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**TO:** Florida College System Council of Instructional Affairs 

**FROM:** Mike Sfiropoulos, Director of Academic Affairs, Division of Florida Colleges

**DATE:** November 29, 2021

**SUBJECT: Walden University – Letter of Interest**

The Division of Florida Colleges has received a Letter of Interest (LOI) from Walden University to establish articulation agreements with Florida College System (FCS) institutions. Per Florida Department of Education policy, the Office of Articulation will post the LOI on its website (<http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/articulation-agreements.stml>) for viewing by each institution. A copy of the LOI is also included with this memo.

Individual FCS institutions may enter into individual articulation agreements with Walden University at their discretion. The contact information for Walden University is Meg Harris, [margaret.harris@mail.waldenu.edu](mailto:margaret.harris@mail.waldenu.edu) or 813-330-0639.

Please feel free to contact the Office of Articulation at [Articulation@fldoe.org](mailto:Articulation@fldoe.org) or (850) 245-0427 or me at [Mike.Sfiropoulos@fldoe.org](mailto:Mike.Sfiropoulos@fldoe.org) or 850-245-9523 if you have any questions or concerns.

MS/lj

Attachment

Cc: Carrie Henderson, Ph.D., Executive Vice Chancellor, Division of Florida Colleges  
Katie Grissom, Deputy Director of Academic Affairs, Division of Florida Colleges  
Elizabeth Moya, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Articulation & Career Education Policy



November 15, 2021

Office of Articulation  
701 Turlington Building  
Florida Department of Education  
325 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Education Opportunities for Florida Colleges

I hope that you are healthy and well. My name is Meg Harris, and I am the Manager of Learning Partnerships for Walden University.

With so many colleges looking for new ways to support their students, faculty, and staff, I wanted to reach out to discuss **Walden's Learning Partnership Program**, and my interest in establishing articulation partnerships and higher education opportunities with Florida's colleges.

#### **ABOUT WALDEN**

For over 50 years, Walden University, an institution accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, is at the forefront of delivering high-quality online education to working professionals. In addition, we help strengthen hundreds of colleges just like the Florida Department of Education, to help students and faculty seamlessly continue their education journey.

With a mission of promoting positive social change, Walden prepares its graduates to transform their lives and their communities and has made the process of transferring credits as simple as possible.

#### **PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS**

We offer affordable articulation opportunities to your students and alumni, while also focusing on your faculty and staff through numerous continuing education opportunities. Benefits of a partnership include:

- **Education for All:** With over 100 degree and certificate programs ranging from ranging from Bachelor to PhD level, Walden offers students, alumni, staff, and faculty from Florida colleges an opportunity to advance their education and careers at any stage. Popular areas of study include education, criminal justice, public health, human services, public policy, and administration, as well as a variety of nursing options such as BSN, MSN, DNP, PhD, and post-master's specialty certificates.



- **Leadership Pathways**  
Florida College System faculty and employees can help lead the way in education and benefit from Walden’s Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) with specializations such as Community College Leadership, Educational Administration and Leadership, Higher Education Leadership and Management, and Educational Technology and Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.
- **Two Ways to Learn:** In addition to traditional course-based learning, Walden also offers Tempo Competency-Based Learning® which allows students to personalize and control the **length, cost, and pacing** of their program. The Tempo Learning® option, an all-you-can-learn subscription-based tuition model, is available for many bachelors’ and master’s degree programs, including our RN-BSN and MSN programs.
- **Affordable Education:** Through a Walden Learning Partnership, Florida College System’s **students, graduates, faculty, and staff** will be eligible to receive exclusive partner tuition reductions.
- **Easily Transfer Credits:** Students can potentially speed up their program completion and reduce degree costs by transferring credits to a degree program at Walden.
- **Dedicated Support:** Walden Learning Partners work with a dedicated contact to uncover collaborative opportunities for your college(s), along with providing select, easy-to-understand transfer guides (established locally with individual colleges) outlining credit transfer options across a variety of disciplines.

I have attached a draft copy of an articulation agreement for your review. I look forward to discussing the benefits of a Walden University Learning Partnership, our user-friendly transfer guides for select undergraduate and graduate programs, and the unique educational options available to Florida College Systems students, alumni, staff, and faculty.

Sincerely,

**Meg Harris**

Manager, Learning Partnerships

Walden University

(813) 330-0639

margaret.harris@mail.waldenu.edu

*For more information on Walden University programs: <https://www.waldenu.edu/programs>*



## Articulation Agreement

Walden University  
and  
[COLLEGE NAME]

In the spirit of academic cooperation, and in order to facilitate the seamless transfer of credit between institutions, this Articulation Agreement is made between [COLLEGE NAME] and Walden University and dated this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_ (the “Agreement”).

### I. PARTIES

A. Walden University



Walden University has supported working professionals in achieving their academic goals and making a greater impact in their professions and their communities. The university provides students with an engaging educational experience that connects them with expert faculty and peers around the world.

