

UWM - WCTC Associate Degree Student Transfer Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System on behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee ("UWM") and Waukesha County Technical College ("WCTC").

Consistent with our institutional missions and commitments to the region and student and community success and prosperity, UWM and WCTC agree to cooperate to better serve students and facilitate a smooth transfer process to significantly increase the number of associate degree holders in Wisconsin who complete bachelor's degrees and beyond.

This agreement will apply to students who earn their associate degree from WCTC and are admitted to UWM beginning with the Summer 2024 term.

UWM and WCTC agree as follows:

1. **Guaranteed Admission to UWM**

- a. UWM will admit as a degree-seeking, bachelor's degree student any student who meets all of the following requirements:
 - i. completed high school as evidenced by high school diploma, GED, or HSED.
 - ii. earned or will earn within the semester of application an associate degree from WCTC.
 - iii. achieved at least a 2.000 Cumulative GPA.
- b. Interested students will complete an online intent form indicating their interest in UWM admission, in lieu of a formal admission application. The intent form will inform students, consistent with 34 CFR 99.31(a)(2) and 99.34(a)(1), that UWM and WCTC may share personally identifiable information about the student to facilitate the student's enrollment at UWM.
- c. Students should complete the intent form and meet with the designated UWM Transfer Admissions Counselor as early as possible in their associate's program to create a personalized plan for transfer credits.
- d. Admission to UWM is guaranteed under section (a) above, but several UWM degree programs have additional admission requirements, and students will need to meet those requirements to be considered for acceptance into those programs.
- e. Failure to meet the admission requirements above does not preclude a student from applying and being considered for admission to UWM using the traditional admission process.
- f. UWM will invite WCTC students who have submitted an intent form to selected social and networking events at UWM prior to their matriculation.

2. **Credits and course transfer**

- a. UWM will award a minimum of 60 transfer credits to *all* students who have a completed associate degree earned from WCTC.
- b. Courses that have direct equivalents at UWM as non-credit bearing courses will transfer in as their non-credit equivalents, for example some developmental math courses, which can establish math placement but not credit. Non-credit coursework does not apply towards the (at least) 120 credits required for graduation.
- c. A maximum of 72 credits can be transferred to a UWM bachelor's degree from a technical college, per current policy. Individual programs or colleges may increase this maximum if the credits will apply to the degree.

- d. Courses for which UWM does not have comparable curricular areas will transfer in as free electives.

3. Promotion of Agreement and Transfer Student Support

- a. WCTC will advertise this agreement and make available the intent form to their associate-seeking students throughout their career.
- b. After intent form completion, students may receive communications from either institution regarding presentations, workshops, activities, student events, and visits.
- c. WCTC will invite UWM transfer staff to appropriate WCTC student events to promote the agreement and assist students.
- d. Support for students transferring to UWM under this agreement is detailed in Appendix A.

4. Pathways to bachelor's degree completion

- a. UWM bachelor's degrees require 120 credits minimum, including at least 30 credits "in residence" at UWM. This means courses taken directly from UWM, any modality, but excludes credit by exam such as AP, and transfer courses. Individual programs may require more credits in residence, or specify residence credits, such as the last 30 credits must be taken from UWM.
- b. UWM and WCTC will collaborate to increase the number of program-to-program articulation agreements and advertise these pathways on a public website.
- c. General Education Requirements for UWM Bachelor's degrees are currently: <https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#generaleducationtext>.
- d. Students entering UWM with an AA or AS will have completed the general education distribution requirements, per UW System Administrative Policy 135.
- e. Each student's remaining GER competency requirements (Math (such as quantitative reasoning), English composition, foreign language (2 years of high school foreign language will satisfy)) will be dependent upon the courses taken by the student during their associate degree.
- f. Associate of Applied Science holders will likely need to complete additional general education courses after their transfer to UWM.
- g. See Appendix B for more information on current articulation agreements and a selection of UWM bachelor's degrees that may be completed by a wide range of associate degree holders.

