

Transfer Agreements Partner NCC Students with Success

Seamless transfer pathways open up options for community college students

With student success at the heart of its mission, Northampton Community College (NCC) is committed to helping students reach their educational and professional goals. For students seeking a high-quality, affordable start to a bachelor's degree, NCC provides not just the foundational programs and courses to prepare students for success but the transfer agreements that make their path to a bachelor's degree a seamless transition.

NCC has over 100 transfer agreements with over 55 colleges and universities to help students make the leap from community college to the four-year school of their choice. Many of those agreements are with schools in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PSSHE). In fact, four PSSHE schools consistently rank in the top 10 transfer destinations for NCC students: Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg, East Stroudsburg University (ESU), Kutztown University, and West Chester University.

Among NCC's newest transfer partnerships is an agreement inked this past January with Commonwealth University. The agreement allows NCC students to enter Commonwealth with full junior standing in a parallel major with an offer for a renewable scholarship based on academic performance at both NCC and Commonwealth. Depending on the student's GPA, the student may receive up to \$4,500 annually if living on campus or up to \$3,000 if living off campus.

Students planning to transfer to ESU can take advantage of an agreement that provides guaranteed admission with an earned associate degree and scholarships up to \$6,000 per year. Similar to the Commonwealth agreement, students will enter ESU with full junior standing. If an NCC student transfers without an earned degree, but with 60 or more credits, ESU will coordinate with NCC to help the student complete a "reverse transfer," allowing the student to transfer ESU credits back to NCC in order to complete an associate degree while still working toward a bachelor's degree at ESU.

Another great opportunity for NCC students who are ESU bound is the Clear Path Scholarship Program. Current NCC students interested in pursuing a degree in a STEM field at ESU may apply for the Clear Path Scholarship and receive up to \$5,200 per year (\$10,400 total) in scholarship funds while at NCC. Additionally, the Clear Path Scholarship provides students with a tremendous opportunity to build relationships with the ESU STEM community while still at NCC.

NCC also is a member of PA TRAC, a center established to help Pennsylvania students move easily between community colleges and four-year institutions. Under PA TRAC's Transfer Credit Framework, students may transfer up to 30 credits of foundation courses to any of the participating colleges and universities. Those credits will fulfill the student's graduation requirements, including courses in English, public speaking, math, science, art, humanities, history, and the behavioral and social sciences.

All students at NCC, including those who are part-time, full-time, or fully online, are assigned an academic advisor. In addition, NCC has a dedicated transfer advisor who works with students to plan their courses and explore options. Each semester, NCC's Academic Advising Office hosts transfer fairs at both its Bethlehem and Pocono campuses to allow students to meet with four-year representatives right on campus.

NCC's academic advisors continuously strive to provide their students with the best advice when it comes to navigating the transfer process. Recently, Jessica Leese, associate academic advisor at NCC, was named to the University of Pittsburgh's Counselor Advisory Board. As a board member, she will collaborate with school and independent counselors, community college advisors, and community-based organization leaders to gain valuable insights into transfer processes and emerging trends in higher education.

With an enduring commitment to the regional communities it serves and a focus on student success, NCC is an educational institution of extraordinary distinction, earning accolades at the state and national levels for its innovative programs, outstanding faculty, and impressive student achievements. NCC has locations in Bethlehem, Southside Bethlehem, and Monroe County, serving 30,000 students annually from 53 counties, 42 countries, and 25 states. To learn more about NCC, please visit northampton.edu.