



**TIDEWATER  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
From here, go anywhere.™



**SUNY EMPIRE**  
STATE COLLEGE

**PATHWAYS TRANSFER PROGRAM ARTICULATION AGREEMENT  
FOR THE TRANSFER OF STUDENTS FROM TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
INTO THE BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMS AT SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE  
(with Guaranteed Admission option)**

Empire State College (SUNY Empire) of the State University of New York (SUNY) and Tidewater Community College (TCC), agree to develop a Pathways Transfer Program agreement. This agreement assures that qualified students completing any Associate in Arts (AA), Associate in Science (AS), or Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree at TCC will be able to transfer seamlessly to Empire State College.<sup>1</sup> This agreement also establishes procedures for graduates of TCC to obtain the appropriate bachelor's degree (BA, BS, and BPS) at Empire State College.

Empire State College was established in 1971 by the SUNY Board of Trustees and then-Chancellor and future United States Commissioner of Education Ernest L. Boyer as a distinctive statewide SUNY institution focused on nontraditional teaching and learning. The College continues its more than 40-year commitment to valuing learning gained from life and work experience and has a clear process for assessing and awarding credit for college-level learning gained through experience. Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the College serves mostly working adults pursuing associate, bachelor's and master's degrees online or onsite at one of the College's many locations across New York state and abroad.

Founded in 1968 as a part of the Virginia Community College System, Tidewater Community College is the largest provider of higher education and workforce services in Hampton Roads, enrolling nearly 28,000 students in 2019-2020. TCC has grown from 1 campus into a regional educational and economic force with campuses in Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach, along with 7 regional centers and 2 important cultural institutions. TCC is the second largest of the 23 Virginia community colleges, and is listed as number 5 in Military Times' "Best for Vets" ranking of 2-year schools with about one-third of its enrollment being military-related students. TCC is regionally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, employs 278 full-time teaching faculty and hundreds of part-time faculty, and has 13 nationally accredited academic programs.

***How the Pathways Transfer Program Works***

Up to 79 total lower-division credits can be transferred in, leaving at least 45 upper-division credits to be completed towards the 124 credit bachelor's degree at SUNY Empire. This includes 24 upper-division credits within the student's selected concentration, consistent with the College's requirements for a

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<sup>1</sup> As per SUNY Empire policy, Associate in Occupational Studies (AOS) degrees are evaluated on a course-by-course basis. D grades earned as part of an AOS degree are not transferable, even if the student completed the AOS.

bachelor's degree. Each participating student will be able to transfer all credits earned as part of their associate degree to SUNY Empire, as long as they fit into the student's designed bachelor's degree program.

During their first year at SUNY Empire, students in the Pathways Transfer Program may, with advisement, opt to cross-register for up to 15 additional credits at TCC beyond the associate degree.<sup>2</sup> These lower-division credits will be applicable to the baccalaureate degree program by satisfying SUNY General Education requirements or needed pre-requisite courses.

### ***Academic Programs***

Empire State College offers a wide range of bachelor's degree program options that align with many of the associate degree programs at TCC. For a list of bachelor's degree programs, please refer to [www.esc.edu/degrees-programs/](http://www.esc.edu/degrees-programs/).

In addition, students have the option of designing a bachelor's degree program that builds on their associate degree and is tailored to their unique interests and goals. Working with an SUNY Empire faculty mentor, students may customize their own degree concentration within one of 12 broad areas of study or the School of Nursing and Allied Health.

Students at SUNY Empire can earn their degree without having to leave their home community. The flexibility of the educational model allows them to customize their courses to fit around their family, work and community commitments. Students are able to combine a number of course modalities into their degree program including online courses, independent studies, seminars and small group studies, residencies, and cross registration at other colleges (with advisement).

