



Partners in Nursing Education

Henderson State University

And

National Park College

Dual Admission Program for ASN to BSN Degree Memorandum of Understanding

The initial term of this agreement shall be from the date of approval until May 30, 2020. After the initial term, the agreement shall automatically renew for successive three-year periods unless one of the parties provides written notice to the other party within 90 days of the end of the applicable three-year term of its intention to terminate the agreement.

Duly adopted and approved this _____ day of _____, 2017

Glendell Jones HSU President

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Memorandum of Understanding

Henderson State University And National Park College

Nursing Dual Admission Program for the ASN to BSN

This document describes an agreement between the Department of Nursing at Henderson State University and the Division of Nursing at National Park College. The document consists of three parts: an overview of the partnership, a description of the integrated Associate of Science in Nursing to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, and the details of the Memorandum of Understanding.

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I. Overview of the Collaboration

The Henderson State University and National Park College partnership is targeted to Garland County students pursuing the Associate of Science in Nursing degree and desiring to pursue the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The agreement establishes a dual admission program in nursing to facilitate the transfer of National Park College (NPC) associate of science nursing graduates into the baccalaureate nursing program at Henderson State University (HSU). Through collaborative efforts, the partners desire to provide an integrated course path facilitating the seamless transition of NPC associate degree registered nurses to the HSU baccalaureate degree program. Key to this integration is a dual admission process, an academic plan which meets the core educational requirements of NPC and HSU, two semesters of concurrent courses from both institutions, and two final semesters of HSU baccalaureate nursing courses.

A. Purpose

The purpose of the MOU is to make available to students, a program of study to the BSN degree, provide the required student support services, and the academic resources through a cooperative partnership between HSU's Department of Nursing and NPC's Division of Nursing.

B. Rationale

The rationale of the MOU is directly related to each institution's mission statements. As denoted in its vision and mission statement, HSU's Department of Nursing "is to provide both a liberal and professional nursing education to produce safe, novice generalist nurses. Graduates of this program will demonstrate an understanding of theory as it relates to nursing practice." HSU's overall institutional mission is to "build appropriate programs in response to the needs of various communities that it serves."

NPC's mission statement, "Learning is our Focus; Student Success is our Goal," encompasses the institution's intent to meet the educational goals of its constituents. The mission of the Division of Nursing states, "we are committed to evidence-based learning which promotes excellence in nursing and maximum development of student potential within an environment of caring." The HSU/NPC partnership affords students who are time- and/or place-bound because of work or family obligations an opportunity to begin a Bachelor's Degree while earning their Associate Degree. The partnership will reduce the time and place as barriers to progression of learning for our constituents.

Both missions encompass the true spirit of the MOU.

C. Historical Foundations

Henderson State University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission as a Bachelor's and Master's degree-granting institution. The Henderson State University Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) is accredited by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ARSBON) and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE). The Arkansas General Assembly enacted legislation (Act 46) in 1929 that established "a standard college in Arkadelphia," and today Henderson State University plays a prominent role in both liberal arts and nursing education in Arkansas.

National Park College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission as a Certificate and Associate degree-granting institution. Founded in 1973, NPC is locally funded by a county-wide millage, in addition to state financing and tuition revenues. The National Park College Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ARSBON) and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE). The completion of the ASN degree allows the individual to apply for licensure and to sit for the National Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (RN).

D. Student Support Services

Student support services will be shared by HSU and NPC. NPC will provide advisement on dual admission while HSU will provide advising for the major. NPC will provide computer and library services while HSU will provide user and e-mail accounts. Financial aid will be provided through a mutual consortium agreement attached to this document, as well as defined registration procedures, payment of charges, and use of facilities.

E. Faculty/Staff Collaboration

Faculty and administrators for each respective program will engage in collaborative efforts in the development of course selection, content, learning objectives, and timing of course offerings to ensure successful progress for students to completion of the associate and the bachelor degree. Faculty from each institution will assess the discipline-specific courses for effectiveness and success of students on a yearly basis.

F. Duration of Agreement

The initial term of the MOU shall be from the date of approval until May 30, 2020. After the initial term, the MOU shall be renewed, adjusted, or continued for successive three-year periods unless one of the parties provides written notice to the other party within 90 days of the end of the applicable three-year term of its intention to terminate the agreement. Re-consideration may be given

to changes in specific items at any time during this partnership of the two institutions.

HSU and NPC Nursing faculty shall confer at least annually to update this agreement of any changes, additions, modifications, or deletions. Any changes will be made by mutual written consent.

II. The Academic Program

APPLICATION, ADMISSION & PROGRESSION:

1. NPC nursing students must apply to and be accepted by Henderson State University in order to submit application to the Nursing Dual Admission program by deadline (TBA) during their second semester in NPC nursing program. Selection of students for the Nursing Dual Admission program will occur jointly between representatives from NPC and HSU Nursing Programs.
2. Requirements for matriculation from NPC to the final two HSU semesters of the Nursing Dual Admission Program are:
 - a. GPA \geq 2.5
 - b. Unencumbered Arkansas Registered Nurse license

GENERAL EDUCATION:

3. Dual Admission Program nursing students will meet the same course requirements as HSU RN-to-BSN nursing students according to the Arkansas Nursing Articulation Model.

