

JOINT ADMISSIONS AGREEMENT
Between
HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
And
WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY

This Joint Admissions Agreement between **Holyoke Community College (HCC)** and **Western New England University (WNE)** seeks, to be consistent with individual missions, policies, and regulations of each institution to:

- Strengthen the academic and student support partnerships between **HCC** and **WNE**.
- Facilitate student access to baccalaureate and graduate education.
- Provide barrier-free movement from the associate degree to the baccalaureate and graduate degrees for students enrolled at **HCC**.

I. Eligibility and Conditions of Joint Admissions

The Joint Admissions Program is intended to facilitate the transfer of eligible participating students from **HCC** to **WNE** upon completion of their associate degree program at **HCC** and satisfaction of other applicable conditions required under this Joint Admissions Program.

A student will be eligible to participate in the Joint Admissions Program if they are enrolled in a **HCC** program that has been identified as meeting the requirements for transfer to **WNE**. A list of approved programs is available on the **WNE** website.

Students will be informed about the opportunity to participate in the Joint Admissions Program at the time they are applying to **HCC**. For purposes of advising, students can indicate their desire to participate in the Joint Admissions Program at the time of their matriculation at **HCC**.

In order to satisfy the conditions of admissions into **WNE**, participating students must earn a minimum **2.50** cumulative grade point average (based on a 4.00 scale), earn at least a grade of a C- or better in their major coursework and earn their Associate's degree.

Students seeking joint admissions into specialized programs including but not limited to Business, Engineering, Computer Science, Chemistry, or Biology must satisfy all program requirements and earn the minimum cumulative grade point average established for those programs.

Students who satisfy the requirements of the Joint Admissions Program are eligible for the following benefits:

1. Guaranteed Acceptance to WNE provided they complete an approved associate degree program at HCC and meet the requirements of the Joint Admissions Program and major specific requirements; and WNE has capacity within the intended major.
2. Guarantee of Junior Status at WNE upon matriculation with an Associate's degree.
3. Guarantee of 60 transfer credits (although credits are guaranteed to transfer, some may transfer as only electives, or may not apply to a program's requirements).
4. Waiver of the WNE General University Requirements for students completing their Associate's degree and the Mass Transfer General Education Foundation Block. Students who complete the STEM Foundations Block will be required to take 6 additional credits selecting from any WNE-approved General University Requirement courses.

II. Student Information Sharing

HCC and WNE agree to share information about participating students as set forth in this section, to the extent permitted under applicable state and federal laws and institutional policies regarding confidentiality of student records. This exchange will allow HCC and WNE to provide students with the broadest range of academic choices and support services, thereby creating an environment conducive to academic success. Information sharing between HCC and WNE shall be subject to the following:

- A. HCC shall inform students seeking enrollment at HCC about the Joint Admissions Program.
- B. To the extent permissible under applicable law, HCC and WNE shall share information, including but not limited to names, addresses and major choice for Joint Admissions Students.
- C. WNE agrees to make reasonable efforts to provide information on the Joint Admissions Program to applicants to WNE who are not offered admissions to WNE if the applicant is deemed to be potentially suitable for participating in the Joint Admissions Program.
- D. WNE and HCC will encourage students to complete the associate degree before transferring, but acknowledge that students may elect to transfer to WNE prior to the completion of the degree requirements at HCC. In that event, WNE and HCC desire to facilitate the transfer of course work from WNE to HCC in order to enable such students to complete their Associate's degree. WNE and HCC desire to assist students who earned a significant number of credits that apply towards an Associate's degree while enrolled at HCC but who did not complete sufficient

programmatic requirements to earn their Associate's degree. WNE and HCC desire to allow these students to transfer credits earned at WNE back to HCC through this reverse transfer agreement and provide them the opportunity to complete the associate degree at HCC. Completing the HCC Associate's degree through reverse transfer will not change or increase any WNE merit scholarships based on earning the Associate's degree after enrolling at WNE.

III. Advising and Communicating with Students

The Joint Admissions Program emphasizes collaborative communication with participating students and jointly supported advisement of students who will be enrolling in a baccalaureate degree program through the Joint Admissions Program.

