

Memorandum of Understanding
between
Regis University
Associate's to Bachelor's® Program
and
Colorado Community College System

INTRODUCTION

The Associate's to Bachelor's® Program is specifically designed to acknowledge the strong academic foundation that the Colorado Community College System provides its students and the benefits that can be obtained from a bachelor's degree from Regis University. The Associate's to Bachelor's® Program goes beyond traditional transfer and articulation agreements and creates a close collaboration between the Colorado Community College System and Regis University.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formally recognizes that, through the Associate's to Bachelor's® Program, **Colorado Community College System (CCCS)** and **Regis University (Regis) -- School for Professional Studies (SPS)** are actively committed to providing greater educational opportunities and services for students transferring between institutions. Through this MOU, CCCS and Regis hereby enter into an educational agreement designed to provide participating students the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree. This is made possible by the Regis commitment to high quality ground based and online instruction and student support services.

CCCS and Regis enter into this MOU in the spirit of cooperation and mutually recognize each other as quality institutions of higher learning. Each institution is dedicated to serving students from all walks of life, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, disability, color, age, marital status, national origin or other non-merit factors.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the agreement is to enable CCCS students who transfer to Regis with an Associate of Arts or an Associate of Sciences degree to be recognized as having achieved junior status at Regis, and to allow them to transfer additional credits (up to a maximum of 90 semester credit hours) that they have already earned. This approach will allow many students to earn a bachelor's degree by attending the equivalent of three years (a year is equivalent to approximately 30-36 semester credit hours) of instruction at CCCS and completing their fourth and final year at Regis.

The MOU provides a structure through which transfer articulation on all levels can be supported. This agreement is with CCCS as a whole and not with individual centers within the institution. Therefore, courses taken by students at any CCCS learning center are considered equally transferable to Regis.

TRANSFER ELEMENTS

Treatment of Associate's Degrees as Admission Criteria

Students who earn an Associate of Arts or an Associate of Science degree will be recognized as having satisfied the first two years of coursework associated with Regis baccalaureate degree programs and will be recognized as having achieved junior status. The Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science degrees are those awards that recognize at least two years but less than four years of full-time equivalent

college-level work. These degrees are general in nature and are not directed to a specific career or technical area.

Students graduating from CCCS and transferring to Regis as participants in the Associate's to Bachelor's® Program are guaranteed the following:

1. Admission to the Undergraduate SPS Program at Regis (because of program capacity and specialized entry requirements, there are no guarantees of admission to specific Regis Undergraduate degree programs or certificate programs.)
2. Acceptance of credit earned at CCCS in all programs, including credit by testing and other non traditional mechanisms such as Advanced Placement (AP), American Council on Education (ACE) credits, Dual Enrollment, Early Admissions, and International Baccalaureate.
3. No additional General Education Core requirements, if Regis requirements have been met with CCCS programs.
4. Acceptance of all grade forgiveness policies of CCCS.

In order to complete the baccalaureate program in a timely manner, students are advised to follow the transfer guide for the academic program they plan to pursue at Regis. If the student intends to change degree focus upon admission to Regis, the student may be required to complete lower division preparation work prior to beginning the program at Regis.

CCCS students enrolling at Regis through the Associate's to Bachelor's® Program will complete Regis' transfer process and therefore must meet all applicable requirements and deadlines pertaining to application for admission, submission of transcripts, orientation and registration, and payment of tuition and fees. They will abide by the policies and procedures, along with any revisions thereof that apply to all students.

Treatment of CCCS Coursework for Students *without* an Associate of Arts or an Associate of Sciences Degree

CCCS students transferring without an Associate of Arts or an Associate of Sciences degree (this would include students who have earned Associate of Applied Science Degrees, Certificates, and/or Diplomas), will have all CCCS courses, numbered 100 and above and with a grade of "C- or better", accepted for transfer.

Twenty four semester hours of skill-based technical course work may be used to satisfy general elective requirements in the Undergraduate degree programs of SPS. The designation (TOS) is used when recording this credit.

Regis' Degree Plan

The Regis degree plan outlines degree completion requirements for each student. The degree plan is a written agreement between the student and the appropriate undergraduate program. It sets forth the academic requirements for the degree. The student and a Regis Academic Advisor sign the degree plan.

The degree plan specifies the amount of time during which the requirements for a particular degree must be completed. This period is seven (7) years (84 months) from the date the student is accepted into the Undergraduate Program.

During that seven-year period, students may (but are not required to) revise their degree plans to reflect the Regis' curricular changes. If the degree plan expires before the student has completed all degree requirements, the student must sign a new degree plan or request an extension to the current degree plan.

