# Articulation Agreement Between Bucks County Community College And West Chester University of Pennsylvania

### **Introduction**

Bucks County Community College (Bucks) and West Chester University of Pennsylvania (WCU) agree to enter into this Articulation Agreement (Agreement) to facilitate the seamless transfer of Bucks students who have earned the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Fine Arts, Associate of Music, or Associate of Applied Science degree. In addition, this agreement provides a seamless pathway for WCU applicants from Bucks's service region (Chester and Bucks Counties; along with select NJ counties) who are not offered admissions, for academic reasons or due to capacity, to begin their post-secondary education at Bucks.

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide seamless pathways for students to begin post-secondary education at Bucks, earn their associate degree, and transfer seamlessly to WCU in a parallel bachelor's degree program. In addition, parameters are outlined to provide guaranteed renewable transfer scholarships at WCU as well as assurance of on-campus housing at WCU, if needed. The Agreement defines admission requirements and processes, seamless transfer of coursework, scholarship and housing parameters, and services to support transfer student success.

Qualifying students will be guaranteed admission into a parallel bachelor's degree program in an equivalent field of study at WCU, subject to capacity, upon completion of their associate degree at Bucks and provided that the student meets all University, degree, major, and GPA requirements as well as application deadlines (Addendum A). Addendum A, Major Program and Guaranteed Admission Requirements, is hereby incorporated into and made part of this Agreement.

Guaranteed admission into Exploratory Studies, Sports Medicine, Respiratory Care, and the traditional BSN Nursing major programs are not part of this agreement. The RN to BSN pathway will be governed by a separate agreement. This Agreement does not apply to Bucks Dual Enrollment HS students who are simultaneously earning their High School diploma and associate degree as that will be governed by a separate agreement. In addition, this Agreement does not apply to students who previously attended WCU.

### **Guaranteed Admissions**

Bucks students who earn their associate degree and who submit their application three (3) months prior to the start of the intended first semester at WCU will be guaranteed admissions into a parallel bachelor's degree program in an equivalent field of study provided that they meet all University, degree, major, and GPA requirements (Addendum A). Due to capacity, some parallel bachelor's degree programs may have earlier application deadlines noted in Addendum A. After those dates, qualifying Bucks students will be admitted to the University with the parallel bachelor's degree program in an equivalent field of student as determined by capacity or space availability.

- 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), Credit by Portfolio, 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 Bucks'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 Bucks 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 Bucks (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 conduct may render students ineligible for professional licensure, to complete certain degrees, and/or prohibit them from becoming employed in certain professional fields.

### **Evaluation of Credits**

Students who complete the requirements of Statewide <u>Program to Program</u> (P2P) Agreements as well as requirements outlined in Addendum A which mirror admission and progression requirements of incoming WCU students will be admitted with full junior standing in a parallel major and shall not be required to satisfactorily complete more than 60 credits to earn a 120 credit baccalaureate degree.

Students who have earned an associate degree at Bucks will be awarded <u>Academic Passport</u> 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 to complete their degree at WCU.

For Bucks courses to transfer to WCU, a minimum grade of D must be earned. Courses with "D" grade may 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 transcripted by Bucks will be honored by WCU. If prior learning credits were not already evaluated/transcripted by Bucks, students can submit their scores to the Office of the Registrar at Bucks 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).

Per WCU's academic residency requirements, students may transfer up to 90 college-level credits to WCU and 30 of the last 60 credits required for a bachelor's degree must be taken at WCU.

### Co-Admissions and Dual Admissions Pathways

This Agreement provides additional benefits in support of transfer student success beyond guaranteed admissions to WCU and to a parallel major in an equivalent field of study at WCU via two pathway programs. Students participating in one of the two pathway programs will receive additional intentional advising and outreach support as well as guaranteed transfer scholarships and housing opportunities.

