



COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

Western Governors University and Wiregrass Georgia Technical College



Western Governors University (WGU) and Wiregrass Georgia Technical College (WGTC) enter into this Collaborative Agreement (Agreement) as of the date of the last signature below. This Agreement outlines the collaboration that will occur between WGU and WGTC to encourage WGTC graduates and employees to pursue educational opportunities to advance their personal goals and the work of WGTC.

Through this collaborative effort, WGU will provide WGTC graduates and employees flexible, personalized learning pathways to higher education (bachelor's and master's degrees, and credentials) through WGU's innovative online university and applicable WGU affiliates. Together we seek to provide a streamlined approach and expand access to higher education. WGU is pleased to provide continuing education options to WGTC graduates, employees and staff in support of workforce development and employee development goals.

WGU is a private, non-profit institution offering bachelor's and master's degrees in business, information technology, K-12 teacher education, and health professions, including nursing. The competency-based programs measure learning rather than time, allowing students to progress through courses as soon as they can demonstrate mastery of the material. WGU's online programs are mentor-supported and designed to fit into busy work and home schedules, assisting in the goal of building a future-ready workforce.

Purpose

- This Agreement formally recognizes that WGTC will collaborate with WGU in order to provide greater educational opportunities to its graduates transferring to WGU.
- This Agreement focuses on developing strong transfer of credits to WGU programs with equal or natural transfer into one of WGU's four Colleges: Business, Information Technology, Health Professions, and Teacher Education.
- Under the terms and conditions of this Agreement, participating graduates will maximize as much of their WGTC coursework and credits as outlined by the transfer articulation pathways.
- Students transferring to WGU without an associate degree will be encouraged to participate in a reverse articulation process enabled by data sharing through the National Student Clearinghouse.

WGU Community College Partner Scholarship

Graduates and staff from WGTC are eligible to apply for the WGU Community College Partner Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500, which is disbursed to recipients in increments of \$625 per semester for up to 4 terms based on satisfactory academic performance.

Obligations of WGU

- WGU will develop, post, and maintain all transfer articulation pathways, which will be accessible through the <https://partners.wgu.edu> landing page.
- WGU will provide webinar training, as well as print and digital materials to faculty and staff to ensure understanding of the collaboration and articulation pathways.
- While we expect that most of the WGTC's graduates and employees will be prepared for WGU's rigorous programs, WGU retains sole discretion in admission decisions.
- WGU is solely responsible for the funding and award decisions for the Community College Partner Scholarship.

Obligations of WGTC

- WGTC will establish a web link from their internal websites to the WGU partner landing page as well as highlight the collaboration and education benefits of WGU through its standard internal communication channels with faculty, staff, students, and graduates.
- WGTC will provide WGU with timely curriculum updates of all articulated associate degrees.
- WGTC will ensure graduates are made aware of the articulation and scholarship opportunities by sharing information with graduates as well as providing WGU with contact details for graduates each semester.
- If WGTC offers other tuition assistance programs, WGU degree programs will be added to the list of programs eligible for the highest level of assistance.
- WGU will be invited by WGTC to participate in any local education/benefit fairs, student, employee and leader information seminars, or "lunch and learn" presentations that the WGTC may offer.
- WGU will be invited by the WGTC to present in-person or virtually to aligned College 101 and capstone classes.

Joint Obligations

- WGU and WGTC will collaborate on an announcement of the signing of this Agreement with a mutually agreeable press release. A signing event may also occur in conjunction with the announcement if mutually agreed between the parties.
- WGU will collaborate with WGTC in developing methods of communication to share about WGU opportunities, including the Community College Partner Scholarship.
- The parties agree to treat all education records created, disclosed, or maintained under this Agreement in accordance with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Each party assures that neither will discriminate against any individual based on race, religion, creed, color, gender, age, disability, veteran status, national origin, or other protected status.
- Each party reserves the right to control the use of its name and identifying marks in every respect including usage of its logos and trademarks, and each agrees to obtain prior express written permission from the other before such usage.

- The parties agree to maintain open communication to provide support and engagement for this Agreement and will work together to address transfer obstacles that may present themselves.
- The parties agree to exchange data and documents as agreed, which will assist in the maintenance and improvement of the transfer arrangements identified in this Agreement.

This Agreement serves as the basis of the collaboration between WGTC and WGU and may be modified by mutual written consent or terminated by either party upon 30 days prior written notice to the other party. In the unlikely event the Agreement is terminated, WGU agrees that WGTC graduates and staff then receiving any educational benefit described in this Agreement will receive the full value of that benefit towards their studies at WGU as long as they remain in good academic standing at WGU.

Our common goal for this Agreement between WGU and WGTC is to support individuals to upskill and further their careers. WGU is committed to continuing to offer an affordable, flexible transfer option to students at the completion of their time with WGTC. The parties will revisit this Agreement every 5 years, or on such other timeframe as determined by the parties, to ensure it is still meeting the needs of both WGU and WGTC.

Western Governors University

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College




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