

A Transfer Articulation Agreement

By and between the

**Louisiana Community and Technical College System and Northwestern State
University of Louisiana (NSULA)**

This Agreement shall be effective as of the date of the last signature hereto (the "Effective Date") by and between NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA (NSULA) whose address is 175 Sam Sibley Drive, Natchitoches, LA, 71497 and the LOUISIANA COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (LCTCS), whose address is 265 S Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

Background

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) is composed of 12 public technical and community colleges across Louisiana. LCTCS colleges collectively serve over 130,000 students in traditional credit instruction, workforce training, and adult education. Eighty percent of its over 25,000 annual graduates earned credentials in high-demand, high-income fields as defined by the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Each year, over 15,000 students transfer from an LCTCS institution to a 4-year university.

Northwestern State University was established in 1884 as the Louisiana State Normal School, an institution created specifically for the training of teachers, in a time when public education was an increasing priority across the nation.

The location of the school is tied to the roots of the city of Natchitoches and is the oldest continually occupied site for higher education in Louisiana. When legislation was introduced in 1884 to create a state Normal School, local civic and business leaders marshaled support to purchase the 100-acre site of a former convent and school and offer it as the site of the new state school. The selection was announced in October 1884 and a short, two-month session began in March 1885 with an enrollment of 60 students.

In 1921, the Louisiana State Normal School, which initially offered a 2-year degree program to prepare educators, began offering a 4-year educator degree program and was renamed the Louisiana Normal College. In 1944, the further expansion of degree offerings led to the school's name being changed to

Northwestern State College. In 1970, the college achieved university status and was renamed the title it still holds today: Northwestern State University of Louisiana. Ever-growing, Northwestern State also serves the region at its off-campus instructional sites in Shreveport, Alexandria and Fort Polk.

Since its inception, Northwestern State University has had a tremendous social and economic impact on northwest Louisiana and beyond. NSU has provided and continues to offer educational and cultural opportunities to prepare individuals for success in life, careers and citizenship.

General Requirements

LCTCS and NSULA enter into this Agreement for the express purpose of ensuring acceptance of college coursework between institutions and further facilitate the transfer of LCTCS students who satisfy either of the following criteria:

1. An Associate Degree Awarded in an allied health field by a LCTCS campus with a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher, that meets one of the following requirements:
 - a. The degree is an Associate in Arts for Transfer (AALT) degree, an Associate of Arts (AA), an Associate of General Studies (AGS), or an Associate in Science for Transfer (ASLT) degree. These degrees were designed to provide a clear pathway to a baccalaureate degree and they represent strong preparation for upper division coursework in a range of majors;
 - b. Associate of Applied Science (AAS) and other Associate Degree where a transfer degree pathway has been established along with a course articulation table. LCTCS institutions with transfer degree pathways will work to establish a course articulation table for those programs not included in section 1a.

(OR)

2. When an Associate Degree is not complete, a minimum of 30 transferrable allied health semester units with a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher is needed to meet transfer agreement requirements. College courses recognized in the state's Board of Regents' Course Articulation Matrix will be transferable when an equivalent is available. Where a transfer pathway exists, the course articulation table for those programs will be followed.

When determined by NSULA, to its reasonable satisfaction, that a student has satisfied either of the conditions set for above, LCTCS transfer students will be afforded the following opportunities:

Guaranteed Admission

LCTCS transfer students awarded an Associate Degree in an allied health field, as identified above, will be guaranteed admission at junior standing. Students will be made aware that additional prerequisites, and graduation requirements may be required for certain majors.

LCTCS transfer students without an Associate Degree but obtaining a minimum of 30 transferrable allied health units as defined above will be guaranteed admission at an appropriate standing.

In either instance, students will be made aware of the additional prerequisites and graduation requirements in accordance with academic requirements for certain majors. Only students who are in good standing at their last transfer institution will be considered.

Transferability of Credit

Completed coursework includes transferable courses outlined on the NSULA/LCTCS Articulation Matrix, which is a modified version of the State's Board of Regents' Course Articulation Matrix.

For LCTCS transfer students awarded an Associate Degree, NSULA will accept a minimum of 60 semester units. Because the Associate Degrees listed in 1a are designed to provide a clear pathway to a baccalaureate degree and they represent strong preparation for upper division coursework in a range of majors, NSULA will guarantee that credits will be used towards graduation of a bachelor's degree.