### ***Benefits for Tidewater Community College Transfer Students***

Empire State College will provide the following benefits for participating TCC students:

- Waiver of the \$50 admission / orientation fee
- Provision of a \$100 transfer scholarship in the first term of matriculation at SUNY Empire
- Guaranteed admission to a bachelor's degree program
- Non New-York residents are eligible for a SUNY Empire nonresident tuition grant that significantly lowers their tuition rate

To be eligible, TCC transfer students must have completed an associate degree within the last 3 years, or be in (or entering) their final semester of completing an associate degree.<sup>3</sup>

A unique application benefits code for interested students to use during the admissions application process will be created by SUNY Empire and provided to appropriate staff at TCC for distribution.

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<sup>2</sup> Students may transfer up to 79 lower-division credits, or 93 total lower and upper-division credits, to Empire State College.

<sup>3</sup> Note that this applies only to the completion date of the associate degree, and not when all of the courses within the degree were completed. Please refer to "Guidelines of the Agreement", item #4.

### ***Benefits for Employees of Tidewater Community College***

Employees of TCC may participate in the Pathways Transfer Program and become students at SUNY Empire by way of this Agreement. Employees who already hold an associate degree are eligible for the benefits as listed above for transfer students, regardless of when they received their degree. Further, employees who hold a bachelor's degree and wish to pursue a graduate degree at Empire State College are eligible for the following benefits:

- Waiver of the \$50 graduate admission / orientation fee
- \$100 graduate student scholarship in the first term of matriculated enrollment in the School for Graduate Studies
- Non New-York residents are eligible for a SUNY Empire nonresident tuition grant that significantly lowers their tuition rate
- A single point of contact at the School for Graduate Studies to guide new students through the admissions, enrollment and orientation process

Evan Reese

Graduate Outreach and Academic Advisement Coordinator

[Evan.Reese@esc.edu](mailto:Evan.Reese@esc.edu)

(800) 847-3000 ext. 2904

For a complete list of graduate level degree and certificate programs offered by Empire State College, or to apply, please go to <https://www.esc.edu/graduate-studies/>.

### ***Benefits for Active Military, Veterans, and Spouses***

Empire State College has a long-standing commitment of supporting active military, veterans and family members, and enthusiastically pledges to maintain its commitment to provide the following benefits and services to military-aligned students, and as they may be amended from time to time by SUNY Empire:

- Pre-enrollment advising and an Evaluated Education Plan (EEP) with a review of anticipated transfer credits prior to enrollment
- Waive all mandatory fees for military members (active-duty, guard, reserve and veterans) along with their spouses. Waived fees include: orientation fee, college fee, student activity fee, technology fee, health and wellness fee, portfolio (assessment) fee, and program amendment fee.
- Individualized Prior Learning Assessment (iPLA) fees are waived for military members
- Support military-aligned students through Veterans Affairs (VA) and Tuition Assistance (TA) funding processes
- Access to the Office of Veteran and Military Education (OVME) and its dedicated resources to support student success all the way through to degree completion.

### ***Terms of the Agreement***

1. SUNY Empire agrees, for those students who successfully complete an associate degree (AA, AS, AAS) at TCC and meet SUNY Empire's admissions requirements, to accept the entire associate

degree from TCC into a bachelor's degree program.<sup>4</sup> SUNY Empire's nursing program is selective and has additional program specific admission requirements.

