



ARTICULATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN

ASHFORD UNIVERSITY AND WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE

INTRODUCTION

This ARTICULATION AGREEMENT formally recognizes that Ashford University and **Wharton County Junior College** are active educational collaborators, committed to providing greater educational opportunities and services for students transferring between institutions. This commitment strongly supports the concept of seamless transfer that embraces the principle that transfer students should not be required to repeat competencies already achieved.

Ashford University and **Wharton County Junior College** enter into this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT in the spirit of cooperation and to mutually recognize each other as quality institutions of higher learning. Each institution is dedicated to serving students from diverse populations.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT is to enable **Wharton County Junior College** students who transfer to Ashford University to carry with them the credit they have already earned for as much relevant study as possible. This ARTICULATION AGREEMENT provides a structure through which transfer articulation on all levels can be supported. The transfer guidelines outlined in this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT are applicable to students transferring to Ashford University from **Wharton County Junior College** only.

TRANSFER ELEMENTS

Wharton County Junior College Associate's Degrees

This ARTICULATION AGREEMENT establishes that students who transfer from **Wharton County Junior College** to Ashford University and have earned an associate's degree with a 2.0 cumulative GPA or higher are accepted as fulfilling all General Education and competency requirements of an Ashford University Bachelor's program when one of the two conditions below is satisfied:

- 1) The student meets the General Education requirements for Bachelor of Art degrees offered through state universities in the **State of Texas**;
- OR
- 2) The transfer credits have been evaluated and deemed acceptable by Ashford University Registrar's Office.

For either condition, the associate's degree will be transferred as a block covering General Education requirements as appropriate to each degree program. This does not constitute a waiver of any course required to earn a particular major.

Completed blocks are treated as whole; the components are not examined separately to determine transferability towards General Education requirements. **Wharton County Junior College** students will not have to repeat General Education requirements at Ashford University except where major coursework applies as determined by Ashford University.



All other credits are accepted and applied toward the designated/appropriate Ashford University degree to satisfy elective and major requirements as appropriate and applicable and in accordance with Ashford University current transfer credit policies.

Wharton County Junior College students with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 entering Ashford University under the terms of this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT will be admitted into Ashford University provided they meet all admissions requirements for the applicable program as determined by Ashford University.

Wharton County Junior College students transferring to Ashford University without an associate's degree will have all college-level/non-remedial courses completed at **Wharton County Junior College** with a grade of "C-" or better, and which do not duplicate other credits earned by student, accepted for transfer as either an elective, General Education requirement, or an exemption or replacement for a required course as deemed appropriate in accordance with Ashford University current transfer credit policies.

Wharton County Junior College students shall proceed through Ashford University admissions process and shall meet all requirements and deadlines applicable at the time of application. **Wharton County Junior College** students shall comply with all current policies and procedures of Ashford University.

Wharton County Junior College General Education Curriculum

Completion of the **Wharton County Junior College** state-approved General Education Curriculum will transfer as a block and will satisfy lower-division General Education requirements at Ashford University. The General Education Curriculum can be transferred and accepted as a component of an associate's degree or as a stand-alone General Education block not affiliated with an associate's degree.

Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degree

The Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degree represents the attainment of in-depth technical competency within an identified occupational area. However, **Wharton County Junior College** students may need to obtain competencies in the area of General Education. Ashford University will provide AAS transfer students with a flexible degree plan that will meet Ashford University's Baccalaureate Degree requirements.

Award of Upper-Division Credit

Wharton County Junior College students who transfer lower-division credits beyond that required for an associate's degree, or whose lower-division credits are equivalent to designated upper-division course content, may have these courses evaluated by Ashford University and, where appropriate, they will be applied toward the course in the major. Lower-division credits transferred to satisfy upper-division courses do not constitute completion of the 30 upper-division credits required for graduation. Therefore, even if upper-division courses are awarded, **Wharton County Junior College** students will still need to obtain a minimum of 30 upper-division credits at Ashford University to meet graduation requirements.



Reverse Transfer

Ashford University will comply with Texas House Bill 3025 and participate in the reverse transfer process with **Wharton County Junior College**. Students who transferred from **Wharton County Junior College** prior to **completing** an associate degree will be offered the opportunity to earn said degree via the reverse transfer process. Eligible students will automatically be notified of this agreement, when they have met the following criteria:

- Have earned at least 24 semester college credit hours from **Wharton County Junior College**.
- Have earned a total of 60 semester college credit hours.
- Transferred to Ashford University with **Wharton County Junior College** as the last school attended.
- Be in “good standing” at both **Wharton County Junior College** and Ashford University.