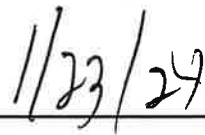
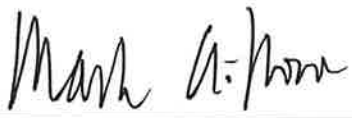
5. FERPA Compliance

UWM and WCTC are each bound to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") in their handling of educational records of students enrolled in their programs. Consistent with 34 CFR 99.31(a)(2) and 99.34(1)(a), UWM and WCTC may share personally identifiable information about those WCTC students who have indicated their written intent to pursue enrollment at UWM using the intent form so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer. Any other sharing of personally identifiable information requires the student's written consent. Unless required by judicial or regulatory authority, neither party shall be permitted to authorize and further disclose the educational records of the other party to persons or entities not a party to this agreement without first having received permission of the other party, and having obtained assurances that the other party has fully complied with FERPA. Any permitted disclosure to persons or entities not a party to this agreement shall be under the condition that no further disclosure by such party shall be permitted.

6. Additional Terms

- a. This agreement will begin on the date it is fully executed and continue for 5 years. Renewal after 5 years may be mutually agreed.
- b. Either institution may terminate this agreement with 180 days advance written notice. WCTC students who apply to UWM prior to the termination date will be permitted to transfer under the agreement terms.
- c. Each institution shall maintain all necessary and required accreditations with the appropriate accreditation agencies, including the Higher Learning Commission. In the event either institution's accreditation is revoked or otherwise limited, this agreement shall terminate immediately.
- d. Each institution will make the terms of this agreement public and may develop marketing materials for its promotion.
- e. Both institutions must review and approve marketing materials created for the promotion of this agreement and will adhere to each institution's standards for the use of their respective names and logos.
- f. Each institution will provide academic and other advising as appropriate to interested students regarding this agreement.
- g. The institutions agree to provide data and information necessary to aid in the successful transfer of these students and their academic credits.
- h. UWM and WCTC will each be responsible for billing the student for the respective courses taken at each institution.
- i. UWM and WCTC shall designate an individual(s) to serve as a representative for the purpose of monitoring and coordinating this agreement. Each institution should notify the other institution in writing of the person's name and contact information prior to commencement of each semester.
- j. To the extent permitted by applicable law, UWM shall hold WCTC, its officers, agents, trustees, and employees harmless from any and all claims, demands, losses, damages, liabilities, costs, judgments, settlements and charges arising out of or directly related to negligent acts or omissions of UWM or its officers, agents, trustees, and employees. This obligation shall survive any termination of this agreement.
- k. To the extent permitted by applicable law, WCTC shall hold UWM, its officers, agents, trustees, and employees harmless from any and all claims, demands, losses, damages, liabilities, costs, judgments, settlements and charges arising out of or directly related to negligent acts or omissions of WCTC or its officers, agents, trustees, and employees. This obligation shall survive any termination of this agreement.
- l. Neither institution shall discriminate against students based on any status protected by applicable state or federal law.
- m. This agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive laws of the State of Wisconsin. All disputes arising out of this agreement will be resolved in Wisconsin state court.
- n. Any modifications and amendments to this agreement must be in writing and signed by authorized agents of both institutions.

Approved by:



Mark A. Mone, Ph.D.
Chancellor, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System
on Behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Date



Richard G. Barnhouse, Ph.D.
President, Waukesha County Technical College

Date

Appendix A

Transfer Student Support

Scholarships: New transfer students at UWM are encouraged to complete the [Panther Scholarship Portal](#) General Application to be automatically considered for admission scholarships and others. Use the [Transfer Student Scholarships filter](#) to view opportunities specific to you.

Transfer students with a minimum GPA of 3.0 are eligible to apply for the UWM Excellence Award for New Transfer Students as advertised in the [Panther Scholarship Portal](#) to be considered for a one-time award for their first semester. Amounts vary.

Several of our schools and colleges offer scholarships unique to incoming transfer students. Additional information is available at scholarships.uwm.edu.