NURSING PROGRAM:

Courses for the concurrently enrolled students may be delivered partially online, online, and/or face-to-face on the NPC campus or at the Landmark Building. Courses will be delivered at a mutually agreed upon time with careful consideration given to the selection and scheduling of HSU and NPC courses to minimize the time to degree. These courses consist of:

- A. NPC NUR2107 Fall NSG4692 Health Promotion & Wellness
- B. NPC NUR2210 Spring NSG4672 Disaster Nursing & Preparedness

A. Transfer of Credits

The HSU/NPC Nursing Dual Admission Program and 8 Semester Plan is attached to this document and will be updated on at least an annual basis to ensure the transferability and equivalency of NPC courses to the HSU courses required for the degree within each institution's program of study. HSU courses taken on the NPC campus will count toward the HSU residency requirements for confirmation of the degree.

The transfer of general education courses required for the BSN will be in accordance with the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS), <http://acts.adhe.edu/>.

B. Academic Advising

HSU and NPC will institute a dual advising process to provide academic advising to continuing and prospective students. Course selection, degree requirements for the ASN and the BSN, and other student support services including financial aid agreements, scholarships, textbook purchases, library, and computer resources access will be coordinated to provide an unencumbered path to degree completion.

Details of the Collaboration

This section specifically identifies the process and responsibilities of each institution in executing the agreement.

A. Student Services

1. Enrollment Services

Recruiting students will be done by both institutions with NPC encouraging nursing students to enter into the integrated program that provides a path for the completion of NPC's Associate Degree, a licensure track to an Arkansas Registered Nurse, and completion of HSU's Bachelor's Degree.

The two nursing programs will work closely together to actively promote and market the ASN-to-BSN Degree program offered on the NPC campus. HSU will develop and produce promotional materials for the program in conjunction with NPC. Both institutions will be responsible for promoting the program on their respective websites.

Orientation to each campus and the program will be done in a collaborative manner with NPC integrating the program information into its nursing orientation process and HSU conducting late-afternoon/early-evening sessions for students.

Admission to HSU and acceptance into the BSN program will follow the guidelines and policies set by the Department of Nursing and HSU's general admissions requirements. Admissions will be coordinated through each institution's offices.

2. Financial Aid

A financial aid consortia agreement will outline the role and responsibilities of each partnering institution. The financial agreement will address issues of

satisfactory progress, cost of attendance, enrollment hours, student status, and disbursement schedule. This agreement will be reviewed as necessary, but at least on an annual basis. (See attached financial aid agreement.)

3. Registration/Advising

Course registration for HSU courses offered on the NPC campus will be coordinated by HSU's Registrar's Office. Academic advising is a critical component of this MOU and will be provided by both NPC and HSU. NPC will provide student advising for the Associate Degree and student advising for the dual admission track. HSU will provide student advising for the Bachelor's Degree and "program" advising. Each institution's Registrar's Office will establish an articulation agreement ensuring the transferability of courses between the institutions. This agreement will be reviewed as necessary but at least on an annual basis with an eight semester dual course listing published and made available to interested nursing students.

B. Academic Support

1. Library

NPC and HSU will extend library services to students in these programs. Additional hours or staffing is not anticipated due to the MOU. Students will be given access to NPC's and HSU's library resources, including the library, Inter-Library loan, online databases, and other internet resources. These resources are sufficient to meet the demands of the MOU.

2. Computer Services

NPC will extend access to HSU students in this program to the computer resources available to current NPC students including computer and internet access. E-mail accounts will be established by each institution for students enrolling in their respective courses. Computing services, including lab and computer access will be maintained by NPC for students enrolled in HSU courses on the NPC campus.

3. Business Office & Financial Office

The collection and assessment of tuition and fee charges to students are administered by each institution based on the enrollment in the respective courses. Applicable fees and charges are assessed for each student based on institutional criteria. Each institution's business office will handle the payment of fees and tuition charges as the charges relate to each institution.

4. Bookstore

Textbook ordering, purchasing, refunds, and buy backs are handled by the respective stores on each campus for their related courses. Each institution offers online textbook ordering and shipping for their students. Additional hours or staffing are not anticipated due to the MOU.

5. Facilities

NPC will be responsible for physical plant maintenance and classroom facilities for HSU courses offered on the NPC campus. NPC normal building maintenance hours and staffing are adequate to support the partnership.

6. General Campus Support Services

All students and visitors to the NPC campus must abide by the rules and policies concerning standards of conduct, including parking and non-smoking, as set forth by NPC's Board of Trustees. NPC expects students in this partnership to abide by these rules. NPC will provide the same level of campus support and security as afforded to its current matriculating students. NPC's present staffing for these functions are adequate to support this agreement.

7. Data and Informational Reporting

In order to facilitate any data-driven revision, evaluation, and decisions of the effectiveness of the MOU, an assessment must be done on an annual basis, if not more frequently. The required data include but are not limited to course enrollment, success rates, retention, GPA, progress to degree, and graduation rates.

Each institution will follow their established procedures for student faculty evaluations, assessment of distance education courses, and other assessment activities. Dually enrolled students will sign a "Release of Information" form to ensure compliance with FERPA regulations. No student will be penalized due to this collaboration and no specific student identifying information will be released without the student's written permission.