



## Pathways Transfer Program Agreement in Nursing (RN to BSN)

Including Optional Upper-division Courses Offered for  
Erie Community College Students

Empire State College (SUNY Empire) and Erie Community College (ECC), both of the State University of New York, agree to enter into a 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 ECC 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 ECC graduates who want to remain close to their homes and/or community;
- Provide an option for pre-licensure ECC 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 ECC an opportunity to participate in the Nursing Pathways Program into the bachelor's of science in Nursing degree program. ECC 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

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

With advisement, students in the Nursing Pathways Program may elect to cross-register for up to 15 additional credits at ECC. These lower-division credits will be applicable to the baccalaureate degree program by satisfying SUNY General Education requirements or needed pre-requisite courses. The minimum number of credits to be taken at SUNY Empire will be at least 45 upper-level credits, which would include 41 credits in nursing. Up to 79 total lower-division credits could be included from ECC towards the 124 credit bachelor's degree at SUNY Empire.

## Benefits for Erie Community College Transfer Students

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

- Guaranteed admission for applicants who meet the admissions criteria
- \$50 orientation fee waiver
- Provision of a one-time \$100 Better Together transfer scholarship once matriculated at SUNY Empire

To be eligible, ECC 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.<sup>1</sup>

A unique code for interested students to use during the admissions application process will be created by SUNY Empire and provided to appropriate staff members in the Nursing program and the transfer counseling office at ECC. Participants must enter the code upon submission of their online application for admission to receive the benefits. ECC will make good faith efforts to not make the code publicly available.

### 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 Nursing students, (2) outreach to faculty and transfer office staff at ECC to provide program information, and (3) offer information sessions for students at ECC, at Empire State College locations, and online.

ECC agrees to provide: (1) access for partnership students to campus facilities and resources (i.e. Library, academic 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 (3) to include this transfer agreement in any college 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.

### Optional Upper-division Online Nursing Courses

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

1. Pre-licensure
  - ECC students who have completed at least year one of their nursing courses
  - 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.

#### Pre-licensed Nursing Students

ECC 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](http://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](http://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 wish to apply or have application or registration questions should contact:

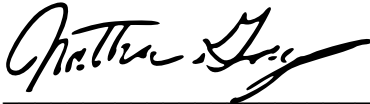
Erie Community College  
Dr. Patricia Losito  
Executive Dean of Nursing  
[losito@ecc.edu](mailto:losito@ecc.edu)

Empire State College  
[Nursing.Program@esc.edu](mailto:Nursing.Program@esc.edu)

This Agreement becomes effective when all signatures are affixed, as of the date of last signature, and remains in effect for five years or until one or both institutions deem it necessary to terminate the Agreement. The agreement may be amended by mutual agreement and will be formalized via revision of this agreement.

Signatures to the Agreement

**EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE**



Dr. Nathan Gonyea  
Officer in Charge

1/13/2021

Date



Dr. Meg Benke  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

1/13/2021

Date



Dr. Bridget Nettleton  
Dean, School of Nursing and Allied Health

12/28/20

Date

**ERIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



Dr. Douglas Scheidt  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

12.22.2020

Date



Dr. Patricia Losito  
Executive Dean of Nursing

12/22/2020

Date

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

**Erie Community College - Nursing, A.A.S.**

NU 116 Health Promotion	4
NU 117 Lab for NU 116	4
NU 126 Health Maintenance	4
NU 127 Lab for NU 126	4
NU 128 Physical Assessment	3
NU 236 Health Restoration - Acute/Simple	5
NU 237 Lab for NU 236	5.5
NU 246 Health Restoration - Acute/Complex	5
NU 247 Lab for NU 246	5.5
NU 238 Pharmacology for Nurses	3

EN 100 Composition I	3
PS 100 General Psychology	3
PS 201 Developmental Psychology	3
BI 150 Anatomy and Physiology I	3
BI 151 Lab for BI 150	1
BI 152 Anatomy and Physiology II	3
BI 153 Lab for BI 152	1
BI 230 Microbiology	3
BI 231 Microbiology Lab	1

**Total Degree Credits      64**  
**Potential additional lower-division credits at ECC<sup>1</sup>    15**  
**Total lower-division credits                                    79**

Upper-division SUNY Empire course for ECC: NURS 3010 Health Assessment	4
Upper-division SUNY Empire course for ECC: NURS 3015 Pharmacology (advanced)	4

**SUNY Empire State College - Nursing, B.S.**

NURS 3020 Nursing Informatics	4
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
Nursing elective	4
NURS 4020 Baccalaureate Nursing Capstone	5

NURS 3005 Educational Planning: Transition to Baccalaureate Nursing	4
Liberal Arts elective	4

**Total Empire State College Credit    45**  
**Degree Program Total                    124**

<sup>1</sup> Any of these 15 credits not completed at Erie Community College will be completed at Empire State College. Students should seek advisement from an SUNY Empire advisor in advance of selecting which courses to take to ensure they will fit into the baccalaureate degree plan.

## **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 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. 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 Erie 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.
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, 111 West Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. These forms can be found at [www.esc.edu/admissions](http://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](mailto:military.programs@esc.edu) or 518-587-2100 ext. 2779.