Maximum Age of Associate Degree

There is no expiration date on Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees or on credits earned from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

The Transfer Process

Regis SPS will receive transfer credits for all of the course work, of an earned A.S. or A.A. degree toward fulfillment of Regis SPS core requirements and toward the Regis degree requirement of 128 semester hours subject to the following provisions:

- All CCCS transfer student applicants must meet the admissions standards as outlined in this MOU (these requirements may differ from those found in other documents and publications).
- Students who are transferring as part of the Regis Associate's to Bachelor's® Program must have a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average as verified by an official transcript from CCCS.
- Students transferring individual courses to Regis separate and apart from the Associate's to Bachelor's® Program, must have earned a grade of "C-" or better in the specified course.
- All students transferring to Regis SPS must have 3 years of work experience (waivers may be requested by a designated advisor from CCCS).
- Students who apply to Regis must satisfy or successfully complete six (6) semester credit hours (9 quarter credit hours) in Religious Studies and six (6) semester credit hours (9 quarter credit hours) of Philosophy, if these courses are not included in the CCCS transferable course work to the satisfaction of Regis. CCCS students may fulfill the above requirement by (i) taking the courses at CCCS prior to transfer, or (ii) taking Religious Studies and Philosophy courses at Regis.

A minimum of thirty (30) graded semester hours must be successfully completed at Regis. Credits earned through Portfolio (Prior Learning Assessment) or credits by examination are not included in this 30-hour minimum.

Transfer Appeals Procedures

Any student who wishes to challenge a transfer request or decision may submit a written appeal to the Associate Dean of SPS Undergraduate Programs.

Degree Completion Opportunities

The Associate's to Bachelor's® Program enables students to earn a bachelor's degree by earning up to ninety (90) semester credit hours at CCCS and taking their remaining courses at Regis. In order to bring about such a result, Regis will:

- Deliver ground based and on-line programs leading to the completion of a bachelor's degree. These degree programs will include (subject to change at Regis' discretion), but not be limited to the following:
 - Bachelor's of Science in Accounting
 - Bachelor's of Science in Applied Psychology
 - Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration
 - Bachelor's of Science in BA/Insurance
 - Bachelor's of Science in Business Technology Management
 - Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems
 - Bachelor's of Science in Computer Networking
 - Bachelor's of Science in Computer Science

- Bachelor of Arts in Communication
- Bachelor of Science in Criminology
- Bachelor of Science in Finance
- Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management
- Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts
- Bachelor's of Science in Marketing
- Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Development
- Bachelor's of Science in Public Administration
- Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies
- Bachelor of Arts in Social Science

(Regis University reserves the right to discontinue majors from time to time. Should a major be eliminated, students will be provided the opportunity to finish the program they began in a timely manner.) *The Associate's to Bachelor's® Program does not apply toward the Teacher Licensure Program.*

- Provide instruction by technologically trained and academically qualified faculty.
- Provide all necessary services including: admissions, advisement, registration, financial aid, textbook purchase options, access to a virtual library, online tutoring, and a technology help desk.
- Scholarship assistance will be provided when available.

OBLIGATIONS OF REGIS

The obligations of Regis in carrying out this agreement include the following:

- Provide academic advising to CCCS students once they are registered with the Associate's to Bachelor's® Program.
- Provide materials, catalogs, and other information to CCCS advisors to facilitate their understanding of Regis requirements and academic programs.
- Provide CCCS with adequate and periodic reports on its former students enrolled in Regis programs.
- Develop, distribute, and ensure the accuracy of all transfer articulation products (e.g., Transfer Guide).

OBLIGATIONS OF CCCS

For its role in the Associate's to Bachelor's® Program, CCCS will:

- On an annual basis, review the contents of this Memorandum of Understanding and recommend any changes to Regis.
- Support the marketing effort by promoting the programs through student, alumni and community publications/media and through the marketing staffs of each institution.
- Where allowed within the policies and procedures of CCCS, provide Regis with access to graduates and potential graduates to enable Regis to market and promote the on-line degrees. Examples would include but not be limited to invitations to career and college fairs,

opportunities to distribute materials on campus, and providing space on bulletin boards. Any contact with potential students will be carried out within limits to be determined by the colleges.

- Provide Regis the opportunity to advertise in CCCS publications.
- Provide Regis with the opportunity to train/orient staff at CCCS as necessary to support the programs at each CCCS location.
- Designate administrative, academic and student services personnel who will act as a liaison to their counterparts at Regis.
- Allow students in the Regis Associate's to Bachelor's® Program access to library and computer laboratories at CCCS.
- Train/orient their staff in those facilities to support the needs of these students and to cooperate with their Regis counterparts within limits to be determined by the colleges.
- Advise, assist and support strategically and at the policy level Regis' efforts to provide quality education through ground based and distance education to students graduating from CCCS.

