



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
College of Nursing Academic Affairs - Black Hawk College
BETWEEN
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AND
BLACK HAWK COLLEGE

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into by and between The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, a public body, corporate and politic of the State of Illinois on behalf of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing ("CON") and UIC Extended Campus ("UIC EC") (hereinafter collectively referred to as "University") and Black Hawk College, located at 6600 34th Avenue, Moline, Illinois, 61265, (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Community College").

It is the shared intention of the Community College and the University to create well-defined dual admission pathways (hereinafter referred to as "Pathways") from the Community College's Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program to the University's online RN to BSN degree completion program (hereinafter referred to as "Program") and to build a strong support system for those students interested in pursuing this educational goal.

This cooperative relationship is undertaken for the purpose of increasing access to high quality educational opportunities for qualified Community College students. In so doing, it seeks to address the Community College's desire to increase the number of students who exhibit a high degree of motivation and academic achievement, have an aptitude for and demonstrate an interest in online education, and who seek a quality baccalaureate to post-baccalaureate education from a research university. The fully online UIC RN-BSN degree completion program will allow nursing students of the Community College to achieve their academic and career goals while continuing to live and work in their home region. By working directly with the Community College to enroll eligible students, the Program will have the opportunity to increase its enrollments and support UIC's mission to provide a wide range of students with access to education and serve as Illinois' "principle educator of health science professionals."

The dual admissions pathway allows nursing students to achieve an associate degree in nursing at the Community College, while at the same time enrolling in identified courses which are part of the Program at the University.

DESCRIPTION OF PATHWAYS

Three Pathways have been identified into the Program:

1. **High School Dual Admission:** supports high school students, considering a nursing career. Students participate in a dual credit/enrollment program offered by the Community College and take courses that simultaneously satisfy high school, Community College, and University requirements for the Associate and Bachelor's degrees in Nursing.
2. **Pre-Nursing:** pre-nursing students at the Community College receive specific academic advising during the pre-nursing phase, and then students accepted into the Community College's nursing program are eligible to apply for degree seeking admission to the University's Program and complete the Associate's Degree in Nursing, while also enrolling in identified courses which are part of the Program.
3. **RN to BSN:** is geared toward Community College graduates who have been awarded their Associate Degree in Nursing.
4. The above pathways provide a guideline for course and degree progression. Students will be evaluated and advised as to progression through ADN completion with the Community College and BSN completion with the Program in an individualized manner addressing their specific case.

Students from the High School Dual Admission or Pre-Nursing Pathway, who are pursuing an Associate Degree in Nursing at the Community College must:

- Be enrolled in a pre-nursing or nursing degree as defined by the Community College;
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.50/4.00; and
- Apply for degree seeking dual admission to the University.

Students in the RN to BSN pathway must:

- Meet standard admission criteria of the Program.

UNIVERSITY ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A Pathways student must apply for admission the term previous to which the student will enroll in a Program course at the University (e.g. apply in Spring to take a course in Summer). To apply to the University for admission to the Program, a Pathways student must:

- Complete an application to the University;
- Submit official transcripts for all post-secondary coursework completed to date;
- Pay the required application fee;
- Complete a Pathways authorization form which identifies the student as a Pathway participant and allows for exchange of all application and academic information between Community College and University;
- Complete a financial aid consortium agreement per individual student between Community College and the University, including acknowledgment of tuition and fees responsibilities. An agreement is required for each term in which courses are taken at both institutions. To clarify any doubt, the consortium agreement occurs at the student level for each individual student seeking financial aid. It is not a signed contract between the two institutions.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING DEGREE CONFERRAL

Upon successful completion of the ADN requirements of the Community College, Pathways students will be awarded the ADN by the Community College and fully matriculate into the University Program as degree-seeking students. The University will confer the Bachelors of Science in Nursing, after the following graduation requirements are met:

- Obtained ADN from the Community College;
- Holds an active US Registered Nurse (RN) license;
- Completion of 57 transferable general education and liberal arts and science credits with a grade of C or higher from any accredited community college, college, or university;
- Successful completion of Program requirements with grade of C or higher;
- Compliance with any additional University undergraduate student graduation requirements as indicated in university catalogs and student handbooks, as they may be changed from time to time.

PATHWAYS AWARENESS

The Community College and the University will cooperate to identify effective ways to communicate with and inform eligible Community College students about the Pathways and Program.

To accomplish this, the Community College and University will endeavor to:

- A. Raise awareness of the Program as a viable option for students of the Community College interested in pursuing a Bachelor's of Nursing degree.**
 - 1) UIC EC to provide student advising to Pathways students while enrolled at the high school or Community College. UIC EC advisors will be available from initial inquiry (prior to application) throughout the entire pathway.
 - 2) UIC EC to provide Community College with marketing materials related to the Pathways and Program for display on the Community College's premises.
 - 3) Community College to consult with UIC EC on other opportunities (beyond traditional education fairs, table visits, webinars, etc.) for communicating information about the Program to Community College students.
 - 4) UIC EC and Community College will inform students interested in a BSN about the Program.

- B. Build a strong support system at both Community College and UIC for prospective students who are interested in pursuing the Program.**
 - 1) UIC EC to provide advisor training to Community College advisors including review of Program prerequisites, admission requirements and Program structure to better prepare advising staff to respond to student inquiries about the Program.
 - 2) UIC EC will collaborate with staff at the Community College to develop advising tools for advisors and students to understand the Pathways options. Such tools will be appropriate for posting on the Community College and University websites.
 - 3) Community College to provide Pathways students reasonable access to a variety of student support services, e.g. library support, reading/writing skills, navigating the online learning management systems of both/either institutions, throughout the entire

pathway to BSN completion, as requested by the student.

