

**Articulation Agreement**  
**between**  
**Montgomery County Community College**  
**and**  
**West Chester University**  
**for**  
**the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing and**  
**the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Master of Science in Nursing**

**Introduction**

Montgomery County Community College (MCCC) and West Chester University (WCU) agree to enter into this Articulation Agreement to facilitate the seamless transfer of MCCC students who have earned or will soon earn the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (AASN) degree. The purpose of this agreement is to provide seamless pathways for MCCC AASN students who meet the requirements as stated in this agreement to have the option to transfer into the traditional RN-BSN degree program or the concurrent RN-BSN degree program at WCU. This agreement also outlines the requirements for the continued pathway opportunity for MCCC students who successfully complete the BSN program at WCU to transfer seamlessly into WCU's Master of Science in Nursing degree program. In addition, the parameters designed for transfer student success are outlined for admissions and financial aid.

Qualifying students will be guaranteed admissions into the Traditional RN-BSN and MSN program pathways at WCU provided that the student meets all University degree, major, and GPA requirements. Admissions into the Concurrent Enrollment RN-BSN program pathway will be determined by WCU provided that the student meets all University degree, major, and GPA requirements.

**RN to BSN Pathways Requirements**

**Traditional RN-BSN Pathways**

This pathway is designed for MCCC AASN students with an earned Associate degree in Nursing and an active RN License no later than the beginning of their second semester at WCU. The RN-BSN program is available both for full time or part time study.

#### Traditional RN-BSN Pathway Requirements

- An earned Associate of Applied Science in Nursing with a cumulative GPA of 2.75 GPA consistent with admission requirements for WCU RN-BSN degree program.
- Successful completion of MCCC's MAT 131 Statistics courses with a grade of "C" or better as part of their AASN program at MCCC. This will satisfy WCU's required Math 121 (Introduction to Statistics I) requirement.
- Submit their admissions application no later than 3 months prior to the start of their intended semester of enrollment to be considered for guaranteed admissions. After that date, admissions into the program will be determined on a space available basis.
  - MCCC AASN graduates must apply within 2 years of their AASN degree conferral.
- Upon matriculation at WCU, if student has not yet obtained an active RN License, they must do so by the beginning of their second semester at WCU in order to continue in the program. Furthermore, students must have an active RN license to graduate from WCU's BSN degree program.

#### Concurrent Enrollment RN-BSN Pathway

- This accelerated pathway is designed for MCCC AASN students to concurrently enroll into the RN-BSN program at WCU while simultaneously completing their AASN at MCCC. Once accepted into the WCU/MCCC concurrent program, students may enroll part time or full time but may not take more than 18 combined credits between MCCC/WCU in one academic semester.

#### Concurrent Enrollment RN-BSN Pathway Requirements

- Current enrollment at MCCC in good academic standing in MCCC's Associate of Applied Science in Nursing program.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 consistent with admission requirements for WCU's RN-BSN degree program.
- Meet all WCU RN-BSN Prerequisites to include the following MCCC equivalencies: ENG 101 and 102 prior to concurrent enrollment, and MAT 131 prior to enrollment in NSG 313. These MCCC equivalencies satisfy WCU's WRT 120 (Effective Writing I), WRT 200 (Critical Writing and Research), and MAT 121 (Introduction to Statistics I) requirements.
- Formally apply to WCU for Admission into the concurrent AASN-RN/BSN option 3 months prior to the start of their intended semester of enrollment to be considered for this pathway. The application must include recommendation from MCCC Nursing department in order to be considered for admission. Admission to this program is not guaranteed and WCU will independently make all admission decisions/offers to students.
- Comply with all MCCC and WCU Policies and remain in good academic and financial standing with both MCCC and WCU at all times to include all associated deadlines and tuition and fee payments.
- Students must sign a WCU FERPA release agreeing to share WCU records with MCCC.
- Student is responsible for submitting an official copy of their MCCC transcript when their AASN has been conferred.
- Financial Aid eligible MCCC students in the concurrent RN to BSN program will utilize the Financial Aid Consortium Agreement (Addendum A).
- The WCU Nursing Program Counselor is responsible for registering students for all WCU courses until the AASN has been obtained. Students will be responsible for all associated tuition and fees at both institutions.

