

**Articulation Agreement**  
**Between**  
**Reading Area Community College**  
**And**  
**West Chester University of Pennsylvania**

**Introduction**

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

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide seamless pathways for students to begin post-secondary education at RACC, 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 RACC 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 RACC 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**

RACC students who earn their associate degree and who submit their application three (3) months prior to the start of the intended semester 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 RACC 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), 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 RACC'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 RACC 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 RACC (or any other institution of higher education) is not guaranteed admission. Instead, admission is subject to WCU 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 Program to Program (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 RACC will be awarded Academic Passport 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 RACC 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 transcribed by RACC will be honored by WCU. If prior learning credits were not already evaluated/transcribed by RACC, students can submit their scores to the Office of the Registrar at RACC 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.

### Co-Admissions Pathway

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 RACC to enroll at RACC. WCU will provide a conditional offer of admission to these students, upon enrollment at RACC, if the student is from RACC's service region (Greater Reading Area and Berks County).

### Dual Admissions Pathway

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

RACC honor 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 RACC 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 RACC. In addition, they will not be eligible for these assurances if they attend another institution in between RACC and matriculation at WCU.

### Transfer Scholarship

RACC 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 RACC of any changes to Transfer Scholarship Awards at least one (1) year in advance of changes and any changes will not impact RACC 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 RACC 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 RACC students who transfer to WCU will be reviewed for need-based aid regardless of participating in a pathway program.

### Housing

- In addition to the stated requirements outlined in this section, RACC 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 RACC students. This includes:

- WCU's Office of Admission will contact all RACC 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 RACC 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 RACC 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 student-run 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. Bi-weekly 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 RACC students in this program through invitations to campus events and activities throughout their time at RACC.
- Just prior to matriculation at WCU, RACC students participating in the dual admissions or co-admissions pathways will hear from their WCU



Student Success Team. The Student Success Team includes: their Student Success Coordinator; their Academic Advisor; and their Success Coaches 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 RACC students with the financial aid process and resources.

#### **Joint Responsibilities for Maintenance of this Agreement**

- WCU and RACC will develop a process and requisite communications and affirmation strategies to identify RACC students who are newly admitted or currently enrolled to receive joint communications and conditional offer of admission from WCU in support of the Dual Admissions pathway.
- WCU and RACC will develop process and requisite communication and affirmation strategies for joint communications and conditional offer of admission for WCU applicants not offered admissions due to capacity or for academic reasons in support of the Co-Admissions pathway.
- WCU and RACC will develop process and requisite communication and affirmation strategies for RACC students to participate in the Dual Enrollment Pathway who were not initially flagged to receive a conditional offer of admission from WCU.
- WCU and RACC will develop, maintain, and monitor communication strategies related to programs defined as subject to capacity in Addendum A.
- WCU and RACC will develop and maintain joint recruitment and marketing plans in support of this Agreement.

- WCU and RACC will continue to update and maintain curricular and course equivalency information.
- WCU and RACC 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.
- RACC 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 RACC 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 RACC.

#### **Mutual Terms and Conditions**

1. This Dual Admission Agreement along with Addendum A constitutes the entire Agreement and terms of understanding between Reading Area 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.


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:

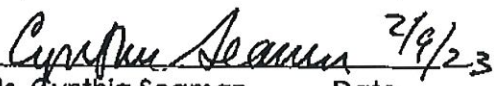
West Chester University

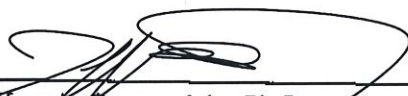
Reading Area Community College

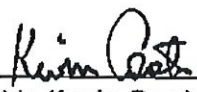
  
Christopher M. Fiorentino, Ph.D.    Date  
President

 2/10/23  
Dr. Susan Looney    Date  
President

 2/13/23  
R. Lorraine Bemotsky, D.Phil.    Date  
Executive Vice President and Provost

 2/9/23  
Ms. Cynthia Seaman    Date  
Senior Vice President of Academic  
Affairs/Provost

  
Jeffery L. Osgood Jr., Ph.D.    Date  
Senior Vice President and Provost  
(Interim)

 2/13/23  
Mr. Kevin Coots    Date  
Associate Provost

Approved as to form and legality

\_\_\_\_\_  
University Legal Counsel    Date  
PA State System of Higher Education

**Addendum A**  
**Major Program and Admissions Requirements**

Reading Area 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 their intended semester. 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 CC transfer students ineligible for professional licensure, to complete certain degrees, and/or prohibit them from becoming employed in certain professional fields.

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

<b>Academic Program</b>	<b>Overall GPA</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>CC Equivalencies</b>
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 GPAs below 2.5 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis	Students must complete the following courses with a C or better: ECO 111, ECO 112, ECO 251, MKT 250, MGT 200, ACC 201, MAT 113, and MAT 143.	
Communication Sciences and Disorders	2.5/3.0	If an applicant has a GPA between a 2.5 and 3.0, they must have at least 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 a 3.0 GPA or higher,	

		the above grades in Math and English will not be required.	
Computer Science	2.0	Computer Science (C grade or higher) and Calculus (C grade or higher)	
Early Grades, Early Grades/Special Education, Middle Grades, Middle Grades/Special Education	2.9	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 RACC certificate programs.	See below list of RACC 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	2.0	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	2.5	All students must successfully complete the candidacy process.	Due to specific accreditation and licensure

		For the Social Work program at WCU's West Chester campus location, admission applications must be received 9 months in advance of the intended semester.  For the Social Work program at WCU's Philadelphia campus location, admission applications must be received 4 months in advance of the intended semester.	requirements, students are expected to have the competencies and equivalencies outlined in the most current <u>Social Work TAOC P2P Agreement</u> .
Pharmaceutical Product Development	2.8	Intro to Chemistry and Intro to Biology	

**RACC Programs of Study that are appropriate for WCU's Health Science: General Studies degree program**

Health Science, Associate of Science  
 Medical Coding and Billing Specialist, Associate of Applied Science  
 Medical Laboratory Technician, Associate of Applied Science  
 Medical Office/Health Records Specialist, Associate of Applied Science  
 Medical Office/Health Records Specialist, Credit Certificate  
 Nursing, Associate of Applied Science  
 Practical Nursing, Credit Certificate  
 Respiratory Care, Associate of Applied Science

Students transferring with a Certificate may need additional credits to earn the baccalaureate degree.