



Pathways Transfer Articulation Agreement in Teacher Education (Grades 7-12)

Associate Degree from Niagara County Community College
to a Bachelor of Science/Arts and a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Adolescent
Education (Grades 7-12) at SUNY Empire State College

Empire State College (ESC) and Niagara County Community College (NCCC), both of the State University of New York, agree to develop a Pathways Transfer Agreement in Teacher Education. 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, blended learning, and small group seminars;
- Ensure a smooth transfer for NCCC graduates to Empire State College;
- Provide an affordable and convenient baccalaureate and master's 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 and beyond into a graduate-level teacher education program.

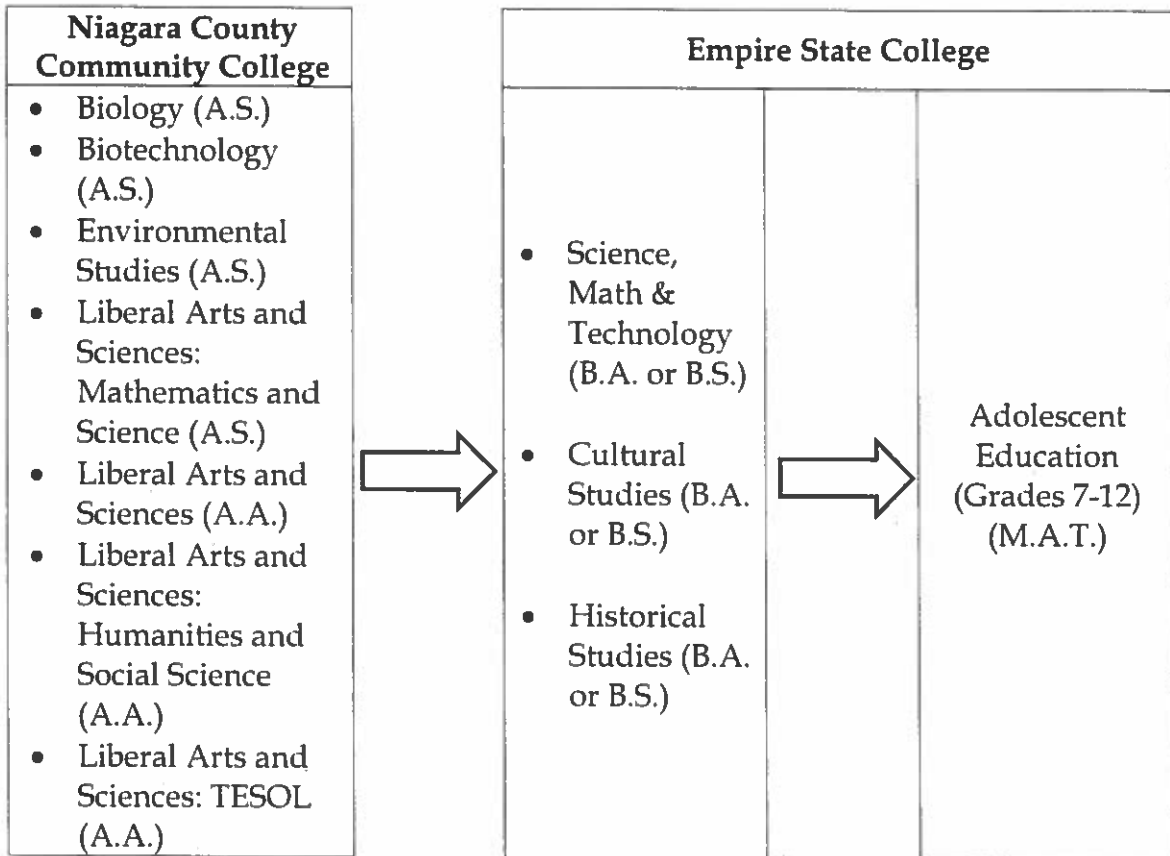
Empire State College will offer associate degree graduates in a variety of associate degree programs (see the table below on page 2) from NCCC an opportunity to participate in this Pathways Transfer Program. Further, NCCC graduates will be able to transfer all credits earned as part of their associate degree to ESC upon enrollment.

How the Pathways Transfer Program Works

During their first year at Empire State College, students in the Pathways Transfer Program may, with advisement, elect to cross-register for additional credits at NCCC beyond the associate degree (up to a total of 79 lower-division credits). These lower-division credits will be applicable to the baccalaureate degree program by satisfying SUNY General Education requirements or needed pre-requisite courses.

Empire State College requires 124 credits for a bachelor's degree, of which NCCC graduates must complete a minimum of 31 credits 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 associate 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).



Master of Arts in Teaching in Adolescent Education (Grades 7-12)

Empire State College's Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) is an innovative, clinically rich, registered teacher education program designed to meet the diverse needs and experiences of our students. The fully accredited program is designed for both career changers and recent college graduates seeking initial certification in order to teach in New York state middle and high schools.¹ The M.A.T. program leads to Adolescent (grades 7-12) NYS Initial Certification in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, English Language Arts, Spanish, Mathematics, Physics and Social Studies. The program offers two pathways for students: the Transitional B certification pathway, and the Clinically Rich Residency pathway.

