



Memorandum of Understanding
Western Governors University
and
Technical College System of Georgia



Western Governors University (WGU) and the Technical College System of Georgia seek to provide a streamlined approach to higher education access through WGU's online college courses and identified WGU affiliates. WGU is delighted to provide continuing education options to the graduates and staff of Georgia technical colleges.

Western Governors University 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 program measures learning rather than time, allowing students to progress through courses as soon as they can prove they have mastered the material. WGU's online, competency-based and mentor-supported programs fit into busy work and home schedules, providing access to opportunity for non-traditional and rural students to continue their educations. WGU values the important role technical colleges play in upskilling the workforce and is pleased to provide pathways to higher education and career advancement, which will lead to security for Georgian families.

Purpose

- This MOU formally recognizes that the Georgia Technical Colleges' presidents have collectively expressed interest in partnering with WGU in order to provide greater educational opportunities to students transferring between their schools and WGU.
- This MOU focuses on developing strong transfer of credits from each Georgia technical college to WGU programs with equal or natural transfer into one of four colleges: Business, Information Technology, Health Professions and Teacher Education.
- Under the terms and conditions of this MOU, participating graduates will maximize as much of their community college coursework and credits as outlined by the transfer articulation pathways.
- This MOU does not supersede current agreements between WGU and a Georgia technical college. If individual member institutions seek a deeper or more robust partnership with WGU, customized addendums can be created to address the strategic goals of the individual institutions.

WGU Community College Partner Scholarship

Graduates and staff from the partnering Georgia technical colleges are eligible to apply for the WGU Community College Partner Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 which is disbursed in \$625 increments for up to four terms based on satisfactory academic performance.

Obligations of WGU

- WGU will collaborate with each institution in the development, distribution, and accuracy of all transfer articulation pathways, which will be accessible through the <https://partners.wgu.edu> landing page.
- WGU will provide webinar training, print, and digital materials to faculty, staff to ensure understanding of the partnership and articulation pathways.
- WGU will retain sole discretion in admission decisions.
- WGU is solely responsible for the funding and award decisions for the Community College Partner Scholarship.

Obligations of partnering institutions from the Georgia technical colleges

- Partnering institutions will establish a web link from their internal web sites to the WGU partner landing page <https://www.wgu.edu/tcsg> as well as highlight the partnership and education benefits of WGU through standard internal communication channels with faculty, staff, students and graduates.
- Partnering institutions will provide WGU with timely curriculum updates of all articulated associates degrees.
- Partnering institutions will ensure graduates become aware of the articulation and scholarship opportunities by sharing information with graduates via institution student and alumni communication channels, such as transfer websites, newsletters, and social media channels.
- If partnering institutions offer 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 partnering institutions to participate in any local education/benefit fairs, student, employee and leader information seminars or “lunch and learn” presentations that the Institution may offer.

Joint Obligations

- WGU and the Technical College System of Georgia will work together to ensure all member institutions are aware of the Memorandum of Understanding between our two organizations and are subject to the terms of this Agreement.
- WGU and partnering institutions agree to exchange data and documents as agreed, which will assist in the maintenance and improvement of the transfer arrangements identified in this MOU.
- All educational records created, disclosed, or maintained pursuant to the terms of this MOU are confidential and shall be created, disclosed, and maintained pursuant to the provisions of Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Each party assures that it will not discriminate against any individual based on race, religion, creed, color, gender, age, disability, veteran status, national origin, or other protected status.
- Except as permitted by this MOU, neither party shall use the name or marks of the other institution in connection with any product, service, promotion, news release, or other publicity without the prior written consent of the other.
- WGU and partnering institutions agree to maintain regular communication between the faculty and staff and will work together to address transfer obstacles that may present themselves throughout the partnership.

This MOU shall be effective upon the date of the last signature and serves as the basis of the WGU – Technical College System of Georgia. The MOU may be modified by mutual written consent or terminated by either party upon thirty (30) days prior written notice. In the unlikely event the partnership is terminated, WGU agrees that the Technical College System of Georgia partnering institutions’ graduates and staff then receiving any educational benefit described in this MOU will receive the full value of that benefit towards their studies as long as they remain in continuous good academic standing at WGU.

WGU is committed to continuing to offer an affordable, flexible transfer option to students at the completion of their time within the Technical College System of Georgia. Our goal remains to ensure a partnership between the Technical College System of Georgia institutions and WGU continues for years to come.

Western Governors University

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 11/22/2022

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