transfer office staff at NCCC to provide program information, and (3) offer information sessions for students at NCCC, at Empire State College locations, and online.

Niagara County Community College agrees to provide: (1) access for cross-registered Pathways transfer students to campus facilities and resources (i.e. Library, academic support, computer labs), (2) promotion of the program on campus to current students, faculty advisors, and alumni, and (3) to include this transfer agreement in any college publications where such agreements are listed (i.e. college catalog, website, transfer office brochures).

Medical Assistant (A.A.S.) to Allied Health (B.S.) students may enroll at Empire State College on a full or part-time basis. With advisement from their faculty mentor at SUNY Empire, students may elect to design a degree program similar to the sample provided on page 5.

This agreement becomes effective when all signatures are affixed, and remains in effect for five years from that date (of last signature). The agreement may be amended or renewed by mutual agreement and will be formalized via revision of this agreement.

For Further Information:

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[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

Signatures to the Agreement:

EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE



Nathan Gonyea
Officer in Charge

3/18/21

Date



Meg Benke
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

3/16/2021

Date

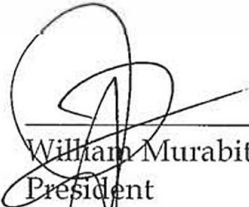


Kim Stote
Dean, School of Nursing and Allied Health

March 16, 2021

Date

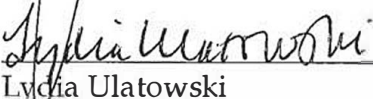
NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



William Murabito
President

2/22/2021

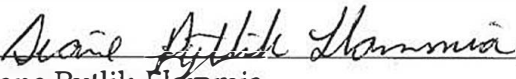
Date



Lydia Ulatowski
Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs

2/18/21

Date



Diane Pytlik-Flammia
Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs,
Nursing and Allied Health Programs

2/17/21

Date

Appendix A: Sample Degree Plan

Degree: Bachelor of Science
Area of Study: Allied Health

Niagara County Community College - Medical Assistant (A.A.S.)

Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4	Microbiology Lab	0
Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab	1	Advanced First Aid and CPR	2
Writing I	3	Phlebotomy Lab	1
OSHA/CLIA Regulations	1	Basic ECG for Medical Assistants	1
Patient Communication	1	Medical Records Management	2
Introduction to Computer Applications in the Medical Office	3	Medical Office Procedures	3
Medical Terminology	3	Basic Patient Care II	2
Medical Ethics	1	Basic Patient Care II Lab	0
Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4	Introduction to Medical Informatics	3
Human Anatomy and Physiology Lab II	1	Biotechniques	4
Writing II & Introduction to Literature	3	Biotechniques Lab	0
Basic Patient Care	2	Medical Assistant Externship I	3
Basic Patient Care I Lab	1	Medical Office Communications	2
Medical Coding, Billing and Insurance	3	General Pharmacology	3
Microbiology	4	Introduction to Psychology	3

Total Transcript Credit from A.A.S. Medical Assistant	64
Other Credits from Either NCCC or Prior Learning	6
Total Advanced Standing	70

Empire State College - Sample Only (all courses are offered online)

* Communications for Professionals or Equivalent	4	* + General Education Course	4
The United States Health Systems or Equivalent	4	* + General Education Course	4
* + Cultural Competency in Health Care	4	+ Elective	4
* + Health Care Policy	4	+ Elective	4
+ Leadership in Health Care	4	+ Elective	4
* + Health Care Ethics	4	+ Elective	2
* + Health Informatics	4		
+ Educational Planning: Transition to Baccalaureate Health Professions	4		

Total Empire State College Credit	54
Degree Program Total	124

(*) Liberal Studies (+) Advanced Level

Note:

Students who have completed the following and present the necessary documentation, may incorporate the recommended credits into their bachelor's degree program.

- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) - 2 credits
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) - 2 credits

Suggested Courses for B.S. in Allied Health Elective Areas (all courses are offered online):Biosciences

Biochemistry (4 credits)
Cell Biology or Molecular Biology (4 credits)
Genetics (4 credits)
Current Issues in Bioscience (2 credits)

Community Health

Community Health (4 credits)
Epidemiology (4 credits)
Health Psychology or Environmental Health (4 credits)
Current Issues in Health or Proposal Writing or Learning Styles (2 credits)

Education

Adults as Learners: Theories and Strategies (4 credits)
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment or Educational Psychology (4 credits)
Practicum - Student Teaching (4 credits)
Learning Styles (2 credits)

Management

Health Care Economics (4 credits)
Health Care Management (4 credits)
Organizational Behavior (4 credits)
Current Issues in Health Care Management (2 credits)

Marketing - (typically will need Introduction to Marketing or Marketing Principles as a prerequisite - could take course at NCCC)

Consumer Behavior (4 credits)
Marketing Communications: Advertising and Promotion (4 credits)
Marketing Management (4 credits)
Marketing Research (2 credits)

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 Empire State College 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 Empire State College degree program, “D” grades are not transferable.
2. The residency requirement for a 124 credit bachelor’s degree is 31 credits. Students may transfer in the remaining 93 credits (up to 79 lower-division credits) through transcribed credit and/or prior learning assessment.² A student may exceed stated credit minimums in certain circumstances to preserve the integrity of components that meet degree requirements.
3. Any courses taken at NCCC beyond the associate degree will be evaluated for transfer separately from the associate degree based on Empire State College’s advanced 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 Empire State College must fulfill all graduation requirements, which include completing 45 advanced-level credits of which 24 are in the concentration. SUNY also requires the completion of 30 general education credits across seven 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 Empire State College. Students must submit the Empire State College Application for Admission form along with an official transcript(s) of their completed coursework to the Office of Admissions, Empire State College, 111 West Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. These forms can be found at www.esc.edu/admissions.

Active, Reserve and Guard Army soldiers should apply and register through the GoArmyEd portal - <https://www.goarmyed.com>. Soldiers may contact the Office of Veteran and Military Education for assistance at military.programs@esc.edu or (518) 587-2100 ext. 2779.

² Prior learning assessment includes NYSED-approved degree granting institutions, pre-evaluated credit (NCCRS, ACE, SUNY Empire PLE) and other approved sources. For full list, visit: <http://www.esc.edu/degree-planning-academic-review/prior-learning-assessment/evaluation-prior-college-level-learning/>.