JOINT OBLIGATIONS

In carrying out their roles in the Associate's to Bachelor's® Program, both Regis and CCCS agree to the following:

- Provide direct links between their institutional websites, indicating the existence of this MOU.
- Make available official lists of programs for which articulation agreements have been approved, by both CCCS and Regis. These program lists will be made available at both institutions and on both institutions' websites.
- Exchange data and documents that will contribute to the maintenance and improvement of these transfer arrangements and promote effective cooperation between the two institutions. The institutions will exchange admissions, grades, and retention data after obtaining appropriate permission from the students involved and in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and U.S. Department of Education Guidelines.

Tuition Discount for Employees

Regis will also offer a 10% tuition discount to full-time faculty, staff, and administrators at CCCS. This offer is valid with both undergraduate and graduate programs in the SPS. This offer will take effect within the first semester following the signature of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Annual Evaluation

There will be an annual evaluation process of the program supported by this MOU. That evaluation will include representatives at the decision making level of both Regis and CCCS. Both parties may request a more frequent review in response to curricular changes and other institutional changes and conditions. The party initiating such change will communicate it in a timely manner to the other party. The information obtained from this evaluation will be used to improve the transfer process for the benefit of students.

Term and Modification

This MOU will be in effect until terminated by either Regis or CCCS. Either party may terminate this MOU by submitting written notification one year prior to the identified cancellation date in order to protect all students transferring between these institutions. Any modifications to the MOU must be in

writing and signed by both parties, CCCS students in the process of applying to Regis at the time of cancellation will be allowed to complete the application process and complete degrees, subject to the requirement to complete the degree within seven years from the date the student is accepted into the Undergraduate Program.

This MOU is effective only under the condition that both transferring institutions maintain current accreditation by a regional accrediting association as recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. In the event either institution loses its accreditation, this MOU will immediately terminate.

Governmental Immunity

Notwithstanding any other provision of this MOU to the contrary, no term or condition of this agreement shall be construed or interpreted as a waiver, express or implied, of any of the immunities, rights, benefits, protection, or other provisions of the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, Section 24-10-101, *et. seq.*, CRS, as now or hereafter amended. The parties understand and agree that liability for claims for injuries to persons or property arising out of negligence of the State of Colorado, its departments, institutions, agencies, boards, officials and employees is controlled and limited by the provisions of Section 24-10-101, *et. seq.*, CRS, as now or hereafter amended and the risk management statutes, Section 24-30-1501, *et. seq.*, CRS, as now or hereafter amended.

Indemnification

To the extent permitted by law, CCCS agrees to be responsible for any claims or demands which may arise under this agreement as a result of the School's performance of its obligations under this Agreement, or as a result of the negligent acts or omissions of School or its officers, employees or agents.

Choice of Law

The laws of the State of Colorado and rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto shall be applied in the interpretation, execution, and enforcement of this contract. Any provision of this contract, whether or not incorporated herein by reference, which provides for arbitration by any extra-judicial body or person or which is otherwise in conflict with said laws, rules, and regulations shall be considered null and void. Nothing contained in any provision incorporated herein by reference which purports to negate this or any other special provision in whole or in part shall be valid or enforceable or available in any action at law whether by way of complaint, defense, or otherwise. Any provision rendered null and void by the operation of this provision will not invalidate the remainder of this contract to the extent that the contract is capable of execution.


At all times during the performance of this contract, the Contractor shall strictly adhere to all applicable federal and State laws, rules, and regulations that have been or may hereafter be established.

Limitation of Liability

Except for the specific remedies expressly identified as such in this MOU, the parties agree that their sole liability (whether in contract, tort, by statute or otherwise) for any claim in any manner related to this MOU, shall be the payment of direct damages. In no event shall either party be liable for any consequential, incidental, indirect, special or punitive damages, loss or expenses (including but not limited to business interruption, lost business, lost profits or lost savings) even if it has been advised of their possible existence.

Summary

The intent of the Associate's to Bachelor's® Program is to enhance the learning opportunities available to the students, alumni, faculty, and staff of CCCS. Through this new venture, students will be able to capitalize on their rich experience at CCCS and be able to earn a bachelor's degree without leaving their community.




Dr. Nancy McCallin
President

Colorado Community College System

1-28-08

Date

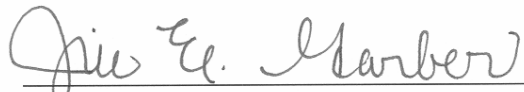


Dr. Allan Service
Provost and
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Regis University

2/21/08

Date



Ms. Jill E. Garber
Director of Community College Partnerships

Regis University

2-26-08

Date

Attachments: Transfer Guides