EXPLORING ONLINE DEGREES

By Edwin Roman, Academic and Transfer Resources Coordinator

The primary reason that students pursue online degrees is because of the incredible flexibility: you can learn on your own schedule while balancing employment, life, and classwork. The most notable convenience of online learning is that you can easily revisit past material or stop and rewind a pre-recorded lecture to organize your notes. Furthermore, tools like Blackboard allow you to see all of your grades and easily gauge progress. And while many online courses are asynchronous, some require students to collaborate with one another at set times or meet with a professor during virtual office hours. You should research what level of in-person commitment may be required. Online learning could be a challenge at first, but once you adapt, there are indeed benefits.

The Benefits of an Online Degree
A sizable part of the workforce is moving online. According to the GlobalWorkplaceAnalytics.com March 2020 Telecommuting Trend Data Report, regular work-at-home has grown 173% since 2005 with more than 4.7 million employees working remotely at least half the time. Learning online helps prepare professionals for online work.

Online degrees can help demonstrate key skills to potential employers. Earning an online degree shows that you can prioritize, address multiple tasks, and adjust to fluctuating work conditions. You’re also demonstrating that you are self-motivated and understand the significance of time management, skills that employers want to see.

A significant part of online learning requires you to work with new tools and software as well as troubleshoot common issues. Embracing technology is imperative. Your online degree demonstrates strong technical skills, which is a plus for any job seeker.

What To Look For
When searching for an online degree be sure that the school holds regional accreditation. The best online schools to begin exploring are public colleges and universities because they offer a wider array of program offerings and share the same benefits as in-person study. Most importantly, they are all regionally accredited. Accreditation ensures that higher education institutions fulfill certain standards. The United States has six accreditation regions, each with a different organization that has a charter from the U.S. Department of Education (BCC and all CUNY schools are accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education). These organizations review colleges and universities in their respective regions to ensure that the academic programs provide the educational outcomes that a school advertises to prospective students. Some institutions do not possess regional accreditation; therefore, employers may not regard degrees from those schools as valid. You can determine whether a school has regional accreditation by performing a search on the U.S. Department of Education website (https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home and/or https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/agency-list) or connecting with an advisor in Transfer Services.

Media is saturated with advertisements for proprietary colleges (for-profit colleges) that offer online degrees, but these schools must be closely scrutinized because of their long history of questionable business practices. Accreditation doesn’t always mean that a proprietary college is trustworthy. Many attract students by becoming accredited, but some accrediting bodies may not have rigorous standards (https://nyti.ms/2H3dt58).

CUNY Online Bachelor’s Degrees (www.cuny.edu/online/)
• Bachelor of Science in Business, CUNY School of Professional Studies
• Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Media, CUNY School of Professional Studies
• Bachelor of Arts in Disability Studies, CUNY School of Professional Studies
• Bachelor of Science in Financial Economics, Medgar Evers College
• Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management, CUNY School of Professional Studies
• Bachelor of Science in Health Services Administration, CUNY School of Professional Studies
• Bachelor of Science in Information Systems, CUNY School of Professional Studies
• Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, CUNY School of Professional Studies
• Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BS), Lehman College
• Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BS), CUNY School of Professional Studies
• Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, CUNY School of Professional Studies
• Bachelor of Science in Security Management, John Jay College

[Continued on the next page.]
• Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, CUNY School of Professional Studies
   Students should note that the CUNY School of Professional Studies admissions applications requires an essay, and all programs have specific GPA requirements.

**SUNY Online Bachelor's Degrees**
SUNY has 89 online degrees and information on these programs may be found here: [https://open.suny.edu/](https://open.suny.edu/). BCC has an articulation agreement with SUNY Empire State College and students may transfer to the following degrees:
• Bachelor of Science in Accounting, SUNY Empire State
• Bachelor of Science in Addiction Studies, SUNY Empire State
• Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, SUNY Empire State
• Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management, SUNY Empire State
• Bachelor of Science in Management, SUNY Empire State
• Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BS), SUNY Empire State
• Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, SUNY Empire State
• Bachelor of Science in Security Studies, SUNY Empire State

---

**FALL 2021 ZOOM WORKSHOPS**

**TRANSFER WORKSHOP THURSDAYS ON ZOOM!**

**TRANSFER PLANNING WORKSHOP**
Learn the value of early transfer planning by using tools such as the college catalog and articulation agreements to chart your academic career toward a bachelor’s degree and beyond. Recommended for students with fewer than 30 credits.
ASAP approved workshop.

- **September 23, 2021** 6:00-7:30 p.m.
  https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82748119498
  Meeting ID: 827 4811 9498

- **October 21, 2021** 2:00-3:30 p.m.
  https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84623560810
  Meeting ID: 846 2356 0810

- **November 18, 2021** 6:00-7:30 p.m.
  https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87863358582
  Meeting ID: 878 6335 8582

**SCHOLARSHIPS 101**
Learn the scholarship essentials:
• Researching scholarships
• Resumes for scholarships
• Writing scholarship essays
ASAP approved workshop.

