

**Comprehensive Joint Admissions and Transfer Partnership Agreement**

**Between**

**Northern Essex Community College  
100 Elliott Street, Haverhill, MA 01830**

**And**

**University of Massachusetts Lowell  
220 Pawtucket Street, Lowell, MA 01854**

Agreement made the 27th day February of 2023 between the University of Massachusetts Lowell, 220 Pawtucket Street, Lowell, MA 01854 and Northern Essex Community College, 100 Elliott Street, Haverhill, MA 01830 pursuant to which the parties agree to cooperate in providing a comprehensive Joint Admissions and Transfer Partnership Agreement (Agreement).

## I.Context and Purpose

This Agreement between the University of Massachusetts Lowell (UML) and Northern Essex Community College (NECC), collectively “the parties,” stipulates the benefits to students who transfer from NECC to UML with an Associate of Arts Degree (A.A.) or Associate of Science Degree (A.S.). This agreement also acknowledges the positive contributions that NECC students make to the UML.

The parties affirm their mutual commitment to the success of all students and the importance of providing clear transfer pathways to improve outcomes for the Community College transfer students in the Commonwealth.

This agreement also addresses the responsibility of each institution to communicate these benefits to all relevant constituents for the purpose of facilitating an informed transfer process for all involved.

## II.Admission

Upon admission to NECC, a student who opts-in via the NECC application will simultaneously be admitted to UML and matriculated upon graduation from NECC if the student meets the criteria specified in this Agreement. The opt-in feature will include a FERPA release for the purpose of sharing student information between Parties.

A student is considered graduated when the associate degree is conferred on their official NECC transcript.

UML agrees to waive the application fee for a student who is admitted and matriculated to UML and otherwise meets the perimeters of this Agreement, although NECC students must complete an application and submit an official transcript. Students who wish to transfer to UML prior to receiving their Associates Degree must meet the University’s general transfer admissions criteria.

NECC graduates will be admitted to UML with a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 or required cumulative GPA for graduation from NECC.

- This agreement does not apply to students wishing to transfer into the UML Nursing Program.

- Although NECC students covered by this agreement will be admitted to the university, some programs have additional requirements for incoming transfer students which must be met before admission to that program. (For example, a student with an AA degree who wishes to join Engineering or Exercise Science may need additional prerequisites, students entering the UML Art or Music Departments will be required to submit a portfolio or perform an audition as required by each program respectively, some programs have minimum GPAs higher than the 2.0 required for University admission, etc.)

To facilitate the process of admission, UML agrees to assign a specific admissions counsellor to NECC.

UML will coordinate with NECC to schedule at least two transfer events per year, where students will be counseled at NECC about UML's programs, admissions processes, and scholarships once a student has indicated an interest in being jointly admitted.

NECC agrees to share names, majors, and directory information of students who express an interest in UML for the purposes of coordinated communication from the university. NECC will provide a list of students who have indicated their desire to be jointly admitted with their directory information within two weeks of the start of each semester. UML will then provide a conditional acceptance letter from UML to those students.

UML shall provide bus transportation for NECC students to at least one UML Admissions event per year (i.e. Open House, Welcome Day, etc.).

### III.Reverse Transfer

If a student transfers to UML prior to graduation from NECC, UML will advise that student about the benefits of an associate degree and encourage the student to participate in reverse transfer.

UML shall provide NECC with a list of names of transfer students, including their directory information, who did not have an associate degree conferred on their official transcript.

### IV.Transfer Credits

NECC A.A. and A.S. graduates are eligible to receive up to 60 transfer credits, not exceeding 75 transfer credits. Only courses completed with a grade of "C-" or higher will be accepted for transfer.

To prepare NECC students to meet with UML department advisors, NECC shall encourage students to meet with an advisor from UMass Lowell to identify which requirements have been completed.

The Parties agree to co-host advising and curriculum update meetings each year for advisors and admissions counselors.

Students who complete the A.A. or A.S. degree at NECC shall be exempt from completing UML's Core Curriculum as those requirements are considered to have been met at NECC.

Any terms in this agreement that are conflicting with the Mass Transfer and Commonwealth Commitment shall be superseded by the established Mass Transfer and Commonwealth Commitment Program. This Joint Admissions Agreement is unrelated to any prior Joint Admissions Programs formerly held by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

#### V.Scholarships

UML shall prioritize NECC students who enter UML through this Agreement in awarding merit scholarships.

#### VI.Registration

NECC students enrolling at UML under this Agreement shall be permitted to register for their first semester on the same date as current UML students with 60 or more credits. (For example, they can register during the normal registration period for incoming juniors rather than wait for transfer orientation).

#### VII.Communication

The parties agree to cooperate in communicating with each other and with their respective constituents about the relationship between the institutions. Faculty and staff at both institutions will share the information provided in this agreement with interested and qualified students. NECC agrees to provide academic counseling and advising to all current and prospective students about this partnership and its inherent benefits.

UML will encourage students to graduate from NECC prior to transferring and explain the benefits of earning an associate degree during recruiting events and on printed partnership materials.

NECC will promote UML in any publications and/or websites that discuss transfer options and agreements, including linking to UML's website. NECC will also distribute and make available any appropriate UML printed materials.

An administrator at UML will implement this agreement at UML and communicate changes to those parties to whom the information is pertinent. The same will be true at NECC.

### VIII. Terms of Agreement

This agreement becomes effective on the date of the last signature and shall terminate on XXXXX. This Agreement may be renewed annually by mutual, written consent and agreement. Either party may terminate this Agreement upon sixty (60) days' written notice; provided, however, that the parties shall discuss and reasonably attempt to resolve the issues that led to the notice of termination during the sixty (60) day period. Notwithstanding the termination of the Agreement, any student who has applied for transfer from NECC to UML prior to or during the sixty (60) day period shall be treated as if this Agreement continues to be in effect.

This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties. No modification or amendment of this Agreement, whether in whole or in part, shall be effective unless made in writing and signed by the parties.

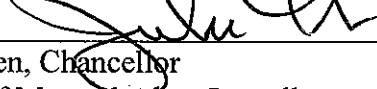
In carrying out the responsibilities and obligations of this Agreement, neither party shall be acting as the agent or principal of the other regarding dealings with third parties, including students. Neither party shall have the authority to make any statements, representations, nor commitments of any kind or to take any action binding the other except as provided herein or authorized in writing by the party to be bound.

In witness whereof, the parties have duly executed this agreement as of the date written below.

Agreed and accepted by:

Signature  \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Lane Glenn, President  
Northern Essex Community College

Date 2/27/23

Signature  \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Julie Chen, Chancellor  
University of Massachusetts Lowell

Date 2/27/23

