



Partnership Agreement in Nursing (RN to BSN)

Including Optional Upper-division Courses Offered for
Niagara County Community College Students

Empire State College (SUNY Empire) and Niagara County Community College (NCCC), both of the State University of New York, agree to a Partnership 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 NCCC 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 NCCC graduates who want to remain close to their homes and/or community;
- Provide clear guidelines for NCCC graduates to follow during the transition.

SUNY Empire will offer nursing graduates and senior nursing students from NCCC an opportunity to participate in the Nursing Partnership Program into the bachelor's of science in nursing (BSN) degree program. NCCC graduates will be able to transfer all 68 credits earned as part of their associate degree in nursing to SUNY Empire upon enrollment.

Admissions Requirements

- Completed A.A.S. degree in Nursing
- Possession of an active, unencumbered New York State Nursing license (RN)
- Completed SUNY Empire admissions application (including essay)

With advisement, students in the Nursing Partnership Program may elect to register for up to 11 additional credits at NCCC. These lower-division credits will be applied toward the baccalaureate degree program. 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 NCCC towards the 124 credit bachelor's degree at SUNY Empire.

A benefit for NCCC is the potential to receive additional tuition revenue for up to 11 credits for each Nursing Partnership Program student.

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

NCCC 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.

Benefits for Niagara County Community College Transfer Students

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

- Guaranteed admission to the B.S. in Nursing degree program for A.A.S. degree graduates in Nursing
- Provision of a one-time \$100 *Better Together* transfer scholarship
- Waiver of the \$50 orientation fee
- Waiver of the admissions application essay

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 and the transfer counseling office at NCCC.

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 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 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.

Upper-division Nursing Courses Offered for Niagara County Community College Students and Alumni

Empire State College may offer up to two upper-division courses for students at NCCC. This option is designed to serve two different groups of students: (1) current NCCC students who are in their final term of their pre-licensure program, or recent graduates who have yet to become licensed RNs, and (2) graduates of associate degree nursing programs who are licensed RNs and want to begin working towards a bachelor's of science in nursing degree.

- Pre-licensed Nursing Students -

NCCC students 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 go through the non-degree application process found at www.esc.edu/nursing.

- 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 wish to apply or have application or registration questions should contact:

Niagara County Community College
Denise Prohaska
Admissions Advisor (Nursing)
(716) 614-6222 ext. 4017
dprohaska@niagaracc.suny.edu

Empire State College
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



Nathan Gonyea
Officer in Charge

3/18/21
Date



Meg Benke
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

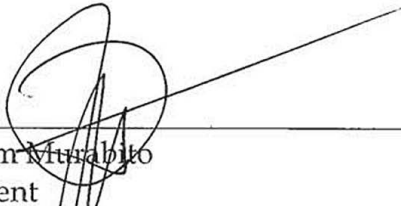
3/16/2021
Date



Kim Stote
Dean, School of Nursing and Allied Health

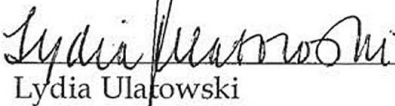
March 16, 2021
Date

NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



William Murrabito
President

2/22/2021
Date



Lydia Ulatowski
Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs

2/18/21
Date



Diane Pytlik-Flammia
Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs,
Nursing and Allied Health

2/17/21
Date

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

Niagara County Community College - A.A.S. Nursing

NUR 105 - Medication Simulation	1
NUR 111 - Nursing I	8
NUR 112 - Nursing II	8
NUR 211X - Nursing III	10
NUR 212X - Nursing IV	10
NUR 213 - Nursing Perspectives	2
PHA 250 - General Pharmacology	3

BIO 213 - Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
BIO 213L - Lab I	1
BIO 214 - Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
BIO 214L - Lab II	1
BIO 221 - Microbiology	4
BIO 221L - Microbiology Lab	0
PSY 110 - Introduction to Psychology	3
PSY 210 - Lifespan Development Psychology	3
SOC 101 - Introduction to Sociology	3
ENG 101 - Writing	3

Total Credit 68

Potential additional lower-division credits at Niagara County CC¹ 11

Total lower-division credits 79

Upper-division SUNY Empire courses for NCCC: Advanced Health Assessment (4); Pharmacology (4)	8
--	---

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

Educational Planning: Transition to Baccalaureate Nursing	4
Nursing Informatics	4
Nursing Research	4
Health Care Delivery Systems and Policy	4
Professional Issues and Leadership in Contemporary Nursing	4
Community Health Nursing	4
Advanced Clinical Experience	5
Nursing elective	4

General Education, upper-division	4
-----------------------------------	---

Total Empire State College Credit 45

Degree Program Total 124

Note: Students who have completed the following and present the necessary documentation, may incorporate the recommended credits into their bachelor's degree program.

- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) - 2 credits
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) - 2 credits

¹ Any of these 11 credits not completed at NCCC will be completed at Empire State College. Students should seek advisement from a 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 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. 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 NCCC 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 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 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.