For LCTCS transfer students without an Associate Degree, but with a minimum of 30 transferrable allied health units, NSULA will accept a minimum of 30 allied health semester units. In cases where, transfer degree pathways are established along with a course articulation table for those transfer pathways, credits transferred will be used towards graduation requirements.

Institutions agree to accept the completion of general education requirements and other courses as identified in the state's Board of Regents' Course Articulation Matrix. These courses will be used to satisfy requirements of degree programs.

Student Advising

NSULA will provide pre-transfer advising to LCTCS students through online, onsite, and/or telephone advising. Further advising by discipline will be available to future transfer students prior to and once enrolled. Informational materials for potential transfer students will be available at the community colleges to facilitate the transfer process.

Activities may include the following:

- a. Participation in transfer conferences, transfer fairs, professional conferences and visits to community colleges to educate administrators, counselors, faculty, staff, and students about University admissions requirements, costs, etc.;
- b. Provision of onsite admissions to eligible LCTCS students at transfer conferences, transfer fairs, and during college visits; and,
- c. Work with the LCTCS campus transfer centers to provide outreach to all students. Additional efforts will be made to reach out to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) majors.

For students without an Associate Degree, LCTCS and NSULA will collaborate in communication and advice for students to have the opportunity to complete the Associate of general studies in Allied Health Degree while at their transfer institution, when applicable. This is commonly known as reverse transfer.

If an institution modifies the degree requirements or prerequisites after admission, transfer students will be accommodated with equivalent coursework credit and not penalized in total units required for their

degree. Admitted transfer students will be required to follow the degree requirements as outlined in the catalog that was in effect at the time of application.

Program Evaluation

Each academic year, LCTCS faculty and staff will meet with NSULA faculty and staff to review current curriculum and course offerings and present any changes to the curriculum as outlined in the exhibits included herein prior to implementing the proposed changes.

Scholarship Opportunities

Transfer scholarship opportunities for incoming students based on grade point average and meeting all other applicable criteria will be developed, based on available funding.

Data Sharing

For the purposes of this Agreement, parties agree to share student information that assists with the furtherance of the activities outlined herein. Both parties agree to keep student information confidential and to use such information only for the activities outlined in this agreement. All information about students obtained from any of the Parties shall be held confidential pursuant to the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C.A. 1232g) ("FERPA") and of La. R.S. 17:3914.

Marketing & Communication

The LCTCS will work with NSULA to develop an internal and external marketing plan to communicate and publicize the President's support of this Agreement to all LCTCS campuses. Dissemination may include print media, news releases, email, webinars, and social media distribution channels. The system office will assist in promoting this opportunity to each LCTC and ensure that Transfer Center Directors understand the benefits of the program for students. Professional organizations and initiatives will be encouraged to disseminate information about the agreement.

Terms of Agreement and Severability

The term of this Agreement shall be ongoing commencing on the date first set forth above, provided that either party may terminate this Agreement at any time and for any reason upon written notice, with the termination effective at the start of the following academic year. If the Agreement is terminated, all students identified on or before the date of termination will retain their transfer guarantee and all other terms stated in the Agreement.

This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties pertaining to the subject matter hereof and may not be amended, unless in writing and signed by both parties.

This Agreement shall not be construed to create any rights in favor of any non-party hereto, including as third-party beneficiaries.

All notices (including, without limitation, approvals consents and exercises of rights or options) required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed served, if by personal delivery or by facsimile, on the date the same is actually received by the addressee thereof or, if by mail, two

business days after the same is deposited with the United States Postal Service (or its successors) for mailing by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, postage fully prepaid, addressed as hereinafter set forth, or, if by overnight messenger service (e.g., Federal Express) on the date of delivery by such overnight messenger service to the address as hereinafter set forth. All notices shall be addressed as follows or to such other address as the party entitled to receive such notice may, from time to time hereinafter, designate by giving written notice pursuant hereto:

If to NSULA:

Northwestern State University
Attn: Dr. Greg Handel
Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs
175 Sam Sibley Dr.
Natchitoches, LA, 71497

If to LCTCS:

Louisiana Community and Technical College System
Attn: Dr. Wendi Palermo
Chief Education & Training Officer
265 S Foster Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

ACCEPTANCE OF AGREEMENT


In witness whereof, the undersigned signifies their intent to execute this Agreement and agrees to comply with the stated terms and conditions.



Marcus Jones
President
Northwestern State University

4/12/2023

Date



Monty Sullivan
President
Louisiana Community and Technical College System

4/12/2023

Date