2. TCC students have the ability to transfer up to 79 lower-division credits towards an SUNY Empire bachelor's degree, with the remaining 45 credits (of the 124 credit bachelor's degree) to be completed at the upper-division level with SUNY Empire. Upon completion of an associate degree, TCC students, with appropriate advisement, may complete additional credits up to the 79-credit limit at TCC.
3. The maximum amount of advanced standing a student may be granted at SUNY Empire is 93 total credits. This total would include lower and upper-division transcript credits, pre-evaluated credit (such as ACE, NCCRS, or SUNY Empire's Professional Learning Evaluation program), military credits, and individualized prior learning assessment, as long as those credits fit into an approved degree program. Additional details are found in the "Academic Guidelines" section of this agreement.
4. Both TCC and SUNY Empire agree to give the widest possible publicity to the establishment of this agreement, such as inclusion of procedures and descriptions in catalogs, bulletins, marketing publications, and webpages, as well as outreach and email campaigns to current students and alumni. This literature should clearly specify the persons or offices to contact at each institution.
5. TCC agrees to advise interested students, alumni and faculty advisors of the provisions of this agreement.
6. SUNY Empire will provide pre-enrollment advising and/or information sessions for prospective transfer students online and onsite as appropriate. Further, SUNY Empire will provide outreach to TCC faculty and staff regarding SUNY Empire information and this agreement.
7. This agreement becomes effective when all signatures are affixed and remains in effect for five years thereafter. Matters of concern that affect this articulation agreement should be brought to the attention of the Director of Academic Development in the Office of Academic Affairs at SUNY Empire, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs at TCC for discussion and amendments. The agreement may be amended or renewed by mutual agreement in writing.
8. Either party may terminate this agreement with thirty calendar days of advanced notice, in writing, sent via certified mail return receipt requested to:

***Empire State College***

Dr. Brian Goodale  
Director of Academic Partnerships  
One Union Avenue  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

***Tidewater Community College***

Dr. Michelle Woodhouse  
Interim Chief Academic Officer  
121 College Place  
Norfolk, VA 23510

9. In performing its obligations under this agreement, each party shall comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, institutional policies, and accreditation standards.
10. This agreement is not exclusive to TCC.
11. SUNY Empire and TCC agree that each is acting independently of the other, that they are not a joint venture, and that neither party is an agent of the other.

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<sup>4</sup> As per SUNY Empire policy, Associate in Occupational Studies (AOS) degrees are evaluated on a course-by-course basis.

12. Both parties acknowledge that this agreement does not create a partnership as defined by New York Partnership Law, nor is either Party acting as the agent for the other. The parties agree that each is acting independently of the other, in a cooperative collaboration.
13. Both colleges acknowledge the confidential nature of student information that may be exchanged between them. As such, both colleges agree that this information must be kept secure, confidential, and only disclosed for authorized purposes, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Student information will not be shared with third parties, and all FERPA regulations will be adhered to.

### ***Guidelines of the Agreement***

1. TCC students who successfully complete associate degree requirements for an AA, AS or AAS will be able to transfer to SUNY Empire all credits earned for the associate degree, including "D" grades that are part of the completed degree. If a student transfers to SUNY Empire without a completed associate degree, "D" grades are not transferable.
2. For a bachelor's degree at SUNY Empire, students must minimally complete 31 upper-division credits in residence towards a 124-credit bachelor's degree (see "Academic Guidelines" section for more details).
3. Any courses taken at TCC beyond the associate degree will be evaluated for transfer separately from the associate degree based on SUNY Empire's advanced standing policies.
4. There is no time limitation on transfer credits substantiated by a transcript except in areas where that learning may become outdated, such as in computer technologies and the sciences. Such credits will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis and may not be accepted if it is crucial to the structure of a degree program or concentration.
5. Students will be given the opportunity to complete all requirements for the bachelor's degree in a specific degree program or closely related area of concentration. For students who have completed associate degrees that are not closely related to the desired bachelor's degree area of study, additional courses may be required to complete their degrees and, in these cases, transcripts will be evaluated on a course-by-course basis to achieve maximum transferability.
6. All students need to complete the application process and meet all admissions criteria before being accepted to SUNY Empire.
7. Students may enroll at SUNY Empire on a full-time or part-time basis.
8. TCC will notify SUNY Empire of any substantive changes and/or alterations of its existing program and/or modifications related to accreditation status and/or program registration with registry agencies, if any, within 30 days of initial notification.

### ***Academic Guidelines***

At SUNY Empire, students may self-design their bachelor's degree using approved area of study guidelines and the State University of New York (SUNY) and SUNY Empire degree requirements. Students pursuing a degree at SUNY Empire through this agreement work with an assigned faculty mentor to determine the most appropriate degree for their interests and goals, and how best to apply the advanced standing transfer credits in designing their degree. Students are encouraged to complete the degree planning process as soon as possible after matriculating at SUNY Empire, however, the process must be completed before a student registers for the final 16 credits of their degree program.

