



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

Including Optional Upper-division Courses Offered for  
Tompkins Cortland Community College Students

Empire State College (SUNY Empire) and Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3), 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 TC3 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 TC3 graduates who want to remain close to their homes and/or community;
- Provide clear guidelines for TC3 graduates to follow during the transition.

SUNY Empire will offer nursing graduates and senior nursing students from TC3 an opportunity to participate in the Nursing Pathways Program into the bachelor's of science in Nursing degree program. TC3 graduates will be able to transfer all 65 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 (including essay)

With advisement, students in the Nursing Pathways Program may elect to cross-register for up to 14 additional credits at TC3. 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 TC3 towards the 124 credit bachelor's degree at SUNY Empire.

## Benefits for Tompkins Cortland Community College Transfer Students

Empire State College will provide the following benefits for participating TC3 students:

- Guaranteed admission for applicants who meet the admissions criteria
- \$50 orientation fee waiver
- Provision of a one-time \$100 *Better Together* transfer scholarship
- Waiver of the admissions application essay

To be eligible, TC3 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 TC3. Participants must enter the code upon submission of their online application for admission to receive the benefits. TC3 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 TC3 to provide program information, and (3) offer information sessions for students at TC3, at Empire State College locations, and online.

TC3 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-time or part-time basis.

## Upper-division Nursing Courses Offered for TC3 Students

Empire State College may offer up to two upper-division courses for students at TC3. This option is designed to serve two different groups of students: (1) current TC3 students who are in the final term of their pre-licensure program, or recent graduates who have yet to become licensed RNs, and (2) graduates of associate degree nursing

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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.

programs who are licensed RNs and want to begin working towards a bachelor's of science in nursing degree.

- Pre-licensed Nursing Students -

TC3 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](http://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](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:

Tompkins Cortland Community College  
Heather Stevens  
Coordinator of Transfer Services  
[StevenH@tompkincortland.edu](mailto:StevenH@tompkincortland.edu)  
(607) 844-8222 ext. 4246

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.


[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

Signatures to the Agreement

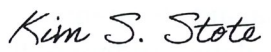
**EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Nathan Gonyea  
Officer in Charge

8/3/2021  
Date


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Tai Arnold  
Acting Provost

8/3/2021  
Date


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Kim Stote  
Dean, School of Nursing and Allied Health

08/03/21  
Date

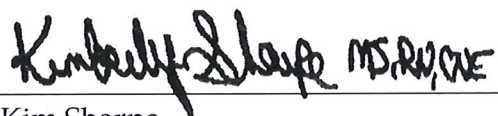
**TOMPKINS CORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Orinthia Montague  
President

7-28-2021  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Paul Reifenheiser  
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

7-27-2021  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Sharpe  
Professor and Chair of Nursing

7-30-2021  
Date

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

**Tompkins Cortland Community College - A.A.S. Nursing**

NURS 110 Fundamentals of Nursing *	7
NURS 120 Critical Thinking in Medical Surgical Nursing *	9
NURS 208 The Art and Science of Nursing Across the Lifespan	10
NURS 241 Pharmacology for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals	3
NURS 225 Professional Practice and Complex Nursing Care	10

ENGL 101 Academic Writing	3
BIOL 131 Principles of Human Anatomy and Physiology I or BIOL 201 Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4
BIOL 132 Principles of Human Anatomy and Physiology II or BIOL 202 Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4
PSYC 103 Introduction to Psychology	3
SOCI 101 Introduction to Sociology	3
General Education - Mathematics elective (Statistics is recommended)	3
BIOL 112 Essentials of Medical Microbiology or BIOL 216 General Microbiology	3
General Education - Humanities elective	3

**Total Degree Credits            65**  
**Potential additional lower-division credits at TC3<sup>1</sup>    14**  
**Total lower-division credits            79**

Upper-division SUNY Empire course for TC3: NURS 3010 Health Assessment	4
Upper-division SUNY Empire course for TC3: NURS 3015 Pharmacology	4

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Any of these 14 credits not completed at Tompkins Cortland 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.

NURS 4020 Baccalaureate Nursing Capstone	5
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**Total Empire State College Credit 45**  
**Degree Program Total 124**

\* TC3 nursing students who receive transcribed experiential learning credit for these courses may transfer them, along with their associate degree, to SUNY Empire.

## 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 residency requirement for a 124 credit bachelor’s degree is 31 credits. Students may transfer in up to the remaining 93 total credits (up to 79 lower-division credits) through transcribed credit and/or prior learning assessment.<sup>1</sup> 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 Tompkins Cortland 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Prior learning assessment includes NYSED approved degree granting institutions, Pre-evaluated credit (NCCRS, ACE, SUNY Empire PLE) and other approved sources. For full list visit: <http://www.esc.edu/degree-planning-academic-review/prior-learning-assessment/evaluation-prior-college-level-learning/>

## **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 Army IgnitED at - [www.armyignited.com/app](http://www.armyignited.com/app).

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.