

June 3, 2019

Florida College System Office of Articulation 1401 Turlington Building 325 West Gains Street Tallahassee, FL 32399

Letter of Interest

Western Governors University (WGU), a current articulation partner with the Florida College System, seeks to revise their current articulation agreement with Florida two-year institutions. Western Governors University is a private, non-profit institution offering bachelors and master's degrees in business, information technology, K–12 teacher education, and health professions, including nursing. Our competency-based program measures learning rather than time, allowing students to progress through courses as soon as they can prove they've mastered the material. WGU's tuition is charged at a flat rate every six-month term. The cost for most undergraduate programs is \$3,225.00 each term with a flat-fee book (resource) fee of \$145 per term, making most undergraduate degree programs less than \$7,000 per year for an unlimited number of credits.

The new MOU with the Florida College System will focus on strong transfer of credits from the community college to WGU programs with equal or natural transfer into one of four colleges: Business, Information Technology, Health Professions and Teacher Education. The transfer pathways will be kept up-to-date and accessible through the https://partners.wgu.edu website. Transfer students from the Florida College System are eligible to apply for the WGU Community College Scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each which are disbursed in \$500 increments for up to four terms. The specifics of the updated articulation agreement can be viewed in the attached document.

WGU is committed to continuing to offer an affordable, flexible transfer option to students at the completion of their time with the Florida College System. We are proud to have 2,099 current enrolled students, 1,323 students who have enrolled in the past 12 months, and 1,490 cumulative graduates from Florida College System institutions. Our goal is to ensure that this partnership continues for years to come through this updated memorandum of understanding.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Hendrick, Ed.D. Senior National Community College Manager Western Governors University

Sample Articulation Agreement Template between Florida College System Partner Institutions and Western Governors University

This Articulation Agreement is entered into between Florida College System (FCS-PI) partner institutions and Western Governors University (WGU).

Purpose

- This articulation agreement formally recognizes that both institutions are active educational partners, committed to providing greater educational opportunities to students transferring between our two institutions. This partnership is committed to providing seamless transfer to advance individuals in their personal educational goals and advance the educational mission of FCS-PI.
- Both institutions enter into this articulation agreement in recognition of their mutual commitment to furthering the quality, affordability, and accessibility of higher education.
- Under the terms and conditions of this articulation agreement, participating graduates will maximize as much of their community college coursework and credits as outlined by the transfer articulation pathways.
- Through ongoing communication between their faculty and staff, FCS-PI and WGU will work together to address transfer obstacles that may present themselves throughout the partnership.
- The articulation agreement provides a structure through which transfer articulation is supported for all degree programs that are an equal or natural transfer between institutions. These articulations will include students from all FCS-PI campuses or locations.

Transfer Elements

Treatment of Florida College System associate degree transfer

This articulation agreement establishes the principles that all articulated associate degrees at FCS-PI transfer to WGU. All transferrable courses that are completed at FCS-PI with a letter of "C" or higher are accepted and applied toward the appropriate college degree (with the exception of licensure programs or state requirements where a grade of "B" or better may be required). Credits from transferrable courses completed with a letter grade below a "C" will not transfer.

Articulated associate degrees will be identified, maintained and available through the WGU landing page.

FCS-PI graduates must comply with all WGU application processes.

All applicable admission requirements must be met, and WGU will retain sole discretion in admission decisions.

Treatment of Florida College System coursework without an earned associate degree

Students who transfer to WGU with less than an associate degree or non-articulated degree will have their courses evaluated on a course-by-course basis and may be required to take any additional courses necessary to satisfy WGU degree requirements.

Obligations of WGU

- Articulation tables are provided for all programs that are a natural transfer to WGU and are to be used by counselors and faculty to share with students and staff interested in enrolling at WGU. These are available for viewing at https://partners.wgu.edu
- WGU will provide annual updates to FCS-PI on articulation pathway changes at the <u>https://partners.wgu.edu</u> landing page
- WGU will provide webinar training to FCS-PI faculty and staff to ensure understanding of the partnership and articulation pathways.
- Graduates and staff of FCS-PI will be eligible to apply for scholarships offered through the WGU Community College Partnership Scholarship. Scholarships are valued at up to \$2,000.00. Recipients will receive a \$500.00 tuition credit each term, renewable for up to four (4) terms based on satisfactory academic performance.
- WGU will provide print materials to disburse to interested students.
- WGU will provide a landing page to link your students and staff to the WGU website.

Obligations of Florida College System partner institution

- FCS-PI will highlight the partnership and education benefits of WGU through standard internal communication channels with faculty and staff.
- FCS-PI will establish a web link from institution's website to the WGU partner landing page <u>https://www.wgu.edu/cc</u>.
- FCS-PI will include information about WGU's programs and services in communications sent to pending graduates and prospective transfer students.
- FCS-PI will provide WGU with timely curriculum updates of all articulated associates degrees.

Joint Obligations

- FCS-PI and WGU agree to exchange data and documents as agreed that will assist in the maintenance and improvement of the transfer arrangements identified in this articulation agreement.
- WGU and FCS-PI agree to maintain regular communication to ensure program and transfer challenges are addressed.
- In the case of reverse articulation transfer requests initiated by students, both institutions will exchange admission, grades, and retention data after obtaining appropriate permission from the students involved and in compliance with all federal, state and local laws.
- All educational records created, disclosed, or maintained pursuant to the terms of this articulation agreement are confidential and shall be created, disclosed, and maintained pursuant to the provisions of Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Each party assures that it will not discriminate against any individual based on race, religion, creed, color, gender, age, disability, veteran status, national origin, or other protected status.
- Except as permitted by this articulation agreement, neither institution shall use the name or marks of the other institution in connection with any product, service, promotion, news release, or other publicity without the prior written consent of the other.
- WGU will collaborate with FCS-PI in the development, distribution, and accuracy of all transfer articulation pathways.
- WGU will send an update of all program changes to FSC-PI annually in the month of October.
- FCS-PI will provide WGU with a point of contact to include an email address that program updates can be sent to annually by the end of August. If no point of contact is provided, WGU will send the update to the email address provided the previous year, and updated articulation pathways can be accessed at https://partners.wgu.edu
- Transfer articulation pathways developed by the articulating institution are not valid without a signed articulation agreement.

Term of Articulation Agreement

This articulation agreement shall be effective upon the date of the last signature and serves as the basis of the partnership between the institutions for five (5) years from that date. The articulation agreement may be modified by mutual written consent or terminated by either party upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other institution. In the unlikely event the partnership is terminated, WGU agrees that FCS-PI graduates and staff then receiving any educational benefit described in this articulation agreement will receive the full value of that benefit towards their studies as long as they remain in continuous good academic standing at WGU.

WGU

FCS PARTNER INSTITUTION

Marni Baker Stein Provost Date

Name Title Date

<u>Contact information</u> Mary Hendrick, Ed.D., Senior National Community College Manager <u>mhendrick@wgu.edu</u>