**Table 1**  
**Empire State College Bachelor's Degree Requirements**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>Maximum Advanced Standing Credits</b>	<b>Minimum SUNY Empire Credits in Residence</b>	<b>Minimum Upper-Division Credits</b>	<b>Minimum Upper-Division Credits in the Concentration</b>	<b>Minimum Liberal Arts and Sciences Credits</b>
B.A.	124	93	31	45	24	94
B.S.	124	93	31	45	24	62
B.S.N.	124	93	31	45	40	62
B.P.S.	124	93	31	45	24	32

- ❖ Area of Study and Concentration guidelines are used to structure the student's individualized degree program curriculum.
- ❖ To satisfy SUNY General Education requirements, every SUNY Empire bachelor's degree program must include at least 30 credits in seven general education knowledge and skill areas, as well as the areas of Mathematics and Basic Communication.
- ❖ Every SUNY Empire student must take 4-8 credits in Educational Planning.

Possible sources of additional Advanced Standing Credits:

- Individualized Prior Learning Assessment<sup>5</sup>
- Transcript credit from a regionally accredited college or university
- Standardized exams, such as CLEP or other exams<sup>6</sup>
- Military credit evaluated by the American Council on Education (ACE)
- Licenses or training evaluated by Empire State College

**General Information**

Further information about SUNY Empire may be obtained by calling Heidi Lazare, Outreach and Recruitment Specialist in the Office of Enrollment Management at (800) 847-3000 ext. 2848 (8:30am-5pm, Monday-Friday).

All transfer students must submit the Empire State College Application for Admission form along with an official transcript of completed course work from all colleges previously attended to the Office of Admissions, Empire State College, 111 West Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. These forms can be found at <https://www.esc.edu/admissions/>.

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<sup>5</sup> Individualized Prior Learning Assessment (iPLA) is credit awarded for verifiable college level learning acquired through work, life experience or independent study

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.esc.edu/why-esc/credit-for-prior-learning/>

***For Further Information***

**Empire State College**

Heidi Lazare

Outreach and Recruitment Specialist

Non-New York residents

[Heidi.Lazare@esc.edu](mailto:Heidi.Lazare@esc.edu)

(800) 847-3000 ext. 2848

**Tidewater Community College**

Campus Advising Offices

- Chesapeake – (757) 822-5125; Pass Building, Room 141
- Norfolk – (757) 822-1534; Martin Building, Suite 2506
- Portsmouth – (757) 822-2200; Building A, Room 140
- Virginia Beach – (757) 822-7211; Building B (Bayside), Room 207

***Tuition and Fees***

To learn more about Empire State College's current SUNY tuition and fee schedule, please refer to: <https://www.esc.edu/tuition-financial-aid/tuition-rates/>.

Non-New York residents are eligible for an Empire State College nonresident tuition grant that significantly lowers their tuition rate.

[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]

***Signatures to the Agreement***

**This agreement is effective upon its approval by TCC's President and the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and ESU's Officer in Charge and the Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs on September 16, 2020.**

Dr. Marcia Conston, TCC

Dr. Michelle Woodhouse, TCC

Dr. Nathan Gonyea, ESU

Dr. Meg Benke, ESU



**Appendix A:  
SUNY Empire State College  
Undergraduate Degree Programs**

Empire State College offers a variety of bachelor’s degree options (B.A., B.S., B.P.S.). Students may customize a program in a broad area of study, develop a focused concentration within an area of study, or select from one of the structured degree options. As of the signing of this Pathways agreement, the College offers the programs listed below. For the most current listing, please refer to the “Degrees & Programs” section of the ESC website ([www.esc.edu](http://www.esc.edu)).