Walden offers bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees online. Areas of study include health sciences, counseling, human services, management, psychology, education, public health, nursing, and public administration. Walden University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission [www.ncahlc.org](http://www.ncahlc.org). For more information, visit [www.WaldenU.edu](http://www.WaldenU.edu).

B. [COLLEGE NAME]

Brief Description

### II. PURPOSE

This Agreement outlines the transferability of courses from [COLLEGE NAME] to programs at Walden University and the terms and conditions for partner/client organization participation. Specific program-to-program transfer pathways are set forth in Section III below and included in the Addendum of this Agreement.



### III. TRANSFER PATHWAY(S)

1. Walden University is regionally accredited; all academic course work in which a student has earned a grade of “C” or higher is fully transferable based on the attached transfer pathways or as determined by the registrar of Walden University.
2. Students enrolling at Walden University are eligible to transfer up to 135 quarter credit hours (90 semester credits) toward a bachelor's degree, including up to 90 quarter credits (60 semester credits) from sources approved by accrediting bodies recognized by CHEA or the US Department of Education. These sources include but are not limited to CLEP, DANTEs, ACE, and prior learning portfolios -- providing the learning experience meets the standards of the university, is comparable to content offered by the university, and is appropriate and applicable to the university's programs.
3. **Based on the transfer tables attached in the Addendum, and stated policies of the university,** Walden guarantees transferability of all credits outlined in the following [COLLEGE NAME] (degrees/certificates) to the corresponding Walden University degrees

<INSERT TRANSFER PATHWAY NAMES>

EXAMPLE:

<XXXX CC AS in \_\_\_\_\_ to Walden University BS in \_\_\_\_\_>

### IV. TERMS AND TERMINATION

1. Because of this agreement to articulate, and provided the individual identifies [COLLEGE NAME] by inquiring through the dedicated information channel provided to [COLLEGE NAME], a ten percent (10%) tuition reduction is available to eligible students, alumni, faculty, and other employees of [COLLEGE NAME]. This tuition reduction is applicable as of the date this Agreement is fully executed by the parties below and remains in effect for the duration of the student's continuous enrollment at Walden. No tuition credit or refund shall be made retroactively for any eligible student already enrolled at Walden University on the date of execution of this Agreement; however, the tuition reduction shall be applied to such eligible employees or alumni for course enrollments following the execution of this Agreement. Tuition reductions are applicable to tuition only and do not apply toward books, materials, and other supplies or fees needed for a course. Failure to facilitate communication through dedicated channels may result in not being eligible for the Tuition Benefit. Programs offered at military tuition assistance levels are not subject to this reduction.

Walden University may change its tuition rates at any time at its sole discretion and the reduction will be calculated based on the current tuition in effect for the applicable academic term for the



enrolled program. Eligible employees, faculty and students and alumni shall not be entitled to any other reduction and are subject to all other admission and continuation requirements as set forth in the respective Walden University policies and catalogs.

*\*\*The Family Nurse Practitioner specialization in the MSN program is excluded from this tuition reduction. Walden may change the tuition reduction offered hereunder at any time, but such change will not affect the tuition reduction for students who are currently enrolled at Walden and using the existing tuition reduction. All tuition reductions, grants, or scholarships are subject to specific eligibility requirements.*

2. This Agreement will automatically renew on the last day of the month, three years from the date that it is executed, unless terminated by either party in writing. Should any changes to the Agreement be required, it will be necessary to follow the process outlined in V(F). Either party may terminate this Agreement for any reason with 90 days written notice. Such termination shall not affect the rights of any students participating in any program under this Agreement prior to receipt of such notice. This Agreement will terminate automatically in the event that either party fails to maintain its accreditation status.

## V. OTHER PROVISIONS

- A. Admission to Walden University. Participation in the Agreement does not guarantee any [COLLEGE NAME] student or employee admission to Walden University. Potential students must apply in accordance with the procedures set forth by the University from time to time.
- B. FERPA. For purposes of this Agreement, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), Walden and [COLLEGE NAME] will only be permitted to exchange student information with an appropriate release provided by the student. A sample of such release is attached hereto as Attachment A.
- C. Confidential Information. Walden and [COLLEGE NAME] acknowledge that, during the term of this Agreement and in the course of performing their obligations hereunder, they may disclose to each other certain confidential information and trade secrets relating to their respective past, present and future research, data, business strategies, marketing plans, development and business activities, designs, computer programs and code, systems, customer lists, personnel, student and financial information (“Confidential Information”).

Walden and [COLLEGE NAME] agree that, until such time as the Confidential Information enters the public domain through no fault of their own, they will never, directly or indirectly, use, disseminate, or disclose, any of the Confidential Information disclosed to one of them by or on behalf of the other without the prior written consent of the party to whom the Confidential Information belongs, except as may be required in the course of performing their respective



obligations under this Agreement or as required by applicable public records law.