### **<u>Co-Admissions Pathway</u>**

The Co-Admission Pathway is for students that apply to WCU who are not offered admission to WCU, for academic reasons or due to capacity, and who are jointly encouraged by WCU and Bucks to enroll at Bucks. WCU will provide a conditional offer of admission to these students, upon enrollment at Bucks.

#### **Dual Admissions Pathway**

The Dual Admission Pathway is for students that are newly admitted to Bucks, currently enrolled Bucks, and have not completed 30 college-level credits. WCU will provide these students with a conditional offer of admission to WCU.

Honors@Bucks students in the Co-Admissions and Dual Admissions Pathways will also be invited to apply to WCU's Honors College.

### Guaranteed Transfer Scholarships, Housing, and Application Fee Waiver

Qualified Students in the Co-Admissions and Dual Admissions Pathways who affirm their intent to enroll prior to the completion of 30 credits, complete and submit the WCU application by the deadline, and graduate from Bucks will qualify for transfer scholarships, guaranteed housing, and application fee waiver as outlined below. To benefit from the Transfer Scholarships and Housing assurances, students must enroll at WCU within one calendar year from their graduation from Bucks. In addition, they will not be eligible for these assurances if they attend another institution in between Bucks and matriculation at WCU.

### **Transfer Scholarship**

Bucks students who satisfy the dual admissions pathway requirements will qualify for \$2000 per academic year scholarship (\$1000 per semester) as determined below:

- Students must be enrolled full-time at WCU to retain their scholarship award. The scholarship award is available for up to two (2) consecutive academic years as long as the student remains in good academic standing at WCU with a minimum of 2.00 GPA; and
- Students must be working to attain their first baccalaureate degree.
- WCU will inform Bucks of any changes to Transfer Scholarship Awards at least one (1) year in advance of changes and any changes will not impact Bucks students already matriculated at WCU and already receiving said scholarships.
- Students enrolled in programs at WCU's Philadelphia location will receive a 10% tuition discount in lieu of the guaranteed transfer scholarships. This discount is applied to full and part time enrollment student status.
- Prior to matriculation at WCU, the Financial Aid Office team at WCU will provide financial assistance and counseling to Bucks students in support of their educational goals. This will include information about applying for aid including grants and other self-aid such as employment or loans.

• All Bucks students who transfer to WCU will be reviewed for needbased aid regardless of participating in a pathway program.

### <u>Housing</u>

- In addition to the stated requirements outlined in this section, Bucks students will be guaranteed Housing upon enrollment at WCU, provided that the student submits the Housing Application and required information by the deadline. This application will be administered by WCU directly to the student during the appropriate semester prior to WCU matriculation. Exceptions to guaranteed housing include national, state, or regional crises or natural disaster such as a pandemic, flood, or other such situation.
  - Students must alert the Office of Admissions of their interest in living on WCU's campus at least three (3) months prior to enrollment.
  - Certain criminal conduct may prohibit students from obtaining campus housing. Students interested in campus housing will be asked questions about specific conduct and the resulting information used to determine eligibility due to applicable statutes, regulations, and university policies.

### **Admissions Application Fee Waiver**

Students who participate in the Dual Admissions and Co-Admissions pathways will have their admissions application fee waived.

### Advising and Transition

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

• WCU's Office of Admission will contact all Bucks students who submit their application. In addition, the Office of Admissions will explain the

conditional offer of Admission and formal offer of Admission requirements to students in the Co-Admissions and Dual Admissions pathways. WCU's Office of Admission will maintain communications throughout the onboarding of all students.