Areas of Study

The Arts  
Business, Management and Economics  
Community and Human Services  
Cultural Studies  
Educational Studies  
Historical Studies  
Human Development  
Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary Studies  
Labor Studies  
Public Affairs  
Science, Mathematics and Technology  
Social Science

Structured Degree Programs

Accounting (B.S.)  
Addiction Studies (B.S.)  
Allied Health (B.S.)  
Business Administration (B.S.)  
Human Resource Management (B.S.)  
Liberal Arts (B.A.)  
Management (B.S.)  
Nursing (RN to BSN)  
Psychology (B.A.)  
Security Studies (B.S.)

Many associate degree programs can transfer into several different bachelor’s degree program areas, including Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary Studies. Empire State College faculty mentors work with each transfer student to determine which program best fits with their career goals while maximizing transfer credits. The following is a list of associate degree programs at Tidewater Community College and the Empire State College bachelor’s degree programs that best align with them. Other bachelor’s degree programs may also be an option, though additional prerequisite coursework may be needed. Any TCC degree program not listed does not have a parallel matching program at SUNY Empire.

<b>Tidewater Community College Associate Degree Programs</b>	<b>SUNY Empire State College Bachelor’s Degree and Area of Study Options</b>
Accounting	Accounting
Administrative Support Technology	Business Administration Business, Management and Economics Management
Advertising Design	The Arts Business, Management and Economics
American Sign Language	Cultural Studies

	Educational Studies
Architectural Drafting and Design Technology	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Business Administration	Business Administration Business, Management and Economics Human Resource Management Management
Computer Aided Drafting & Design	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Computer Science	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Criminal Justice	Community and Human Services Labor Studies Public Affairs Security Studies
Culinary Arts	Business, Management and Economics Management
Cyber Security	Public Affairs Science, Mathematics and Technology Security Studies
Database Specialist	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Diagnostic Medical Sonography	Allied Health
Digital Media	The Arts Cultural Studies
Early Childhood Development	Community and Human Services Educational Studies
Emergency Medical Services	Allied Health
Event Planning	Business Administration Business, Management and Economics Management
Fire Science Technology	Public Affairs Science, Mathematics and Technology Security Studies
Food Service Management	Business, Management and Economics Management
Forensic Science	Community and Human Services Labor Studies Public Affairs Security Studies
Funeral Service	Business, Management and Economics Management
General Studies	Interdisciplinary/Multidisciplinary Studies Liberal Arts
Geographic Information Systems	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Graphic Design	The Arts Cultural Studies
Health Information Management	Business, Management and Economics Management
Homeland Security	Community and Human Services Labor Studies

	Public Affairs Security Studies
Hospitality Management	Business, Management and Economics Management
Human Services	Addiction Studies Community and Human Services Human Development Psychology Social Science
Industrial & Business Management	Business, Management and Economics Management
Industrial Management	Business, Management and Economics Management
Industrial Supervision	Business, Management and Economics Human Resource Management Management
Interior Design	The Arts Cultural Studies
Liberal Arts	Liberal Arts Any area of study
Management	Business, Management and Economics Human Resource Management Management
Maritime Logistics	Business, Management and Economics Management
Medical Administrative Assistant	Business, Management and Economics Management
Music	The Arts
Network Administrative	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Network Infrastructure Specialist	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Nursing	Nursing (RN to BSN)
Occupational Therapy Assistant	Allied Health
Paralegal Studies	Public Affairs
Photographic Media Arts	The Arts Cultural Studies
Physical Therapy Assistant	Allied Health
Pre-Art Therapy	The Arts Cultural Studies
Professional Communication	Cultural Studies
Programming and Logic Control	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Programming & Mobile Applications Development	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Public Law	Labor Studies Public Affairs
Radiography	Allied Health
Respiratory Therapy	Allied Health
Science	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Small Business Management & Entrepreneurship	Business, Management and Economics

	Management
Social Sciences	Social Science
Studio Arts	The Arts
Technical Studies	Science, Mathematics and Technology
Web Development Specialist	Science, Mathematics and Technology
General Studies – Teacher Preparation	Educational Studies