

The Connecticut Community College Nursing Program & Sacred Heart University

RN-MSN – Pathway Agreement

I. Introduction

This Pathway Agreement is for students enrolled in a Connecticut Community College Nursing Program (CT-CCNP) who identify interest in earning the MSN degree at Sacred Heart University in one of the following specializations: Clinical Nurse Leader, Nursing Education or Nursing Management and Executive Leadership. Students participating in this pathway agreement will be guaranteed enrollment in the Sacred Heart University RN-MSN program upon graduation from the CT-CCNP and licensure as a registered nurse in the State of Connecticut, provided that they satisfy conditions specified in this agreement. Admissions staffs and advisors at the sending and receiving institutions will work closely together and with participating students to ensure that appropriate coursework is completed and accepted upon transfer to Sacred Heart University. Students participating in this pathway agreement will enjoy benefits that include:

- A.** Early identification of interest in and preparation for advancement into the Sacred Heart University RN-MSN program;
- B.** Consistent, integrated academic advisement and support;
- C.** Access to Sacred Heart University student activities and campus facilities at the time of enrollment;
- D.** Guaranteed enrollment in the RN-MSN program at Sacred Heart University pending completion of the A.S. degree, licensure as a registered nurse in the State of Connecticut, and specified conditions; and
- E.** Smooth transition from the CT-CCNP to Sacred Heart University.

II. Pathway Guidelines

- A.** Students may apply to Sacred Heart University's RN-MSN program during any spring semester of their enrollment in the CT-CCNP. Applicants will complete a fee-waived Sacred Heart University application. Applications will be submitted directly to the Articulation Agreement Coordinator for the CT-CCNP at Sacred Heart University.
- B.** Students participating in this pathway agreement will be guaranteed enrollment as matriculated students in the RN-MSN program at Sacred Heart University upon completion of the Associate Degree, licensure as a registered nurse in the State of Connecticut, and satisfaction of the following conditions:
 - a.** Minimum 2.8 cumulative GPA;
 - b.** Proof of current licensure as a registered nurse in the State of Connecticut; and
 - c.** Graduation from the CT-CCNP within three calendar years of beginning the program
- C.** Students participating in this agreement will receive **36** Nursing credits in transfer with an earned A.S. degree and a minimum of **33** general education credits that will transfer and apply toward the general education requirements of Sacred Heart University.
- D.** Students participating in this agreement will matriculate under degree and residency

- requirements of the Sacred Heart University catalog that are in effect when they are accepted into the RN-MSN Program at Sacred Heart University.
- E. Upon acceptance into the RN-MSN Program at Sacred Heart University, students will be eligible to receive Sacred Heart student identification cards and associated privileges, including participation in student activities and college events and access to the Sacred Heart University library, network center, and campus facilities.
 - F. Students must submit proof of current licensure as a registered nurse in the State of Connecticut prior to enrolling at Sacred Heart University.
 - G. Students will no longer be eligible for the benefits described in this pathway agreement if they withdraw or are dismissed from the CT-CCNP, or transfer from the CT-CCNP to a college or university other than Sacred Heart University.

III. Institutional Commitments

A. The Responsibilities of the Connecticut Community College Nursing Program are to:

1. Publicize the availability of the Pathway Agreement;
2. Make Sacred Heart University application materials available to students interested in participating in this pathway agreement;
3. Counsel and/or advise CT-CCNP students interested in attending the Sacred Heart University RN-MSN program. Identify prospective students interested in enrolling in the RN-MSN Program and share the information with Sacred Heart University;
4. Designate personnel to work with staff at Sacred Heart University to implement an effective communication plan to interested students; and
5. Work with Sacred Heart University faculty to coordinate information sessions for prospective students.

B. The Responsibilities of Sacred Heart University are to:

1. Designate the Admissions Officer or Transfer and Articulation Officer that will serve as the point of contact for students interested in, and admitted to, the RN-MSN Program at Sacred Heart University;
2. Develop a fee-waived application for CT-CCNP students interested in the RN-MSN program;
3. Designate the faculty advisor and other personnel to be the points of contact for the pathway agreement;
4. Ensure that the Sacred Heart University faculty advisor and staff provide planned advisement sessions at each of the six participating community colleges; and
5. Work with CT-CCNP personnel to coordinate information sessions for prospective students.
6. Pending student approval, share enrollment and graduation information of enrolled Sacred Heart University RN-BSN students that are CT-CCNP graduates on a semester basis with the Connecticut Community College Nursing Program.