- WCU's Transfer Concierge will contact all Bucks students participating in the Co-Admissions and Dual Admissions pathways upon receiving affirmation of Intent to Enroll and maintain communications thereafter. The Transfer Concierge will also reach out to Bucks students who submit their transfer admissions application but who are not participating in the pathways programs.
  - The Transfer Concierge helps to simplify the transfer process for all incoming and potential transfer students by connecting them to campus resources during and after their transition to WCU. Some of these supports include Transfer Credit resources, Advising and Scheduling, Financial Aid, Housing, Academic Tutoring, Career Services, Office of Services for Students with Disabilities, Mental Health Counseling Services, and New Student Organizations, to name a few. The Transfer Concierge can assist students with WCU policies and processes, for example, navigating the class enrollment system, transfer credit appeals, and applying for change of major or minor.
  - The Transfer Concierge will also describe WCU's new Transfer Student Association that is available for students to join after matriculation at WCU. The Transfer Student Association is a studentrun organization that is designed to build a welcoming community of transfer students at West Chester University, and to foster a successful college experience, both academically and socially. Biweekly meetings are held, along with transfer focused student success workshops, social meet-ups before campus events,

fundraising activities, service learning events, and student organization information sessions.

- The Transfer Concierge and Transfer Admission Counselors in partnership with Student Affairs will celebrate Bucks students in this program through invitations to campus events and activities throughout their time at Bucks.
- Just prior to matriculation at WCU, Bucks students participating in the dual admissions or co-admissions pathways will hear from their WCU Student Success Team. The Student Success Team includes: <u>their</u> <u>Student Success Coordinator</u>; their Academic Advisor; and their <u>Success Coaches</u> who are available to provide individualized support to guide them toward academic and personal success at WCU.
  Students who apply to WCU who are not part of the dual admission or co-admission pathways will receive equitable support depending on when they apply.
- The Financial Aid Office team will reach out to assist Bucks students with the financial aid process and resources.

#### Joint Responsibilities for Maintenance of this Agreement

- WCU and Bucks will develop a process and requisite communications and affirmation strategies to identify Bucks students who are newly admitted or currently enrolled to receive joint communications and conditional offers of admission from WCU in support of the Dual Admissions pathway.
- WCU and Bucks will develop process and requisite communication and affirmation strategies for joint communications and conditional offers of admission for WCU applicants not offered admissions due to capacity or for academic reasons in support of the Co-Admissions pathway.

- WCU and Bucks will develop process and requisite communication and affirmation strategies for Bucks students to participate in the Dual Enrollment Pathway who were not initially flagged to receive a conditional offer of admission from WCU.
- WCU and Bucks will develop, maintain, and monitor communication strategies related to programs defined as subject to capacity in Addendum A.
- WCU and Bucks will develop and maintain joint recruitment and marketing plans in support of this Agreement.
- WCU and Bucks will continue to update and maintain curricular and course equivalency information.
- WCU and Bucks 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.
- Bucks must provide written notification to WCU of any curricular modifications or changes to parallel associate degrees. WCU will review and determine if said changes or modifications necessitate an amendment to this agreement.
- WCU will inform Bucks 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 Bucks.

### Mutual Terms and Conditions

 This Dual Admission Agreement along with Addendum A constitutes the entire Agreement and terms of understanding between Bucks 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.

- 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.
- 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 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 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 contract 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

Bucks County Community College				
By: Name: Felicia L. Ganther, J.D., Ph.D. Title: President By: Name: Kelly Kelleway, Ph.D. Title: Interim Provast	$\frac{3/14/23}{\text{Date}}$			
West Chester University				
By: <u>Cuto Fiorentino</u> Name: Christopher M. Fiorentino, Ph.D. Title: President	3/22/23 Date			
By: <u>Dr. Jeffry (, Osyool, jr.</u> Name: Jeffrey L. Osgood, Jr., Ph.D.	3/16/2023 Date			
Title: Senior Vice President and Provost (Inter	rim)			
By: Told & Murphy	3/16/2023			
Name: Todd E. Murphy Title: Vice President for Finance and Adminis	Date tration			
Approved as to form and legality:				
By: DocuSigned by:	3/16/2023			

Date

University Legal Counsel

#### Addendum A Major Program and Admissions Requirements

Bucks County Community College students must earn an associate degree in a parallel major program with at least a 2.00 GPA except as noted below to be assured admission into the major program at WCU. In addition, the student must submit their application at least 3 months in advance of the start of their intended first semester at WCU. Due to capacity, some parallel bachelor's degree programs may have earlier application deadlines. Applications received after those respective dates will be processed on a space-available basis.