- **September 23, 2021**, 2:00-3:30 p.m.
  https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88479399313
  Meeting ID: 884 7939 9313

- **October 21, 2021**, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
  https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81493394019
  Meeting ID: 814 9339 4019

- **November 18, 2021**, 2:00-3:30 p.m.
  https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88515812101
  Meeting ID: 885 1581 2101

---

**Can't attend the Transfer Planning workshop?** Then be sure to read the Transfer Planning Timeline on the back page of this issue.

**Can't attend the Scholarships 101 workshop?** The Fall 2016, Winter 2017, and Summer 2017 issues of Transfer Talk are the workshop in article format.
https://www.bcc.cuny.edu/campus-resources/transfer-services/transfer-talk-newsletter/
ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS & OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

An **articulation agreement** is an agreement between two schools that helps course credit at one school to be accepted or transferred and applied toward a degree at another school.

A **joint degree program** agreement stipulates that following successful completion of the associate degree program and graduation from Bronx Community College, students will be automatically accepted into the specified baccalaureate program of the named senior college.

A **memorandum of understanding (MOU)** is an agreement between institutions that expresses an agreed course of action and conditions under which the receiving institution will accept students for matriculation.

BCC Associate in Applied Science in Nursing to CUNY School of Professional of Professional Students Bachelor of Science in Nursing (online) (Articulation Agreement)

About the Program
The RN to BS in Nursing online degree program provides registered nurses with the academic credential necessary to retain relevance and positions them to advance in the field. Through the flexibility of online study, students of this program build on prior knowledge gained at the associate’s degree level, and explore pressing issues related to today’s changing global healthcare environment. The program is designed to assist students in developing intellectual curiosity and a spirit of inquiry essential to professional development.

Dedicated CUNY faculty and expert practitioners draw on the Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to help students develop and demonstrate competency in:
- Health assessment
- Leadership and management
- Nursing research
- Care of culturally diverse populations
- Global health and policy
- Nursing informatics

Learn more at https://rb.gy/x0da6n

Admission Requirements
- Bronx Community College students with an AAS in nursing must have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Current licensure in New York State as a Registered Professional Nurse, or eligibility to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination -RN (NCLEX-RN) -in New York State. Students who do not currently hold an RN license may apply to the program in the last semester of their pre-licensure program in anticipation of licensure. Unlicensed students who meet the eligibility criteria will be admitted on a case by case basis and will be required to obtain their RN license before beginning their second term in the program.
- There is a 30 credit residency requirement for the B.S. in Nursing at CUNY SPS.
- Courses that are completed at Bronx Community College that are deemed equivalent to B.S. in Nursing required courses will be transferrable provided that the student has received a minimum grade of “C” or better.

See all of BCC’s articulation agreements and partnerships on the Transfer Services website:
http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/services/transfer-services/
TRANSFER PLANNING:
WHAT TO DO AND WHEN TO DO IT

The primary reason for early and continuous transfer planning is to ensure that the desired degree program and curriculum are consistent with future career or educational plans. Waiting until the last semester may limit options or result in the loss of credits. Articulation agreements and other partnerships are excellent tools for transfer planning because they provide a course of action for students, including an outline of the most appropriate courses to schedule.

0-12 Credits
- Read the College Catalog (students are responsible for knowing what their degree entails).
- Become familiar with DegreeWorks, CUNYfirst, OSSES and Transfer Explorer.
- Visit Career Development to explore career options and their requirements.
- Attend a Transfer Planning workshop.
- Select your degree program.
- Read articulation agreements.
- Explore Pathways course options.

13-24 Credits
- Attend the Transfer Fair.
- Check for new articulation agreements.
- Visit college websites.
- Check your progress on DegreeWorks.
- Visit Career Development and write your resume.

25-35 Credits
- Attend the Transfer Fair.
- Attend a Scholarship Workshop.
- Explore transfer options.
- Attend senior college open house events.
- Begin scholarship search.
- Check your progress on DegreeWorks.
- Check for new articulation agreements.

36-45 Credits
- Check your progress on DegreeWorks.
- Update your resume.
- Attend the Transfer Fair.
- Apply for scholarships.
- Check for new articulation agreements.

Final Semester
- Apply for graduation.
- Send applications.
- Apply for financial aid and scholarships.
- Attend orientation at your new school.

TRANSFER APPLICATION ESSENTIALS
BCC CEEB Code: 2051
Get other college and high school CEEB codes at http://www.suny.edu/Student/apply_tables_codes.cfm

CUNY Priority Application Deadlines:
Spring Admissions: September 15
Fall Admissions: February 1

CUNY Transfer Application is available on-line at www.cuny.edu. You will need your CUNYfirst log-in information to complete application.

CUNY Application Processing Center: 212.997.CUNY
SUNY Recruitment Response Center: 1.800.342.3811

- Students should be mindful that good grades are an important part of transferring to the institution or program of choice.
- Students transferring to a CUNY four-year college should check if there are specific grade requirements for English and mathematics courses as well as for the program of choice.
- Students applying to a CUNY four-year college should also note that if more than one college was attended, the GPA for admissions will be determined through a combination calculation of all attempted coursework.

CUNY Scholarships
Get information on CUNY Scholarships at: http://www2.cuny.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/
Get information on the Guttman Transfer Scholarship at: https://www2.cuny.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/guttman-transfer-scholarship/