

Presidents' MassTransfer:
A cost-effective degree-completion agreement between
Holyoke Community College &
Westfield State University
(amended 9/11/15)

Holyoke Community College (HCC) and Westfield State University (WSU) hereby enter into a *Presidents' MassTransfer* agreement to facilitate and increase degree completion at both the associate's and bachelor's levels. The objectives of this *Presidents' MassTransfer* agreement include:

- Strengthening the academic partnership that exists between HCC and WSU;
- Providing HCC students enrolled in selected associate's degree programs greater access to baccalaureate-level education; and,
- Streamlining the transition from completion of selected HCC associate's degree programs to enrollment and subsequent graduation in corresponding bachelor's degree programs at WSU, all within a prescribed period of time and with fixed financial rates for participating students.
- Providing an opportunity for commuting students and their parents to plan their educational budgets in advance for a total cost not to exceed \$30,000 of in-state tuition and mandatory fees, including completion of both a designated associate's degree at HCC and a linked bachelor's degree at WSU.

Benefits and Conditions of Presidents' MassTransfer

The *Presidents' MassTransfer* program will be implemented for the **fall 2015 semester** as a cost-effective program designed for participating HCC students who **are Massachusetts residents** and transfer directly to WSU upon earning one of the selected Mass. Department of Higher Education (DHE) MassTransfer associate's degrees listed below and enroll in a linked bachelor's degree program. HCC first-year students enrolled in any of the designated associate's degree programs may sign up to participate in the *Presidents' MassTransfer* program with WSU.

Benefits:

- HCC agrees to charge participating students no more than \$11,111 in in-state tuition and mandatory fees for 60 transferable credits toward completion of a designated *Presidents' MassTransfer* associate's degree within three years of the initial enrollment date.
- WSU agrees to charge participating students no more than \$18,889 in in-state tuition and mandatory fees for up to 60 credits toward completion of a linked bachelor's degree within three years of the initial transfer enrollment date.
- One semester prior to completion of the associate's degree, participating HCC students will submit the DHE MassTransfer Enrollment Form to WSU in lieu of a traditional application form. The application fee is waived for students who complete the associate's degree before enrolling at WSU.
- WSU admission to the *Presidents' MassTransfer* Program will be guaranteed to participating HCC students who earn an overall QPA of at least 2.50 at the time of admission, provided space is available in the major of choice.
- Students who complete an approved *Presidents' MassTransfer* associate's degree program that includes the 34-credit MassTransfer Block will be guaranteed a minimum of 60 credits in transfer, including D grades (1.0 on a 4.0 scale), but excluding D- grades.
- Provided the 34-credit MassTransfer Block is completed with a cumulative 2.0 QPA or higher as part of the associate's degree before transferring to WSU, students will be required to complete no more than 6 additional general education core credits/two courses at WSU, in accordance with the DHE MassTransfer "**Plus-6**" policy. "**Plus-6**" requirements for each student will be determined by WSU, in accordance with its governance policy, at the time of admission.
- HCC students who graduate in an approved DHE MassTransfer Program with a minimum 3.00 QPA, as documented on an official degree-bearing transcript, will be eligible for the MassTransfer Tuition Waiver, according to terms of the DHE policy.

Conditions:

- The *Presidents' MassTransfer* program will be available to HCC students who **are Massachusetts residents** and transfer directly to the WSU full-time undergraduate day division upon earning the associate's degree.
- The financial benefit applied to completion of both the associate's and bachelor's degrees will include a maximum of 60 transferable credits completed within three years of the initial enrollment dates at each institution, for a total of 120 credits applied toward completion of the bachelor's degree.
- Courses completed at either institution prior to enrollment in an approved degree program will not be eligible for the fixed-cost benefit.
- Courses completed at either institution beyond the 60-credit and three-year limits will not be eligible for the fixed-cost benefit.

- HCC developmental courses or otherwise non-transferable courses earned beyond the scope of the DHE MassTransfer policy will not be eligible for the fixed-cost benefit.
- A maximum of 67 credit (semester) hours will transfer from HCC toward completion of the bachelor's degree at WSU. D grades earned beyond the 60-credit guarantee of the DHE MassTransfer Program will not transfer.
- The fixed-cost benefit of the *Presidents' MassTransfer* program does not include WSU room and board. Students who choose to live in WSU-sponsored housing must assume responsibility for those related costs.
- The fixed-cost benefit is applied to costs for Massachusetts residents and based on in-state tuition and mandatory fees for each institution.
- Students enrolled in the following approved DHE MassTransfer associate's degree programs are eligible to participate in this agreement*:

A.S., Business MassTransfer Option **linked to** B.S., Business Management (*excluding the Aviation Management concentration*) Note: Students must follow the established articulation agreement to graduate WSU within 60 credits post-transfer.