Programs not covered as part of this agreement include Exploratory Studies, Sports Medicine, Respiratory Care, and the traditional BSN nursing major programs. The RN to BSN pathway will be handled in a separate agreement.

Additionally, some criminal and non-criminal conduct may render Bucks transfer students ineligible for professional licensure, to complete certain degrees, and/or prohibit them from becoming employed in certain professional fields.

Academic Program	Overall GPA	Requirements	CC Equivalencies
Art	2.0	Portfolio submitted to the department	
Biomedical Engineering	2.2	Students must have completed one Calculus course with a C grade or better and must also have a C grade or better in one science course in Chemistry, Physics, or Biology that will transfer to WCU as a required science course.	
Business Management	2.5 will be reviewed on	ECO 111, ECO 112, ECO 251, MKT 250, MGT 200, ACC 201, MAT 113, and MAT 143.	ECON111, ECON112, MGMT112, MKTG215, MGMT230, ACCT105, MATH103, and MATH118.
Communication Sciences and Disorders		If an applicant has a GPA between a 2.5 and 3.0 they must have at east a 100 level Math course completed with a B grade or better or they must have a 100 level English course completed with a B grade or higher. If an applicant has	

Major programs with additional specific GPA, pre-requisites, or other requirements which mirror the same requirements for native WCU students are outlined below:

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Computer Science Early Grades, Early Grades/Special Education, Middle Grades, Middle Grades/Special Education	2.0	a 3.0 GPA or higher, the above grades in Math and English will not be required. Computer Science (C grade or higher) Calculus (C grade or higher) Students must have a 2.9 cumulative GPA and must have achieved passing scores, as established by PDE, on the PA required Basic Skills Test: PRAXIS I (taken before April 1, 2012) or PAPA scores, or CORE. Students may use SAT or ACT scores in place of the Basic Skills Tests.	
Special Education: 7-12 BSED	2.9	Students must have a 2.9 cumulative GPA and must have achieved passing test scores as stated above	
All other BSED Programs	2.9		
Health Science: General Studies	2.0	Applicants must have completed an Associate's Degree in a health related field. Applicants may also earn an associate degree in a non-parallel major but have completed one of the listed Bucks certificate programs.	See below list of Bucks degrees and certificate programs that qualify,
Mathematics (all programs, except BSED)	2.0	Students are advised to have as many of the following completed as possible: Calculus I, Calculus II, Calculus III, and Linear Algebra	
Music		All music majors must audition with the department for consideration into a music major. Typically these auditions occur during the semester and/or summer leading up to the start of the semester. Students who may not pass their audition, would not be able to be a music major, but we could consider them for another major.	
Social Work		All students must successfully complete the candidacy	Due to specific accreditation and licensure

		For the Social Work program at WCU's Philadelphia campus location, admission applications must be received 4 months in	requirements, students are expected to have the competencies and equivalencies outlined in the most current <u>Social</u> <u>Work TAOC</u> P2P Agreement.
Pharmaceutical Product Development	2.8	Intro to Chemistry and Intro to Biology	

## Bucks Programs of Study that are approved for WCU's Health Science; General Studies degree program

Health Science A.S.

Health Information Technology A.A.

Medical Assistant A.A.

Medical Laboratory Technician A.A.S.

Nursing A.A.

Radiography A.A.S.

Certificates—students may need to take additional credits to earn the baccalaureate degree.

Computed Tomography certificate

Medical Administrative Specialist certificate

Medical Assistant certificate

Medical Coding/Billing certificate

Magnetic Resonance Imaging certificate

Phlebotomy certificate

Health Coach certificate