

Pathways Transfer Program Agreement in Nursing (RN to BSN)

Including Optional Upper-division Courses Offered for
Belanger School of Nursing Students

Empire State College (SUNY Empire) of the State University of New York, and the Belanger School of Nursing of Ellis Medicine (BSON), agree to enter into this Pathways Transfer Program 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 BSON 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 BSON graduates who want to remain close to their homes and/or community;
- Provide an option for pre-licensure BSON students to take up to two upper-division (online) nursing courses offered by SUNY Empire.

SUNY Empire will offer nursing graduates and senior nursing students from BSON an opportunity to participate in the Pathways in Nursing Program into the Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program. Belanger School of Nursing 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 - Bachelor of Science in Nursing program

- Completed associate degree in Nursing (A.S. or A.A.S.)
- Possession of an active, unencumbered New York State Nursing license (RN)
- Completed SUNY Empire admissions application (www.esc.edu/nursing)

Empire State College will accept the associate degree from the Belanger School of Nursing in full, including up to 79 total lower-division credits in transfer. The bachelor's degree in Nursing at SUNY Empire is comprised of 124 credits, of which at least 45 are at the upper-division, including 41 upper-division credits in nursing courses.

Belanger School of Nursing students have the option of completing up to two upper-division nursing courses offered by SUNY Empire.¹ Students would apply (www.esc.edu/nondegree) and register for the courses as non-matriculated (non-degree) students. Please note that non-degree students are not eligible for financial aid.

Guidelines of the Agreement

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

The Belanger School of Nursing agrees to provide: (1) access for partnership students (BSON students and pre-licensure alumni) to campus facilities and resources (i.e. Library, academic and student 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 at Ellis Medicine, and (3) to include this transfer agreement in any school 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 Belanger School of Nursing Transfer Students

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

- Waiver of the \$50 orientation fee
- Provision of a one-time \$100 *Better Together* transfer scholarship upon enrollment at Empire State College
- Guaranteed admission to a bachelor's degree program

To be eligible, BSON 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.²

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 at BSON.

¹ NURS 3010 Health Assessment, and NURS 3015 Pharmacology

² 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.

Optional Upper-division Online Nursing Courses

SUNY Empire may offer up to two upper-division courses for BSON students – NURS 3010 Health Assessment, and NURS 3015 Pharmacology. These optional courses are offered to serve two different groups of students:

1. Pre-licensure
 - BSON students who have completed at least year one of their nursing courses¹
 - Recent graduates who have yet to become licensed RNs
2. Licensed
 - Graduates of an associate degree nursing program who are licensed RNs and want to begin working towards a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree at SUNY Empire.

Pre-licensed Nursing Students

BSON students and recent graduates 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 complete the non-degree application process found at www.esc.edu/nondegree.

Licensed Registered Nurses (RN)

Licensed associate degree nurses may 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 have application or registration questions should contact:

Belanger School of Nursing
Michele Hewitt
Director
650 McClellan Street
Schenectady, NY 12304
hewittm@ellismedicine.org
(518) 243-4471

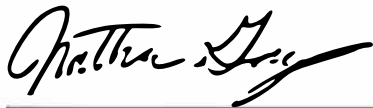
SUNY Empire State College
Nursing.Program@esc.edu

¹ Year 1 nursing courses to be completed: NURS 100 (Concepts of the Nursing Profession), NURS 105 (Foundations of Nursing Practice), NURS 110 (Transitions of Care Across the Continuum), and NURS 115 (Introduction to Biophysical and Psychological Concepts)

This Agreement becomes effective when all signatures are affixed, as of the date of last signature, and remains in effect for five years. The agreement may be amended by mutual agreement and will be formalized via revision of this agreement.

Signatures to the Agreement

EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



Nathan Gonyea
Officer in Charge

1/26/21

Date



Meg Benke
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

1/25/2021

Date



Kim Stote
Dean, School of Nursing and Allied Health

1/22/2021

Date

BELANGER SCHOOL OF NURSING, ELLIS MEDICINE



Leslyn Williamson
Chief Nursing Officer

12/29/2020

Date



Michele Hewitt
Director, School of Nursing

12/23/20

Date

**Appendix A:
Sample Degree Plan
RN to BSN**

Belanger School of Nursing - A.S. in Nursing (37 credits)

Schenectady County Community College - General Education (27 credits)

NURS 100 Concepts of the Nursing Profession	2	BIO 151 Anatomy & Physiology I (NS)	4
NURS 105 Foundations of Nursing Practice	5	PSY121 Psychology (SS)	3
NURS 110 Transitions of Care Across the Continuum	4	ENG 123 College Composition (BC)	3
NURS 115 Introduction to Biophysical and Psychological Concepts	6	BIO 152 Anatomy & Physiology II (NS)	4
NURS 208 Advanced Biophysical, Psychosocial, and Family Concepts	10	PSY 222 Developmental Psychology (SS)	3
NURS 210 Transitions into Professional Practice	7	BIO 241 Microbiology (NS)	4
NURS 215 Owning Your Practice	3	MAT 147 Statistics (MA)	3
		Sociology elective (SS)	3

Total BSON credits 64

Optional upper-division SUNY Empire course for BSON: NURS 3010 Health Assessment ¹	4
Optional upper-division SUNY Empire course for BSON: NURS 3015 Pharmacology ¹	4

SUNY Empire State College - B.S. in Nursing (BSN)

NURS 3005 Educational Planning: Transition to Baccalaureate Nursing	4	Liberal Arts electives	7
NURS 3020 Nursing Informatics	4	General Education electives (3 of 7 required general education categories to complete) ²	12
NURS 3025 Nursing Research	4		
NURS 4005 Health Care Delivery Systems and Policy	4		
NURS 4010 Professional Issues and Leadership in Contemporary Nursing	4		
NURS 4015 Community Nursing	4		
NURS 4020 Baccalaureate Nursing Capstone	5		
Nursing elective	4		

Total Empire State College credit 60

Degree Program Total 124

¹ BSON students may take this course at any time after completing NURS 100, NURS 105, NURS 110, and NURS 115

² Please refer to Appendix B, item #5 for information on SUNY's general education requirements

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 the Belanger School of Nursing or Schenectady County Community College 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 outdated 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, 111 West 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.