Transfer Student Orientation. Students who transfer to UWM will have opportunities to engage in orientation content online through our learning management system Canvas, an on-campus visit program, and Panther Transition Experience. Throughout this process students will have the opportunity to get familiar with campus and resources, address logistical questions and concerns, meet with an academic advisor and other students, enroll in courses, and prepare for their 1st day of classes as a UWM Panther.

Student Support: UWM provides a comprehensive array of services for students including the Military and Veterans Resource Center, the Student Parent Success Program, Multicultural Centers, the Children's Learning Center for those needing childcare, the Women's Resource Center, Union Student Involvement that focuses on events, student organizations, the arts, and leadership development, the Student Success Center that provides academic supports such as tutoring, the Writing Center, Student Health and Wellness for physical and mental health, and many more.

UWM begins supporting students prior to their arrival via transfer and new student orientation and then celebrates students' arrival on campus via a comprehensive transition program called Fall Welcome. Throughout the year, students have access to the aforementioned services as well as an array of events and activities that nurture friendships, allow students to have fun and relax, and support their skill development while jump-starting their careers and ability to positive impact their community via leadership development opportunities.

Appendix B

General education, college, and program articulation agreements (such as for programs in Nursing, Arts, and more) are advertised on UWM's public websites, currently at both of the following locations.

- <https://uwm.edu/registrar/students/articulation-agreements/>
- <https://uwm.edu/registrar/students/your-student-record/transfer-credits/transferring-course-credits/>

More broadly, UWM (as of December 2023) has five bachelor's degrees that are sufficiently flexible they can be completed in roughly two years by any associate degree holder (more efficiently with early advising on transferrable general education requirements). In alphabetical order:

Degree Name	Modality	Major Cr Required	Notes
Biomedical Sciences: Health Sciences Degree Completion Program, BS	Fully online or Flex online	requires 42 specific credits (beyond UWM GERs)	This allows space for associate degree holders to also complete some remaining GER's in their last 60 cr
Community Engagement and Education, BS	Hybrid or fully online	requires 54 credits some of which may also be chosen to fulfill needed GER's	students may earn credit for past professional experience via UWM's Prior Learning Assessment Policy
Criminal Justice, BS	Hybrid, working toward fully online	requires 42 cr beyond UWM GERs).	This allows space for associate degree holders to also complete some remaining GER's in their last 60 cr
General Letters, BA	Face-to-face, hybrid, and soon fully online	Requires 45 upper division credits. Only requires 2 years of HS foreign language. Currently requires 90 cr in letters and sciences or transfer-equivalent courses	Best for liberal arts associate degree holders or those with many transferrable gen eds
Information Science and Technology, BS	Hybrid, fully online, or flex online	requires 45 InfoStudies credits beyond UWM GERs, and 12 cr "cross-functional electives" from Business, Communication, Technical Arts, and Philosophy or Psychology	allows 42 cr free electives

Additionally, UWM has many bachelor's degrees that are appropriate for students with an associate in specific backgrounds. In addition to the many program-to-program specific articulation agreements (posted here: <https://uwm.edu/registrar/students/articulation-agreements/>), many students may find the following programs of interest.

- “General Business, BBA” is popular with re-entry and transfer students, and may be attractive to students with more than one interest area in business, as it requires upper division business electives to be completed from more than one area,
- “Applied Computing, BS” is fully online and requires 61 specific cr (in addition to the UWM GER’s),
- “Computer Science, BA” requires 34 credits of specific computer science credits, one semester of calculus, UWM GERs, and a specialized associate degree (such as any associate of applied science) or a minor or double major,
- And especially for AA or AS holders, College of Letters and Science degrees require additional “breadth” liberal arts courses beyond the UWM GERs, *but* often fewer credits in the major, thus can be completed efficiently especially by liberal arts associate degree holders (as currently they do require 90 cr in letters and sciences courses, including courses that transfer in as letters and sciences courses).

For example, the following BA degrees are offered both face-to-face and online, and each requires between 30 and 36 credits in the major:

- Psychology, BA
- Communication, BA
- History, BA
- Jewish Studies, BA
- Political Science, BA
- Sociology, BA.