

**ARTICULATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN**  
**THE DIVISION OF FLORIDA COLLEGES**  
**AND**  
**WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY**

A Statement of Philosophy and Intent

The State of Florida, long a national leader in higher education, has given broad policy directions to the system of postsecondary education with regard to transfer and articulation between and among two- and four-year institutions. A statewide articulation agreement exists in Florida Statutes and Florida Administrative Code to establish an effective and orderly transfer process for students entering a Florida college, completing an Associate in Arts degree, and transferring to a state university. Florida Statutes also encourage collaboration between the public and independent sectors of postsecondary education.

Founded in 1998, by the Western Governors Association, Western Governors University (WGU) is a non-profit university with a mission to provide affordable postsecondary access to those who may not easily attend a traditional campus-based degree program. WGU provides access with 100% online bachelor's and master's degree programs in education, business, information technology and health professions. WGU is regionally accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The Teachers College is licensed by the State of Utah and accredited by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCATE). The nursing program is accredited by the Collegiate Council for Nursing Education (CCNE).

The purpose of this agreement is to set forth the uniform conditions regarding articulation between The Florida College System (FCS) and Western Governors University. It is intended to increase the options available to Florida college associate degree graduates seeking baccalaureate degrees, particularly those seeking an online degree program. This agreement serves as an overarching statement of cooperation between the FCS and Western Governors University, thus benefiting FCS graduates in specified degree programs.

**ARTICULATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN**  
**THE DIVISION OF FLORIDA COLLEGES**  
**AND**  
**WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY**

This Articulation Agreement is entered into this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010, by and between the Division of Florida Colleges and Western Governors University.

**WHEREAS**, the parties desire to promote the most efficient and effective use of their resources and to offer students the broadest possible range of educational opportunities, and,

**WHEREAS**, the parties desire to encourage and facilitate the establishment of specific articulation provisions between Florida colleges and Western Governors University, and,

**WHEREAS**, the intent of this agreement is to facilitate the transfer of qualified associate degree students from Florida colleges to Western Governors University,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the parties agree to cooperate in articulating programs in accordance with the terms set forth herein.

- I. Western Governors University shall recognize the Associate in Arts (AA) and Associate in Science (AS) degree(s) as the transfer degrees from The Florida College System (FCS). Other associate degrees shall be recognized and transfer on a course-by-course basis as further clarified in this document.
- II. Western Governors University shall publish an Articulation Manual that specifies the programs articulated with the FCS AA and AS degrees in education, business, IT and health professions, including the course requirements and related prerequisite courses for each program. This Articulation Manual will be made available to students, faculty and advisors through the FACTS.org website and updated on an annual basis.
- III. Western Governors University shall develop course equivalency tables, specifically for program prerequisites, insofar as it is reasonable and necessary to do so. Courses that are designated as equivalent in objectives, content and credit hours must be treated as equivalent for all colleges.
- IV. Western Governors University shall annually provide data to the Division of Florida Colleges on the number of FCS graduates by academic term who enroll under the provisions of this agreement and graduate with the baccalaureate degree.
- V. Western Governors University and the Division of Florida Colleges shall agree to the following conditions:

Associate of Arts Degree Articulation

A. Florida college students who transfer with an Associate in Arts degree (AA) and the three lower division education program prerequisite courses under the terms of this Agreement shall enter with junior standing in specific baccalaureate degrees in education and all credit awarded by a Florida college will transfer to Western Governors University, which includes a minimum of 60 credits. However, the student must meet the specific degree course requirements of Western Governors University, which may mean extending the number of credit hours to earn

the baccalaureate degree, if the 60 hours transferred and applied do not include all of the degree prerequisites or graduation requirements that are compulsory for native students. Western Governors University offers the following Bachelor of Arts degrees in the following education areas:

**Early Childhood Education (Birth through grade 3)**

**Interdisciplinary Studies (K-8)**

**Mathematics (5-9, 5-12)**

**Science (5-9)**

**Chemistry (5-12)**

**Physics (5-12)**

**Biological Science (5-12)**

**Geosciences (5-12)**

**Special Education (PK-12)**

B. Florida college students who transfer with an Associate of Arts degree under the terms of this Agreement shall be considered as having completed the lower division general education requirements of Western Governors University. However, Western Governors University may specify additional courses that must be completed prior to the awarding of the baccalaureate degree. These courses may be completed at either institution.