¹ The MAT is the only program leading to New York State initial teacher certification at Empire State College. If you already hold Initial certification, please consider the M.Ed. In Teaching and Learning.

The Transitional B certification pathway is a part-time option designed for working adults who would like to become certified teachers of record while simultaneously completing their M.A.T. degree. This blended course delivery (in-person and online) option is a full New York state teaching certification that allows qualified M.A.T. students to seek employment as teachers of record after just one year in the program. During the second and third years of the transitional B certification pathway, students may continue their M.A.T. coursework while working as a full or part-time teacher in a NYS middle or high school. In this setting, students will be mentored by M.A.T. faculty members and networked with other Transitional B certification teachers across the state.

The Clinically Rich Residency pathway uses a blended model of delivery, with online, face-to-face and clinically based instructional modes. After completing the first year of the M.A.T. program (18 credits and 100 hours of field experience), residents begin a year-long placement in a 7-12 classroom with a critic teacher certified in his or her content area. As the school year progresses, residents incrementally assume more responsibility for the classroom, building to an immersion and lead instructional responsibility for the critic teacher's classes for eight weeks during the spring term. During the year-long residency, students complete an additional 24 credits of relevant course work that links theory to classroom practice, while receiving intensive mentoring by faculty members and supervisors. The residency option includes opportunities for integrating employment as a Teaching Assistant or substitute teacher in a middle or high school placement.

Combined B.A./B.S. to M.A.T. Degree Program

Students participating in this Pathways Transfer Program agreement will have the option of working on their bachelor's and M.A.T. degree, via the residency pathway, simultaneously. Students accepted into the combined bachelor's/M.A.T. degree program will be able to take specified master's level courses (up to 12 credits) during their bachelor's degree at the undergraduate tuition rate and have them count towards their degree. These programs may accelerate a student's time to degree completion and reduce the cost of completing the master's degree. Current students should have a minimum of 60 credits completed and a minimum 3.2 GPA.

Admissions Requirements and Procedures

1. Dual Admissions. Interested Niagara County Community College students will complete a Dual Admission application after enrolling in NCCC courses but prior to completing 30 credits. To be considered for dual admission to Empire State College, NCCC students must meet with a transfer advisor in NCCC's Career & Transitional Services Office. Career & Transitional Services will collect the student's Dual Admission application, and then will notify ESC's Admissions Office of all students who have completed the Dual Admission application.

Students who discover this program after completing 30 credits at NCCC may follow the traditional transfer process where they apply to an ESC bachelor's degree program upon

completion of their associate degree program. All applicable benefits as outlined in this agreement will apply to these students. The Career & Transitional Services Office will guide students through their options with Empire State College.

2. Combined Degree Program. Starting in the final semester of enrollment at NCCC, participating students may apply for the combined degree program by submitting their graduate application online to the School for Graduate Studies at Empire State College.

To be admitted to the combined B.A./B.S. to M.A.T. degree program, a student must have completed (or is entering the final semester at NCCC) an associate degree with an earned grade point average of 3.20 or higher, and complete an interview with a M.A.T. program faculty member.

A complete application will consist of:

- Online application
- Official transcripts from all colleges attended
- Application essay
- Resume
- Two letters of recommendation (not personal references)
- The \$50 application fee will be waived

Students not interested in the combined degree program but who were initially admitted through the dual admission option are guaranteed admission into a bachelor's degree program at ESC. At a later date, they may elect to submit a graduate application for the M.A.T. program.

Benefits for NCCC Transfer Students

For students who were not admitted to the dual admission program, this Pathways agreement will provide the following benefits for participating NCCC students following a traditional transfer path:

- Waiver of the \$50 orientation fee
- Provision of a \$100 transfer scholarship in the first term of matriculated enrollment at Empire State College (also available to dual admission students)
- Guaranteed admission to a bachelor's degree program²
- Note: admission to the M.A.T. in Adolescent Education (Grades 7-12) program requires a separate graduate application

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.³

² Empire State College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program is not included in the guaranteed admission option

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.

A unique application code for interested students to use during the dual admission application process will be created by Empire State College and provided to appropriate staff members in the Career & Transitional Services Office at NCCC for distribution.

Guidelines of the Agreement

Across the associate and bachelor's degree programs, a student in the combined program will need to complete a minimum of 30 semester credits in their area of concentration, with a grade of C or better in each course. This includes at least six credits at the 300 level or above. Further, a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.20 is expected. Most science lab work should be taken at NCCC or through cross-registration at another institution and transferred to Empire State College.

Teacher Education students may enroll at Empire State College on a full or part-time basis. With advisement from their faculty mentor at ESC, students may elect to design a degree program similar to the sample provided in Appendix A.

As part of the agreement, Empire State College will provide the following: (1) individual educational planning and mentoring for all transferring Teacher Education 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.