- If for any reason, the student is unable to satisfactorily progress in the concurrent AASN-RN/BSN coursework, the terms of Concurrent Enrollment of this agreement will no longer apply to that student and they will be eligible to be re-activated in WCU's RN-BSN program once the student is in good academic standing at MCCC and WCU.
- Similarly, if a student no longer wishes to continue in the concurrent AASN-RN/BSN coursework, the concurrent enrollment terms of this agreement will no longer apply to that student and they may be eligible for the traditional RN-BSN Pathways terms of this agreement. Advising support will be provided by WCU if the student wishes to transfer to another major at WCU.

### **General Admissions for all Pathways**

- Students must complete the WCU admissions application process and submit all required materials.
- Students who earned college-level credits via prior learning methods such as AP (Advanced Placement), CLEP (College Level Examination Program), IB (International Baccalaureate Program), and DSST (DANTES (Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support) Subject Standardized Tests) are not required to submit an official transcript to WCU, if the credits are posted to MCCC's official transcript. Any additional credits that were completed while matriculated at another post-secondary institution will require an official transcript submitted to the Office of the Registrar for review.
- Students are responsible for ensuring an official copy of their final MCCC transcript is sent to the Office of the Registrar at WCU when their associate degree has been awarded in order for the academic passport to be applied.
- WCU does not ask for criminal history information on the application for admission. However, certain criminal conduct may prohibit students from obtaining campus housing. Any student with a conduct sanction imposed by MCCC (or any other institution of higher education) is not guaranteed admission. Instead, admission is subject to the University's policy. Additionally, some criminal and non-criminal criminal conduct may render students ineligible for professional

licensure, to complete certain degrees, and/or prohibit them from becoming employed in certain professional fields.

### **Admissions Application Fee Waiver**

- Students who participate in the Traditional and Concurrent Enrollment RN-BSN pathways will have their admission application fee waived.

### **Evaluation of Undergraduate Credits for the RN to BSN Pathways:**

- MCCC's Associate of Applied Science in Nursing degree will transfer in its entirety towards WCU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at WCU requires the completion of 120 college credits. Per WCU's academic residency requirements, students may transfer up to 90 college-level credits and 30 of the last 60 credits must be taken at WCU. Students must complete WCU's RN-BSN core nursing courses as part of their minimum of 30 of the last 60 credits in order to meet the major requirements of a baccalaureate degree.
- Students who have earned an Associate of Applied Science degree at MCCC will be awarded Academic Passport and their general education requirements will be automatically satisfied with the exception of a 3-credit Diverse Communities requirement. This exception does not extend the student's time or number of credits to complete their degree at WCU (120 credits).
- For MCCC courses to transfer to WCU, a minimum grade of D must be earned. Courses with "D" grade will not fulfill major requirements. To further clarify, a course with a "D" grade will transfer and be applied toward graduation requirements, but the "D" grade will not fulfill major requirements. Grades received in courses taken at other institutions are not calculated in the WCU cumulative grade point average, only the credits are transferred. Students must also meet all minimum grade requirements in courses that they want to transfer toward their major and/or minor requirements.
- Courses with a CR (credit by exam) grade will not transfer to WCU.

- All credits already transcribed by MCCC will be honored by WCU. If prior learning credits were not already evaluated/transcribed by MCCC, students can submit their scores to the Office of the Registrar at MCCC to receive evaluation. Credit for prior learning from AP, CLEP, IB, and DSST will be evaluated in accordance with approved minimum scores effected in response to the Public School Code, 24. P.S. § 20-2002-C(d).

### **Advising and Transition for the RN-BSN Pathways**

WCU has a team dedicated to maximizing the success of MCCC students. This includes:

- WCU's Office of Admission and WCU's Department of Nursing will contact all MCCC students who submit their application to the Traditional RN-BSN or Concurrent Enrollment RN-BSN programs and maintain communications throughout the onboarding of all students.
- Prior to matriculation at WCU, MCCC students participating in the Traditional RN-BSN program or Concurrent Enrollment program pathways will hear from their WCU Nursing Program Counselor and Nursing Program Director to provide individualized support to guide them toward academic and personal success at WCU.
- The Financial Aid Office team will assist MCCC financial aid eligible students with the financial aid process and resources. This will include information about applying for aid, including grants and other self-aid such as employment or loans. All MCCC students who transfer to WCU will have the opportunity to be reviewed for need-based aid regardless of participating in the traditional or concurrent RN to BSN pathway programs.

