



**Articulation Agreement
Between
Austin Community College District
and
The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center
College of Nursing**

Introduction

This articulation agreement formally recognizes that the Austin Community College District (“ACC”) and The Texas A&M University System Health Science Center (“TAMHSC”), a part of the Texas A&M University System (“TAMUS”), an agency of the State of Texas, on behalf of the College of Nursing (“HSC-CON”), are educational partners committed to providing educational opportunities for students transferring between our institutions. This agreement is intended to create and maintain a smooth transfer without the need to repeat successfully completed courses. ACC and TAMHSC are each sometimes referred to as a “Party” and collectively sometimes referred to as the “Parties.”

Purpose/Overall Intent

Whereas ACC offers certificate and associate degree programs in Nursing and serves a specific region of the state where demand for nursing professionals at all levels is high, and the HSC-CON offers a baccalaureate program in online and on-site learning formats leading to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, a collaborative partnership by both parties will have a two-fold beneficial outcome. By collaborating, ACC and the HSC-CON will join forces to address this critical workforce need, and they will also deliver educational goals found in Closing the Gaps, the state-wide plan adopted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This collaboration will also enable both parties to enhance effective delivery of their respective missions by serving the heretofore-unmet health care needs of the Central Texas Region.

This articulation agreement clarifies mutually accepted courses and equivalents, thus enhancing the quality and accessibility of higher education, ensuring a smooth and successful transition process, and strengthening the partnership between the parties.

The purpose of this agreement is to set forth the principles of mutual understanding that are necessary to form, maintain and communicate transfer articulation information between ACC and the HSC-CON. This agreement describes the terms and conditions involved in transferring from ACC to the HSC-CON, as well as the joint responsibilities of both parties.

Terms, Conditions and Transfer Elements

ACC agrees to:

1. Establish a joint admission process whereby Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) students who in their last semester of course work at ACC have a 2.75 cumulative grade point average (on a 4/0 scale) and meet all other requirements for admission, including the school's General Education requirements, will be admitted to HSC-CON's RN-to-BSN program based on seats available and the competitiveness of the applicant pool.
2. Assist in advising ADN students in this program through a designated ACC academic advisor.
3. Communicate to students enrolling in the RN-to-BSN program about HSC-CON academic requirements, policies, procedures, tuition and fees that will apply and may be subject to change, and to inform students that HSC-CON future offerings cannot be guaranteed.
4. Maintain ongoing collaboration and monitoring of the program through the HSC-CON Dean of the College of Nursing and the ACC Executive Dean of the Health Sciences Division and Chair of the Nursing Department.
5. Assist HSC-CON in arranging conferences and visits on ACC's campus with prospective BSN degree students.
6. Schedule appointments through the designated representative with ACC students, faculty, and staff for the purposes of sharing information, discussing ideas, and other activities of mutual interest to our respective programs.
7. ACC is an equal opportunity institution, and shall not discriminate unlawfully against any HSC-CON student, applicant, or employee, nor shall it deny the benefits provided its own degree-seeking student to any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, age or gender.

HSC-CON agrees to:

1. Establish a joint admission process whereby ADN students who in their last semester of course work at ACC have a 2.75 cumulative grade point average (on a 4/0 scale) and meet all of the HSC-CON's admissions requirements for admission, including the school's General Education requirements, will be admitted to the RN-to-BSN program based on seats available and the competitiveness of the applicant pool.

2. Accept credit hours earned at ACC as described below and specified in the Transfer Guide (See Appendix A):
 - 30 SCH General Education coursework
 - 35 SCH earned in Associate of Applied Science degree
3. Assist ACC students with advising on the HSC-CON admission requirements at a location agreed upon by both parties at specified times. Priority deadline for ACC students is January 15th for summer entrance to the HSC-CON program. The HSC-CON admits RN-to-BSN students only in the summer term. ACC students will be required to complete an application through the Nursing Central Application Service, submit official transcripts, and additional documentation as required.
4. Assist ACC students transitioning into the RN-to-BSN program. This may involve informing students of and assisting them with financial aid, scholarship applications, and course registration.
5. Enroll ACC students who meet admission requirements for entry to the first summer term prior to their successful completion of the Registered Nurse national licensing exam (NCLEX-RN). Should a student not pass the NCLEX-RN by the first class day of the fall term, students will not be allowed to progress in the program.
6. Maintain ongoing collaboration and monitoring of the program through the HSC-CON Dean in the College of Nursing and the ACC Executive Dean of the Health Sciences Division and the Chairs of the Nursing Department.
7. Arrange and coordinate academic accommodations and disability services for qualified students enrolled in HSC-CON courses.
8. Notify students involved in the program that HSC-CON academic requirements, policies, procedures, tuition and fees are subject to change. Location of changed information can be found on the HSC-CON website, bulletins, or other locations.
9. Report annually in May on the enrollment and academic progress of ACC transfer students in the RN-to-BSN degree program. The report would include the number of RN-to-BSN students and a breakdown of GPA for ACC students as compared to all other transfer students. This information shall be furnished within the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. These data may be incorporated into the ACC institutional effectiveness studies.