#### Associate of Science Degree Articulation

C. Appropriate courses within the Associate in Science degree (AS) will articulate to related baccalaureate degree programs at Western Governors University. Courses taken as a part of the AS to meet the general education requirements of the Florida college will transfer and apply toward the Western Governors University general education credit hours required for the baccalaureate degree. No additional general education credit hours can be required except to complete the total general education hours required by Western Governors University. Western Governors University's Baccalaureate of Science degree programs that are covered under this Agreement are:

#### **Information Technology**

Management

Networks Administration

Networks Design & Management

Databases

Security

Software

#### **Health Professions**

Nursing

Health Informatics

#### **Business**

Business Management

Accounting

Human Resource Management

Marketing Management

## General Articulation Provisions

D. Transfer students shall meet the same standards and program requirements as native students. This may include admissions requirements (i.e., standard high school diploma, high school equivalency diploma, or other credential as authorized by Florida Statutes), college placement testing, and prior successful completion of all college preparatory coursework as mandated by state approved assessments and standards. Failure to demonstrate adherence to agreed-upon standards of individual student college readiness may abrogate guarantees for transfer of credit for specific students or termination of this agreement.

E. Florida college students transferring under the terms of this Agreement shall be governed by the graduation requirements set forth in the Western Governors University catalog in effect at the time of the student's initial enrollment in a Florida college, provided the student maintains continuous enrollment as defined by Western Governors University and receives an associate degree and transfers to Western Governors University within six years of initial enrollment in a Florida college. Continuous enrollment as defined by Western Governors University is enrolled every session or semester. The student will also have the option of graduating under the catalog in effect at the time of transfer.

F. Admission of a Florida college student to Western Governors University will depend on the number of spaces in each academic year and the continuation of the program. Program discontinuance will remove any obligation (beyond those protections afforded to native students) of Western Governors University to comply with the provisions of the Articulation Agreement relative to the discontinued program.

G. For the students accepted for transfer, the grade of "D" will be treated the same as grades of "D" obtained by native students at Western Governors University. Western Governors University may require a grade point average (GPA) of not less than 2.0 overall or a grade of "C" or better in all prerequisite courses, provided the same policy is applied equitably for native and transfer students.

H. Credit awarded by a Florida college as experiential credit and/or credit awarded by exam, such as College Level Examination Program (CLEP), International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Program, and Advanced Placement (AP), while acceptable to satisfy Associate degree requirements, may or may not satisfy specific requirements of the baccalaureate degree. Western Governors University policy on accepting credits awarded as experiential credit and credit by exam will be applied the same as native students.

I. Authority over all academic policies or practices not mentioned in this agreement shall remain with Western Governors University.

J. Programmatically, any administrative exceptions to policies will rest solely with Western Governors University.

VI. During the period of this Agreement, the Division of Florida Colleges shall:

A. Publicize the Articulation Agreement among the faculty, staff, and students in The Florida College System via the FACTS.org website maintained by the Florida Center for Advising and Academic Support as well as other Department of Education and Division of Florida Colleges publications, correspondence, and outreach activities.

B. Make available to Florida college faculty members, counselors, students, and other appropriate individuals within The Florida College System, the Western Governors University admission requirements; preferred general education requirements; program prerequisite courses, other related requirements, and the course equivalency lists. This will be done via the FACTS.org website maintained by the Florida Center for Advising and Academic Support.

VII. Both parties agree:

A. To cooperate on curricular and advising issues that will facilitate future student transfer.

B. To encourage the development of scholarships and other financial aid opportunities for community college transfer students who are directly affected by this Agreement.

C. To foster communication between Western Governors University, the Division, and The Florida College System. The following individuals will serve as liaison officers for matters relating to this agreement:

<b>Division of Florida Colleges:</b>	<b>Western Governors University:</b>
Dr. Judith Bilsky Executive Vice Chancellor (850) 245-9452 or <a href="mailto:judith.bilsky@fldoe.org">judith.bilsky@fldoe.org</a>	Dr. Phil Schmidt Associate Provost <a href="mailto:pschmidt@wgu.edu">pschmidt@wgu.edu</a>

Both parties agree to notify the other of any changes in contact information for their respective liaison officers.

D. To provide for periodic review of the Agreement to strengthen articulation between The Florida College System and Western Governors University. The review should be initiated by the Division and should take place at least once every five years, following initial implementation of the Agreement.

VIII. Applicable Law. This Agreement will be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida and the rules of the State Board of Education.

IX. Modifications. Any modifications, additions, or deletions to this Agreement must be in writing and signed by both parties. The designated representatives are the Associate Provost of

Western Governors University and the Executive Vice Chancellor for The Florida College System.

X. Termination of the Articulation Agreement. Either party may terminate this Agreement by giving written notice to the other party. The notice shall state the effective date of termination which shall be at least one year after the date on which the notice is received by the other party. Any student enrolled in a community college during the time this Agreement is in effect shall continue to receive the benefits of the Agreement until the effective date, one year after notification, provided all conditions contained herein are met by the student.

This Articulation Agreement between Western Governors University and the Division of Florida Colleges was accepted and approved by the participating entities this 12th day of March, 2010.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title, Western Governors University

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chancellor, The Florida College System

THIS AGREEMENT shall take effect on March 12, 2010, and shall remain in effect until terminated by either party.