### **WCU's Philadelphia location**

Students enrolled in the traditional RN to BSN programs at WCU's Philadelphia location will receive a 10% tuition discount. This discount is applied to full and part time enrollment.

### **The Master of Science in Nursing Pathway:**

MCCC students who transfer to WCU under this agreement and earn their Bachelor of Science in Nursing have the opportunity for guaranteed admissions into the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program.

MSN Requirements Students must have earned a cumulative 2.8 gpa in their Undergraduate BSN degree program.

- Students must have a current RN license.
- Students will have their graduate Admissions Application fee waived.
- WCU does not ask for criminal history information on the application for admission. However, certain criminal conduct may prohibit students from obtaining campus housing. Any student with a conduct sanction imposed by MCCC (or any other institution of higher education) is not guaranteed admission. Instead, admission is subject to the University's policy. Additionally, some criminal and non-criminal criminal conduct may render students ineligible for professional licensure, to complete certain degrees, and/or prohibit them from becoming employed in certain professional fields.

#### **Joint Responsibilities for Maintenance of this Agreement**

- WCU and MCCC will develop a process and requisite communications and affirmation strategies to identify MCCC AASN students who are newly admitted or currently enrolled to receive joint communications in support of the traditional RN to BSN pathways, Concurrent Enrollment RN to BSN pathway, and MSN pathways.
- WCU and MCCC will develop and maintain joint recruitment and marketing plans in support of this Agreement.
- WCU and MCCC will continue to update and maintain curricular and course equivalency information for the pathways to include terms and conditions for each regarding Transfer Credit Permission Forms. A current WCU and MCCC Curriculum Advising Sheet (Educational Plan) will be kept on file in WCU's Financial Aid Office as required for the Financial Aid Consortium Agreement.

- WCU and MCCC will coordinate WCU information and advising via in person and virtual events to provide academic advising, admission, financial aid, and billing advising, and career services.
- MCCC must provide written notification to WCU of any curricular modifications or changes to their Applied Associate of Science in Nursing or related MCCC curriculum changes. WCU will review and determine if said changes or modifications necessitate an amendment to this agreement.
- WCU will inform MCCC of any curricular changes and students who affirmed their Intent to Enroll will be treated the same as native WCU students in terms of impact of curricular changes so long as they maintain continuous enrollment at MCCC.

### **Mutual Terms and Conditions**

1. This Articulation Agreement along with Addendum A constitutes the entire Agreement and terms of understanding between Montgomery County Community College and West Chester University. This Agreement shall take effect immediately upon execution by the date of the last required signature on the Agreement.
2. This agreement will be reviewed and revised as necessary. All revisions must be approved in writing by each institution's official signatories, with the same formality as the original Agreement.
3. This agreement shall not exceed a total term of five (5) years beginning from the date of the last required signature on the Agreement. After the five (5) year term, the parties may agree to enter into a new Agreement.
4. The terms of the Agreement shall remain in effect unless it is terminated by either party. Any party may terminate the agreement with or without cause with 120 days written advance notice to the other party. If this Agreement is terminated while students are enrolled through this Agreement, the students may continue their educational experience under this Agreement until that experience would have concluded absent the termination.
5. The parties agree to continue their respective policies of nondiscrimination in regard to sex, age, race, color, creed, national origin, Title IX of the Education



- Amendments of 1972 and other applicable laws, as well as the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
6. The relationship between the parties to this Agreement to each other is that of independent contractors. The relationship of the parties to this contract to each other shall not be construed to constitute a partnership, joint venture or any other relationship, other than that of independent contractors.
  7. The Parties shall protect the confidentiality of student records as dictated by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act 34 CFR § 99.33 (a)(2) ("FERPA") and shall release no information absent written consent of the student unless authorized by law or as dictated by the terms of this agreement.
  8. Neither of the parties shall assume any liabilities to each other. As to liability to each other for harm to persons, or damages to property, the parties do not waive any defense as a result of entering into this Agreement. This provision shall not be construed to limit WCU's or the Commonwealth's rights, claims or defenses which arise as a matter of law pursuant to any provisions of this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to limit the sovereign immunity of the Commonwealth or of the State System of Higher Education or WCU.
  9. This Agreement is not a third-party beneficiary agreement and confers no rights upon any students or employees of the parties.
  10. For the purpose of this Agreement, a copy of the party's original signature shall be considered to be an original signature; and as such shall be sufficient to bind such parties.
  11. The laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall govern this Agreement.

SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the authorized representatives (of the parties have) executed this Agreement as of the date of the last affixed signature.

**West Chester University**

Chris Fiorentino 9/13/23  
Christopher Fiorentino, Ph.D. Date  
President

DocuSigned by:  
Dr. Jeffery L. Osgood, Jr. 9/12/2023  
9DE7D688CC5E4AB  
Jeffery L. Osgood Jr., Ph.D. Date  
Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

Approved as to form and legality:

DocuSigned by:  
Jeffery Kille 9/12/2023  
228D708648FD48B...  
University Legal Counsel Date  
PA State System of Higher Education

**Montgomery County Community College**

Chae Sweet 6/12/23  
Chae Sweet, Ed.D. Date  
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Cheryl Dilanzo 6/1/2023  
Cheryl Dilanzo Date  
Dean of Health Sciences

Phil Needles 6/26/23  
Phil Needles Date  
Vice President of Engagement and Student Experience

**Addendum A**  
**Financial Aid Consortium Agreement**  
**between**  
**Montgomery County Community College**  
**and**  
**West Chester University of Pennsylvania for**  
**the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Montgomery County Community College ("MCCC") and West Chester University of Pennsylvania ("WCU") enter into this Financial Aid Consortium Agreement ("Agreement") as of the date of the last signature below. This is a blanket financial-aid consortium agreement applicable to students enrolled in the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Science in Nursing program ("Program"), a concurrent enrollment program between MCCC and WCU. This agreement will be in effect at the beginning of the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. As a blanket agreement, individual consortium agreements between these institutions of higher education will not be necessary for individual students wishing to benefit by the terms of this agreement.

For the purposes of this agreement and in accordance with 34 CFR§668.5, MCCC and WCU agree that:

1. The "home" school is WCU, the institution where the student will receive his or her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.
2. The "host" school is MCCC where the student enrolls in a course or courses that are applicable to the student's eligible program of study at the home school. Coursework taken at a host school will count towards a student's financial aid enrollment status for all federal and state aid programs at the home school, provided that the coursework at the host school is applicable to WCU Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.
3. The current Educational Plan developed for the program will be kept on file at WCU's Financial Aid Office.
4. The student will follow the educational plan developed for the program.
5. For purposes of financial aid calculations, a student's cost of attendance (COA) will include tuition, fees, on-campus room and board, and other allowable charges incurred for specific terms of enrollment at each institution. Off campus room and board, transportation, and miscellaneous/personal costs will be based on WCU's COA budget.
6. Procedures for calculating awards, disbursing aid, monitoring satisfactory progress and other eligibility requirements, keeping records, and returning funds when the student withdraws, will be those in effect at WCU. Students taking classes at MCCC for the Program will be considered concurrently enrolled for financial aid purposes.

- 7. WCU will execute the college financial aid office responsibilities for all units in which the student is enrolled at MCCC, provided those units are applicable to the Program's program of study. If the student is on a financial aid educational plan as the result of an appeal decision at WCU, for the purposes of financial aid, any coursework taken at MCCC must fulfill the requirements of the Program educational plan.
- 8. For each student in the Program, MCCC will inform WCU of any enrollment changes, within one week of the effective date of the enrollment change.
- 9. For any student who withdraws from all classes, MCCC will provide the last date(s) of attendance at an academically-related activity as defined in 34 CFR §668.22(l)(7)(i), for courses in which the student was enrolled for the purpose of completing Return of Title IV funds calculations.

This agreement will remain in effect while the Program is active.

West Chester University

Montgomery County Community College

Christopher Fiorentino 7/13/23  
 Christopher Fiorentino, Ph.D. Date  
 President

Chae Sweet 6/12/23  
 Chae Sweet, Ed.D. Date  
 Vice President of Academic Affairs

DocuSigned by:  
Dr. Jeffery L. Osgood, Jr. 9/12/2023  
 9DE7D600CC5E4A8...  
 Jeffery L. Osgood Jr., Ph.D. Date  
 Interim Executive Vice President and  
 Provost

Cheryl DiLanzo 6/1/2023  
 Cheryl DiLanzo Date  
 Dean of Health Sciences

Approved as to form and legality:  
 DocuSigned by:  
University Legal Counsel 9/12/2023  
 7200700948FD48B...  
 University Legal Counsel Date  
 PA State System of Higher Education

Phil Needles 6/20/23  
 Phil Needles Date  
 Vice President of Engagement and Student  
 Experience