A.A., Communication **linked to** B.A., Communication; B.A., English; B.A., Theatre Arts

A.A., Communication, Media, and Theatre **linked to** B.A., Communication; B.A., English; B.A., Theatre Arts

AA, Creative Writing **linked to** B.A., Communication; B.A., English; B.A., Theatre Arts

A.S., Criminal Justice **linked to** B.S., Criminal Justice

A.A., Electronic Media **linked to** B.A., Communication

A.A., Gender and Women's Studies **linked to** B.A., Ethnic and Gender Studies

A.S., Human Services Program **linked to** B.A., Psychology; B.S.W., Social Work; B.A., Sociology

A.A., Liberal Arts & Sciences Option **linked to** the following bachelor's degree programs: B.A., Art; B.S., Business Management; B.A., Communication; B.S., Criminal Justice; B.A., Economics; B.A., English; B.A., Ethnic & Gender Studies; B.A., History; B.A., Political Science; B.A., Psychology; B.S., Regional Planning; B.S.W., Social Work; B.A., Sociology; B.A., Spanish; B.A. Theatre Arts

A.A., Psychology Option **linked to** B.A., Psychology

A.A., Sociology Option **linked to** B.S.W., Social Work; B.A., Sociology

A.S., Visual Arts **linked to** B.A., Art (Portfolio required)

A.S., Visual Arts Graphics **linked to** B.A., Art (Portfolio required)

*Students transferring to WSU must complete the same major program requirements as do native students. Depending on the designated WSU major and courses completed as part of the associate's degree that may be applied directly to that major, more than 60 credits may be required to complete major requirements for the bachelor's degree.

- Program-eligible students must complete a Presidents' MassTransfer Program Participation Form while they are enrolled at HCC and are strongly recommended to do so by the time they have earned 30 semester hours of credit toward completion of the associate's degree. A copy of the completed participation form must be submitted to WSU at the time of application so students can be identified in the WSU transfer admission process as being program participants.
- Students applying for transfer to WSU under terms of the *Presidents' MassTransfer* program must earn a minimum cumulative QPA of 2.50 at the time of admission to WSU, which will occur one semester prior to their planned enrollment date. Participating students also must earn an approved associate's degree that includes the 34-credit MassTransfer Block prior to enrolling at WSU.
- Participating students who do not earn a 2.50 cumulative QPA at the time of admission will not be admitted under terms of this agreement or DHE MassTransfer, but may be considered further for general transfer admission.
- Students must transfer directly to WSU's linked bachelor's degree program after earning the HCC associate's degree without attending any other institution in the interim period. Courses taken at either HCC or WSU by students with non-matriculated status at any time prior to or during the course of their *Presidents' MassTransfer* experience will be excluded from this fixed-cost agreement.
- Financial aid awards will be determined by the institution at which each student is enrolled.

Information Sharing

HCC & WSU agree to share information about participating students as set forth in this section, to the extent permissible under appropriate laws, regulations and institutional policies regarding confidentiality of student records, as needed to ensure the success of program for participating students.

- HCC will inform students interested in transferring to WSU about participation in the *Presidents' MassTransfer* Program. WSU will inform HCC students about the program during the recruitment process.
- Students eligible for the *Presidents' MassTransfer* Program may grant written permission on the Participation Form for either college to share essential academic information about the student on a confidential basis, in order to facilitate transfer and assist in the evaluation of the *Presidents' MassTransfer* Program.

Communicating with Students

HCC will inform interested students about the program, coordinate the process for completing participation forms, and maintain pertinent data for program participants.

One semester prior to completion of the designated associate's degree, participating HCC students will submit a signed and completed DHE MassTransfer Enrollment form to the WSU Office of Admission, along with a copy of their HCC *Presidents' MassTransfer* Participation form and all additional required application documents. Upon receipt of all required application documents, qualifying students will receive a formal letter of acceptance to the *Presidents' MassTransfer* program from WSU, provided space remains available in the linked bachelor's degree program.

Implementation and Oversight of the Agreement

The implementation and oversight of this agreement will be provided by a *Presidents' MassTransfer* Steering Committee composed of at least one representative from each institution. In the event of irreconcilable differences that lead either school to withdraw from this agreement, no student already enrolled at either institution under this *Presidents' MassTransfer* Program shall be disadvantaged by such action.

Further Understandings

- Students who sign up for the *Presidents' MassTransfer* program, but subsequently transfer to an institution other than WSU no longer will be allowed to participate in the program and shall not receive any benefits of *Presidents' MassTransfer* if they enroll at WSU at a later date.
- The initial term of this *Presidents' MassTransfer* agreement will be three years, and may be renewed, provided both parties agree to either continue the program as is for another specified period of time, or change terms of the agreement for an additional specified period of time. Either party may deliver to the other party written notice of non-renewal at least twelve months prior to the end of the then current term.

Students who are enrolled at either institution under the *Presidents' MassTransfer Program* at the time this agreement expires or is terminated are guaranteed that their terms of participation will be honored in full for up to 120 credit hours earned toward completion of the bachelor's degree at WSU within six years, including completion of the associate's degree with up to 60 credits hours earned within three years of their enrollment date at HCC, followed by completion of up to 60 credit hours earned toward completion of the bachelor's degree within three years of the enrollment date at WSU, provided the WSU enrollment date occurs with one year of completion of the associate's degree and without attending a third institution in the interim period.

Notwithstanding any provision of this agreement, the *Presidents' MassTransfer* Program does not:

1. Preclude HCC or WSU from entering into similar agreements with other institutions of higher education.
2. Replace, alter, or abrogate other existing articulation agreements.
3. Prevent WSU from admitting HCC students through existing admission processes.
4. Limit WSU from eliminating a school, college, department or degree program; or amending curriculum requirements.
5. Waive any program requirements, other than those that may be noted in this document.
6. Ensure eligibility for Federal, State, or Institutional financial assistance beyond the scope of this agreement.
7. Provide any guarantees regarding tuition rates or mandatory fees at HCC or WSU beyond the scope of this agreement.
8. Include as eligible any student who, before matriculating at HCC, was enrolled in a degree program – whether on a full-time or part-time basis – at WSU. However, such students may explore other viable transfer options.