Ashford University will inform students of the requirements and obtain permission for their academic records to be sent back to **Wharton County Junior College** for the specific purpose of conducting a degree audit. **Wharton County Junior College** will notify students when the associate degree requirements have been met, or what courses are needed, if any.

Each institution will designate in writing an employee who will serve as the point of contact for administration of this process. For WCJC, that employee will be the Registrar. For Ashford University, that person would be the Partner Education Services Manager.

Maximum Number of Transferable Credits

The maximum number of transfer credits that can be accepted and applied toward degree completion is 90 credit hours.

JOINT OBLIGATIONS

Ashford University and **Wharton County Junior College** agree to provide direct links on each institution's website indicating the existence of this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT. **Wharton County Junior College** agrees that no publicity regarding this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT will be released without obtaining prior written consent from Ashford University.

The parties agree that this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT shall not be posted on an internet website such as Google, Yahoo, Facebook, etc., and that the terms and conditions of this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT shall be kept confidential except as may be required by law or accrediting agency standard, or as may be necessary to promote the agreement described herein among the students of **Wharton County Junior College**. As a commitment to easing the access to transfer materials and advising services, Ashford University and **Wharton County Junior College** agree to promote seamless transfer by developing mutually supporting links between institutional web pages.

Development, distribution, and accuracy of all transfer articulation products (e.g., Articulation Agreement, and Transfer Guide) are the sole responsibility of Ashford University. Articulation materials may not be developed or distributed without the prior review and approval of Ashford University including, but not limited to, web content,



logos, and printed materials.

Ashford University and **Wharton County Junior College** agree, subject to applicable federal and state laws and regulations, to exchange data and documents, which will contribute to the maintenance and improvement of this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT as well as promote effective cooperation between the two institutions. Prior to any exchange of data or documents, the parties will enter into a non-disclosure agreement in a mutually agreed upon form.

Both parties will not engage in any misrepresentation concerning the University, including without limitation its educational programs, the nature of its financial charges, or the employability of its graduates, within the meaning of 20 U.S.C. Section 1094 or its implementing regulations at 34 CFR Section 668 Subpart F, or any successor code or implementing regulations, or any applicable state law or standard of the University's accrediting agency. All promotional and descriptive information regarding the University or displaying its name or logo that are to be made available by both parties will be subject to the review and approval of the University before being made available to both parties students or prospective students.

EVALUATION

Ashford University will conduct an annual evaluation process of the arrangement supported by this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT. The information obtained from this evaluation will be used to improve the transfer process for the benefit of students.

TERM

The term of this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT exists indefinitely from the date of the last signature to this Agreement unless it is discontinued by either educational partner by submitting written notification to the other partner one year prior to the identified cancellation date in order to protect all students transferring between these institutions, such that students who transfer pursuant to this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT are not adversely affected by cancellation of this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing contained herein shall imply any partnership, joint venture or agency relationship between the parties and neither party shall have the power to obligate or bind the other in any manner except to the extent herein provided.

This ARTICULATION AGREEMENT may be amended only by a written agreement signed by both parties. Notwithstanding the previous statement, Ashford University reserves the right to amend its programs, policies, procedures, and criteria relating to transfer credit in its sole discretion at any time. Such changes will be reflected in the Ashford University Catalog.

This ARTICULATION AGREEMENT may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, but all of which taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument. A facsimile or .PDF signature shall be deemed an original for purposes of evidencing execution of this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT.



The signatories to this ARTICULATION AGREEMENT represent and warrant that each has the right and authority to execute this Agreement in their individual or representative capacity, as applicable.

Ashford University:

Dr. Richard Pattenaude
President

(Signature)

(Date)

Contact Information at Ashford University:

Mark K. Young
Divisional Vice President, Academic Partnerships
400 North Bluff Blvd.
Clinton, IA 52732
(800) 798-0584 x.3426
mark.young@ashford.edu

Wharton County Junior College:

Betty McCrohan
President

Betty A. McCrohan

(Signature)

2-3-14

(Date)

Contact Information at Wharton County Junior College:

Natalie Stavinoha
Instructional Retention Coordinator
911 Boling Highway
Wharton, TX 77488
(979) 532-6964
NatalieS@wcjc.edu