

Guaranteed Admissions Agreement between West Chester University and Cecil College Early College Academy for Associate of Arts in General Studies

Introduction

West Chester University of Pennsylvania and Cecil College agree to establish a guaranteed admissions agreement whereby Early College Academy students who complete the requirements for an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies at Cecil College and meet the admission requirements as stated in this agreement will be admitted to West Chester University (WCU) with advanced standing. The Early College Academy (ECA) at Cecil College enrolls students in grades 9-12. Successful students complete the program with a high school diploma (or its equivalent) and an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies from Cecil College. Prior to the first year, ECA students participate in an orientation program to introduce them to academic expectations and resources available to them during their four years in the program. Throughout their enrollment, students are supported by tutors and advisors from Cecil College. While taking classes, students are guided through seminars and individualized advising to help them build the academic skills needed to succeed in high school and college coursework. Cecil College's Early College Academy includes students from Cecil County Public School District in Maryland, the Oxford Area School District in Pennsylvania, as well as the Homeschool cohort.

The purpose of the Agreement is to provide a pathway for students who have successfully completed an Associate of Arts in General Studies through Cecil College to transition to a baccalaureate degree program at West Chester University. The Agreement defines admission requirements and processes, course equivalencies, and services to support students in their transition to West Chester University.

Admissions Requirements

ECA students enrolled in the Associate of Arts in General Studies at Cecil College must complete the WCU Undergraduate admissions process for first year students (https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/SCH_ADM/firstYear.aspx), including but not limited to the WCU First Year admissions application and submission of all official high school and college transcripts.

The SAT/ACT requirements will be waived

The admissions application fee will be waived

Placement testing is waived

ECA students at Cecil College will be considered first year students at WCU (with college credits) and as such have access to housing opportunities for first year students.

ECA students at Cecil College will be considered first year students at WCU and as such have access to merit scholarship opportunities designated for first year students.

ECA students who successfully complete an Associate of Arts in General Studies at Cecil College are guaranteed admissions to WCU but not necessarily to every major. Certain majors (https://www.wcupa.edu/admissions/SCH_ADM/firstYear.aspx) have more selective requirements and enrollment limitations which may lead to admission into an alternate major.

ECA students have the opportunity to apply for the Honors Seminar Program (<https://www.wcupa.edu/viceProvost/honorsCollege/honorsSeminarProgram.aspx>).

Upon being enrolled at WCU, ECA students will have the opportunity to apply for the Accelerated Bachelors to Master's program options (<https://www.wcupa.edu/accelerated/acceleratedOption.aspx>) which enable high achieving students to complete a master's degree in a shorter period of time and at a reduced cost. There are selective requirements and enrollment limitations based on majors.

Evaluation of Credit

The Associate of Arts in General Studies coursework taken by ECA students have been evaluated and equivalencies established as such in Addendum A.

Courses taken as part of the 12 credit elective requirements will be evaluated in accordance to equivalencies established and available on our Transfer Credit Center (<https://www.wcupa.edu/registrar/forms/transferCredit.aspx>).

As part of WCU's Academic Passport Program, Cecil College's General Education requirements will transfer in its entirety towards WCU General Education Requirements.

ECA Students will need to complete a Diverse Communities course and a Writing Emphasis course while at WCU.

ECA Students will be waived from the First Year Experience Course at WCU.

Language and Culture Requirements for Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music Degrees and certain Bachelor of Science Degree programs are not waived by Academic Passport.

Students are required to submit an official transcript from Cecil College to the Office of the Registrar once their Associates degree has been conferred in order to have Academic Passport applied to their WCU record.

For Cecil College courses to transfer to WCU, a minimum grade of D must be earned. Courses with "D" grades will not fulfill major requirements.

Advising and Transition

WCU and Cecil College will maintain course equivalency information to include maintaining the Graduation Audit: General Studies Associate of Arts (Addendum A).

WCU and Cecil College will coordinate WCU information and advising in person and virtual events to provide academic advising, admissions, financial aid, and billing advising, and career services.

WCU and Cecil College admissions and advising staff will meet annually to discuss and enhance student transition and success

Terms of Agreement

This agreement applies to the current curricular requirements for the Associate of Arts in General Studies.

Cecil College must provide written notification to WCU of any curricular modifications or changes to the Associate of Arts in General Studies. WCU will review and determine if said changes or modifications necessitate an amendment to this agreement.

This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement and terms of understanding between Cecil College and West Chester University and supersedes any other prior agreements or understanding between the two parties regarding the same subject matter (ECA).

Addendum A outlines the Cecil College and WCU Course Equivalencies for the Associate of Arts in General Studies.

This Agreement is in effect for Fall 2020 Admissions at WCU for ECA students who graduate from Cecil College with an Associate of Arts in General Studies.

This agreement will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary. All revisions must be approved by each institution's official signatories. This agreement will have a term of five (5) years beginning from last date of signatures. After the five (5) year term, the parties may agree to enter into a new Agreement for successive five (5) year terms upon approval by each institution's official signatories, unless one or both parties terminate the Agreement.

The terms of the Agreement shall remain in effect, except as stipulated for certain previous terms as listed herein, 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.

The parties agree to continue their respective policies of nondiscrimination based on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 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.

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.

The parties shall agree to keep confidential all personally identifiable student information from education records provided by WCU or Cecil College as set forth in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act 34 CFR § 99.33 (a)(2) ("FERPA").

Neither of the parties shall assume any liabilities to each other. As to liability to each other or 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 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 the University.

This Agreement is not a third party beneficiary contract and confers no rights upon any students or employees of the parties.

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.


In WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this agreement to be executed pursuant to due and legal action authorizing the same to be done the last date affixed below:

West Chester University

Cecil College



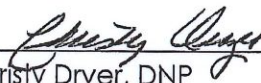
Christopher Fiorentino, Ph.D.
President
Date



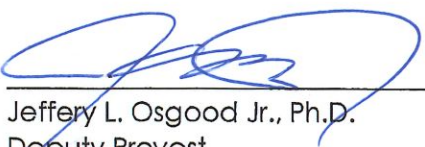
Mary Way Bolt, Ed.D.
President
Date



R. Lorraine Bernotsky, D.Phil
Executive Vice President and Provost
Date




Christy Dryer, DNP
Vice President of Academic Programs
Cecil College
Date



Jeffery L. Osgood Jr., Ph.D.
Deputy Provost
Date 11-18-19

Approved as to form and legality



Joseph Miller 11/25/19
University Legal Counsel
PA State System of Higher Education
Date