NCCC 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).

For Further Information


Michelle Baird
Faculty Mentor
SUNY Empire State College at NCCC
3111 Saunders Settlement Road
Sanborn, NY 14132
(716) 727-2061
Michelle.Baird@esc.edu

Alissa J. Shugats-Cummings
Director, Career & Transitional Services
Niagara County Community College
3111 Saunders Settlement Road, A-131
Sanborn, NY 14132
(716) 614-6293
ACummings@niagaracc.suny.edu

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.


Signatures to the Agreement

EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE



Jim Malatras
President

9/12/19
Date



Meg Benke
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs


8/21/19
Date



Nathan Gonyea
Dean, School for Graduate Studies

8/21/19
Date

NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE




William Murabito
Interim President

8/19/19
Date



Lydia Ulatowski
Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs

8/6/19
Date



Salvatore Sciandra
Chair, Science, Health and Mathematics Division

8/12/19
Date

Appendix A - Sample Degree Plan⁴
Associate Degree to Combined Bachelor's / M.A.T. in Adolescent Teacher Education
Science or Mathematics

Niagara County Community College – Liberal Arts and Sciences: Mathematics and Science (A.S.)

First Semester

CIS 115 Introduction to Spreadsheets	1
CIS 118 Intermediate Spreadsheet Applications or CIS/CPS 200 level elective or higher	1-3
MAT 120 Calculus & Analytic Geometry I	4
Science with lab sequence 1	4-5
ENG 101 College Writing	3

Second Semester

ENG 102 Writing II and Intro to Literature	3
MAT 121 Calculus & Analytic Geometry II	4
Science with lab sequence 2	4-5
Gen Ed – Oral Communication elective	3

Third Semester

Mathematics/Science elective	4-5
Mathematics/Science elective	4-5
General Education elective	3
General Education elective	3
Health Ed/Physical Ed elective	1-3
Free elective	3

Fourth Semester

Mathematics/Science elective	4-5
General Education elective	3
General Education elective	3
Health Ed/Physical Ed elective	1-3
Free elective	3
Free elective	3

Total Niagara CCC Credit 62-73

SUNY Empire State College (Bachelor's degree, upper-division, sample degree only)

* denotes a graduate level course

^ denotes a course with in-person meeting requirements

Fifth Semester

Educational Planning	4
Speechwriting	4
Science or Mathematics concentration	4
Science or Mathematics concentration	4

Sixth Semester

Statistics	4
Science or Mathematics concentration	4
Science or Mathematics concentration	4
US History since 1865	4

Seventh Semester

Science or Mathematics concentration	4
Free elective	4
EDUC 6005 US Schools in Social Context *^	3
EDUC 6010 Middle Childhood and Adolescent Development *	3

Eighth Semester

Science or Mathematics concentration	4
Free elective	4
EDUC 6015 Exceptionalities: Individualized Learning *	3
EDUC 6020 Teaching and Learning *^	3

Total Empire State College Credits 60
Total credits needed to earn a bachelor's degree 124

⁴ This degree path is a sample for illustrative purposes. With advisement from an ESC faculty mentor, students may modify this concentration to fit their individual educational and career goals, taking into account any transfer credits or college-level trainings they may have.

SUNY Empire State College (M.A.T. degree sequence)

Term 1 (Fall)

EDUC 6100 Teaching and Curriculum	3
EDUC 7005 MAT Residency Seminar I	3
EDUC 6125 Literacy	3

Term 2 (Spring)

EDUC 7010 Educational Evaluation	3
EDUC 7015 Residency Seminar II	3
EDUC 6130 Literacy Across the Curriculum	3

Term 3 (Summer)

EDUC 7020 Residency Capstone	3
EDUC 6045 Teaching Diverse Learners	3
EDUC 6050 Content Area Study	3

Total Empire State College Graduate Credits 42

Upon request, similar sample degree plan illustrations will be made available for the other associate degree programs at Niagara County Community College included in this agreement.

- Biology (A.S.)
- Biotechnology (A.S.)
- Environmental Studies (A.S.)
- Liberal Arts and Sciences (A.A.)
- Liberal Arts and Sciences: Humanities and Social Science (A.A.)
- Liberal Arts and Sciences: TESOL (A.A.)

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. Courses counting towards the 30 credit content requirement for certification must be passed with a "C" or better.
2. The residency requirement for a 124 credit bachelor's degree is 31 credits. Students may transfer in up to the remaining 93 total credits (up to 79 lower-division credits) through transcribed credit and/or prior learning assessment.⁵ 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 Niagara County Community College beyond the associate degree will be evaluated for transfer separately from the associate degree based on Empire State College'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 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 7 of 10 designated areas, including mathematics and basic communication. Combined degree program students must complete all 10 areas (30 credits) of the NYSED general education core.
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 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.

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.

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.

⁵ Prior learning assessment includes NYSED approved degree granting institutions, Pre-evaluated credit (NCCRS, ACE, ESC 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/>