Walden and [COLLEGE NAME] agree to protect the Confidential Information from use or disclosure using no less than a reasonable degree of care. Upon expiration or termination of this Agreement, or upon the other party's request, Walden and University Name agree to return to the other party to whom the Confidential Information belongs all copies of Confidential Information, and all drawings, documents, records, notebooks, disks, tapes, data residing or recorded in electronic media, and all other representations of Confidential Information, whether prepared by Walden, [COLLEGE NAME], or others.

- D. Enforcement. [COLLEGE NAME] and Walden University are the only Parties to this Agreement and are the only Parties entitled to enforce its terms. Nothing in this Agreement gives, or is intended to give, or shall be construed to give or provide any benefit or right, whether directly, indirectly, or otherwise, to any third person not a party to this Agreement.
- E. Non-Exclusivity. [COLLEGE NAME] and Walden University reserve the right to enter into similar agreements with other institutions.
- F. Review Cycle. [COLLEGE NAME] and Walden University agree to review the Agreement every three years on the anniversary of its signing, unless either party gives notice to the other at an earlier time that modifications or changes have occurred. In the event that changes to the Agreement are required, those changes will be updated in an Addendum that will be attached to the Agreement and signed by both parties.
- G. Choice of Law. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Maryland.
- H. Notice. Any notice required hereunder shall be sent by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested and shall be deemed given three (3) days after deposit thereof in the U.S. mail (postage prepaid).
- I. Curriculum Review. This Articulation Agreement is based on the current curriculum of both educational institutions. Each institution is responsible for notifying the other of any substantive changes to the curriculum. This agreement shall be reviewed by both institutions every three (3) years.
- J. Trademarks. The parties grant to each other a limited non-exclusive, non-transferable license to use each other's trademarks and servicemarks in furtherance of the articulation coordination detailed herein or in a manner solely for the purpose of identifying and communicating the existence of the relationship to [COLLEGE NAME] students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Use of trademarks, servicemarks and logos will comply with use policies of the originating institution. The parties shall discontinue the use of the licensed marks and return any and all files and materials containing the licensed marks supplied by the owner at termination or expiration of the



Agreement. Neither party grants to the other any permanent or exclusive interest in the other party's trademarks. Should either originating institution request, in writing, that a particular use of the originating institution's trademarks and/or servicemarks be discontinued, the non-originating institution shall cease and desist such use of the trademarks and/or servicemarks.

- K. Agreement to Communicate. [COLLEGE NAME] agrees to regularly communicate to students, alumni, faculty, and staff via mutually acceptable formats, and to host Walden representatives on campus for recruitment activities during the academic school year.
  
- L. Understanding of the Parties. This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding of the parties hereto and supersedes any and all prior agreement, arrangement, and understandings, oral or written, of any nature whatsoever, between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof.

**VI. CONTACTS FOR COORDINATION:**

Walden University:

[COLLEGE NAME]:

Meg Harris, Manager of Learning Partnerships

NAME, TITLE

813-357-9314

TEL.:

[margaret.harris@mail.waldenu.edu](mailto:margaret.harris@mail.waldenu.edu)

EMAIL:





**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVALS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Subocz, Ph.D.  
Provost and Chief Academic Officer  
Walden University

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
President/Vice President Academic Affairs  
[COLLEGE NAME]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas O'Shea  
Vice President, Strategic Partnerships  
Walden University

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE  
[COLLEGE NAME]



ATTACHMENT A

**WALDEN UNIVERSITY Student Information Release Form (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law designed to protect the privacy of a student's education records, including academic, financial and financial aid records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under a program of the U.S. Department of Education. This act protects your personal information from being distributed to third parties without your consent, unless permitted by law. This form must be completed and returned to the appropriate University office either by fax or mail, before any information can be released to a third party (i.e., spouse, employer, etc.). This form remains on file with the University.

**STUDENT INFORMATION:**

Student's Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State  ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (Format: YYYY-MM-DD) \_\_\_\_\_ [Note: Third Party must give student's date of birth to verify identity when requesting information.]

**REASON FOR RELEASE:**

**RELEASE INFORMATION TO:**

Full Name and/or Title of Individual \_\_\_\_\_ Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State  ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**RELEASE AUTHORIZATION:**

Select one of the options below to identify the type of information to be released. Return this form to the corresponding office.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Academic Record<br><b>Office of the Registrar</b><br>7065 Samuel Morse Drive<br>Columbia, MD 21046<br>Fax: 410-209-8044 | <input type="radio"/> Financial Aid Information<br><b>Office of Financial Aid</b><br>7065 Samuel Morse Drive<br>Columbia, MD 21046<br>Fax: 410-209-8026 | <input type="radio"/> Information Relating to My Student Account<br><b>Office of the Bursar</b><br>7065 Samuel Morse Drive<br>Columbia, MD 21046<br>Fax: 410-843-6614 |
|---|---|---|

**SPECIFIC INFORMATION TO BE RELEASED:**

I hereby authorize release of the data specified above to the individual named above, for a period of one year from date of receipt.



## TRANSFER PATHWAY ADDENDUM

<Insert transfer pathways here>