C. Develop individualized academic plans for Community College's students in order to facilitate the completion of general education requirements for the Bachelors of Science in Nursing, while at the Community College.

- 1) Community College to work collaboratively with UIC EC to identify prospective students in order for UIC EC to provide pre-admission advising.
- 2) Community College representatives to provide general Program information to Community College students interested in the Program and refer students to UIC's RN-BSN admission advisors.
- 3) UIC EC's admission advisors will provide free transcript evaluations to all prospective students inquiring about the Program. Advisors will work with the student to develop an individualized plan and identify outstanding general education requirements (if any) that need to be completed.
- 4) UIC EC will work with Community College to provide on-site advising sessions at Community College for prospective students to create individualized plans.
- 5) The Community College is not precluded from advising students to meet the requirements for the ADN or the Program or responding to students' transfer inquiries. UIC and Community College advisors will work collaboratively to best serve the student in pursuit of their educational goals.

D. Identify the number of Community College students who are admitted to the Program and their completion rates.

UIC EC to track all Community College students admitted to the Program and provide information on students to Community College, as permitted by FERPA. Information to be shared includes: name of student, admission date, expected graduation date, and enrollment status.

1. PROGRAM TUITION

As of the date of this MOU, the current rate for the Program is \$475 per credit hour. The tuition rate is set by the University's Board of Trustees and is subject to change without notice. Students are responsible for their own tuition and/or fees. Both the community college and the university will advise students in their degree programs of this responsibility.

2. TERM

The term of this MOU will commence on the date last signed below and will expire after five (5) years, unless terminated as provided herein or extended by mutual written agreement.

3. RENEWAL OPTIONS

The Parties may renew this MOU annually only by written amendment signed by each Party's authorized signatory. The term, including all renewals, shall not exceed ten (10) years.

4. TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

Either Party may terminate this MOU for convenience upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other Party. Provided, however, arrangements shall be made to allow any students already accepted as a degree-seeking student in the Program to complete it according to the terms in effect immediately prior to termination.

5. EFFECTS OF TERMINATION

Upon termination of this MOU, neither Party shall have any further obligation to the other except for obligations accruing prior to the date of termination, and obligations, promises, or covenants contained herein which are expressly made to extend beyond the term of this MOU, such as allowing students already accepted as a degree-seeking student in the Program to complete it to complete it according to the terms in effect immediately prior to termination.

6. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

Community College and University are independent contractors with respect to each other and nothing herein shall create any association, partnership, joint venture or agency relationship between them.

7. NOTIFICATION

All matters requiring the approval or consent of either party related to this MOU shall be requested in writing and are not effective until given in writing. Parties may change the place of receiving a notice with respect to this MOU by giving written notice at least thirty (30) days in advance of its effectivity. Notices and other communications shall be given in writing by personal delivery, United States Postal Service mail, express delivery, facsimile, or electronic transmission addressed to the respective parties as follows:

If to University:

Dara Crowfoot
Assistant Vice Chancellor
University of Illinois at Chicago
UIC Extended Campus (MC 140)
1333 South Halsted Street, Suite 205
Chicago, Illinois 60607
Phone: 312-996-8586
Fax: 312-413-9730
Email: crowfoot@uic.edu

If to Community College:

Amy Maxeiner
Vice President for Instruction
Black Hawk College
6600 24th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265
Phone: 309-796-5000
Fax: (309) 792-8127. Email:
Maxeiner@bhc.edu

8. USE OF NAME

Both parties agree not to use the name of the other party for any commercial purpose without prior written approval. Community College may be required to acknowledge work performed under this MOU by University. University may be required to acknowledge relationship with Community College under this MOU.

9. PARTIAL INVALIDITY

If any provision of this MOU is or becomes invalid or unenforceable by law, the remainder shall be valid and enforceable.

10. FERPA

Certain information about Students contained in University's records is deemed confidential by reason of the Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g), also referred to as FERPA. Both Community College and University agree to protect these records in accordance with FERPA. To the extent permitted by law, nothing contained herein shall be construed as precluding either party from releasing such information to the other so that each can perform its respective responsibilities.

11. GOVERNING LAW

This MOU is to be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois. Both Parties agree that jurisdiction and venue for the formal resolution of any disputes relating to this MOU shall lie exclusively in the Illinois Court of Claims for claims against the University and in a court of competent jurisdiction in Madison County for claims against Community College.

12. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This MOU represents the entire agreement between Community College and University regarding the Program and supersedes all prior agreements or understandings in connection herewith. This MOU shall be modified only by written revision hereto, each of which must be duly executed by authorized representatives of Community College and University.

SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS

APPROVAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this MOU to be executed in duplicate originals by their duly authorized representatives as of the latest date set forth below. This MOU shall not be binding until signed by all Parties. The persons signing this MOU represent that all articles are true and correct and that they have authority to bind their respective Parties.

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**

BLACK HAWK COLLEGE

By: *Bernadette Rossmore
Avijit Ghosh*
Avijit Ghosh
Comptroller

By: *Amy Maxeiner*
Amy Maxeiner
Vice President for Instruction

Date: Bernadette Rossmore,
Coordinator of Business and
Financial Services
2020.10.19 18:18:30 -05'00'

Date: 9/23/2020