A. WNE and HCC will develop program-advising materials. These materials will be provided by WNE. WNE and HCC will promptly notify each other of changes in programs and/or curricula. Existing and future program-specific agreements between HCC and WNE are included herein.

B. WNE will undertake reasonable efforts to offer advising information sessions on the HCC campus.

IV. Implementation and Oversight of the Agreement

The respective Directors of Transfer Admissions at HCC and WNE or other person(s) as designated by the respective institution's president will provide the implementation and oversight of this Agreement.

The Directors will monitor, evaluate and, when necessary, modify the administration of this Joint Admissions Agreement. In addition, the Directors, or other appropriate designated individuals will develop guidelines addressing such issues as advisement and enrollment processes procedural timelines, exchange of information between institutions and evaluation, and assessment of the program.

Inter-institutional and student disputes relating to this Joint Admissions Agreement will be handled pursuant to each college's existing student grievance procedure. Each institution reserves final decision-making authority with respect to any dispute in relation to the institution and neither can bind the other to a resolution of a dispute.

This Joint Admissions Program Agreement may be terminated by either party upon written notice to the other to take effect in the semester following the notice. In the event of the termination of this Agreement, no student who has been accepted under this Joint Admissions

Program shall be prejudiced thereby such that students shall be permitted to complete the program in full according to the term of this Agreement.

The initial term of this Joint Admissions Agreement shall be five (5) years subject to automatic renewal for successive five (5)-year periods unless either party delivers to the other party written notice of non-renewal at least six (6) months prior to the end of the then current term.

Amendments to this Joint Admissions Agreement may be made upon written agreement of both schools' designees. Such amendments will not affect currently admitted students unless such is necessitated by changes mandated by state or federal laws, accrediting organizations, or licensing agencies or boards.

V. Further Understanding

- A. A student participating in the Joint Admissions Program who subsequently transfers to an institution other than **WNE** shall no longer be eligible to participate in the program. If, however, a student transfers and then returns to **HCC** prior to completing the Associate's degree or a minimum of sixty (60) semester credit hours, they may continue to participate in the Joint Admissions Program. A student's cumulative GPA from all institutions attended must still be a **2.50** or higher to qualify for the Joint Admissions Program.

All students applying to **WNE** as transfers from **HCC** will be considered for all need-based and merit-based financial aid for which they might be eligible according to the **WNE** packaging policies.

- B. Courses which are part of **HCC**'s General Education Foundation Block with passing grades below a 'C-' are eligible to transfer to satisfy **WNE**'s General University Requirements.
- C. Courses which would also fulfill a major specific requirement or pre-requisite requirement will need to meet the minimum grade required for that major outlined in the **WNE** catalogue.

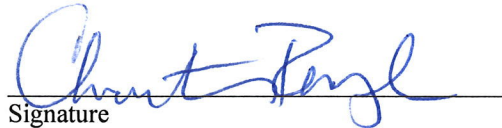
VI. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, the Joint Admissions Program does not:

1. Preclude **HCC** or **WNE** from entering into similar agreements with other institutions of higher education.
2. Replace, alter, or abrogate other existing articulation agreements.
3. Prevent **WNE** from admitting **HCC** students through existing admissions processes.
4. Limit **WNE** or **HCC** from eliminating a school, department, division, or degree program.
5. Waive any program or licensing requirements.

6. Ensure eligibility for Federal, State, or institutional financial assistance except as might be otherwise noted in this agreement.
7. Provide any guarantees or representations regarding tuition rates or fees at either **WNE** or **HCC**.
8. Include as eligible to participate in this Joint Admissions Program, any student who before matriculation at **HCC**, was enrolled – whether on a full-time or part-time basis – at **WNE**.
9. Prevent **WNE** from denying admissions to a student who has violations of academic or community standards, or who has received disciplinary sanctions, or who is a subject of a pending investigation into matters that have potential to result in disciplinary sanctions.

This Joint Admissions Agreement is hereby accepted on behalf of **Holyoke Community College** and **Western New England University** by the following undersigned:

For Holyoke Community College:


Signature

Christina Royal
Print Name

President
Title

For Western New England University:


Signature

A. MARIA TOYODA
Print Name

Provost, SVP
Title

APR 24, 2023

Date