Memorandum of Understanding
between
Maricopa Community Colleges
and
Wilkes University

The Maricopa Community Colleges ("Maricopa") and Wilkes University hereby establish a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") to facilitate students’ transfer from Maricopa to Wilkes University.

PURPOSE

- This MOU formally recognizes that both institutions are active educational partners, committed to providing greater educational opportunities and services for students transferring between institutions. This commitment strongly supports the concept of seamless transfer that embraces the principle that transfer students should not be required to repeat competencies already achieved.

- Both institutions enter into this MOU in the spirit of cooperation and mutually recognize each other as quality institutions of higher learning.

- Under the terms and conditions of this MOU, participating students will maximize as much as possible their community college coursework and credits.

- Through ongoing communication between their faculty and staff, Maricopa and Wilkes University will better understand the obstacles confronting students who are transferring and cooperate in removing such obstacles. By working at the department level, the courses that a student takes at Maricopa can be matched with courses required at Wilkes University.

The MOU provides a structure through which transfer articulation on all levels can be supported. Wilkes University understands and agrees that transfer articulation is with the Maricopa Community Colleges as a whole and not with individual colleges within the district. Therefore, it is understood and agreed that courses taken at any Maricopa college or center are considered equally transferable. This is particularly important at Maricopa where students may be enrolled at more than one Maricopa Community College.

TRANSFER ELEMENTS

Treatment of Associate’s Degrees and General Education Core as Admission Criteria

This MOU establishes the principle that all applicable associate’s degrees at Maricopa transfer to Wilkes University. Maricopa graduates will not need to repeat lower-division general education requirements at Wilkes University. All credits are accepted and applied toward the designated/appropriate college degree(s). Articulated associate’s degrees will be identified, maintained, and available as a separate document from this MOU.

Maricopa graduates with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0, courses numbered 100 and above, entering under the terms of this MOU are guaranteed admission into the university, however, students should be advised that some degree programs at Wilkes University might require a higher GPA for admission. Students who score below a 2.0 in a particular course, may be required to retake that course, based on Wilkes’ program requirements.

Maricopa graduates will follow Wilkes University’s transfer process and, therefore, must meet all applicable requirements and deadlines pertaining to application for admission, advising, registration, and payment of tuition and fees. They will abide by the policies and procedures, along with any revisions thereof that apply to all students from that institution.

In order to complete the baccalaureate program in a timely manner, students are advised to follow the transfer guide for the academic program they plan to pursue at Wilkes University. If the student intends to change degree focus upon admission to Wilkes University, the student may be required to complete some lower-division preparation work prior to beginning the program at Wilkes University.
Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC)

Completion of Maricopa’s Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC), a 35 semester-credit general education program of study will transfer and satisfy lower-division general education requirements at Wilkes University. The AGEC can be transferred and accepted as a component of an associate’s degree or as a stand alone general education block not affiliated with an associate’s degree.

Treatment of Maricopa Coursework as Admission Criteria

Students who transfer to Wilkes University with less than an associate’s degree (and have not completed the general education requirements), an Associate’s in Applied Science degree, or an associate’s degree that does not articulate to a Wilkes University program, will have their general education courses evaluated on a course-by-course basis and may be required to take any additional courses necessary to satisfy the general education requirements at Wilkes University. However, if these students have taken equivalent general education courses at the sending institution, these courses will be accepted toward satisfying general education requirements at Wilkes University.

Maricopa students who plan to transfer to Wilkes University may complete any missing general education by (i) taking the additional Maricopa lower-division courses required to complete the general education core at Maricopa, or (ii) complete the general education requirements by taking upper-division courses at Wilkes University.

Award of Upper-Division Credit

Students who transfer lower-division credits beyond that required for an associate’s degree or whose lower-division credits/competencies are equivalent to designated upper-division credits/competencies, can request/petition these courses/competencies be evaluated by Wilkes University and, where appropriate, equivalent upper-division credit will be awarded.

Total Number of Transferable Credits

The maximum number of lower-division credits that can be accepted and applied to the university degree at Wilkes University is generally 60, however, Wilkes’ degree requirements must also be met. Those requirements indicate that 60 credits of a 4 year degree must be taken at a 4 year college and no less than 30 of those at Wilkes. In addition, half of the credits in the student’s major must be taken at Wilkes. This transfer credit limit will be the difference between total credits required for degree completion and university upper-division requirements.

Evaluation Process

There will be an annual evaluation process of the partnership supported by this MOU. The information obtained from this evaluation will be used to improve the transfer process for the benefit of students.

Longevity of the MOU

This MOU shall be effective immediately upon approval and shall continue in force and effect until terminated by either party. Termination shall occur upon written notice by either party to the other submitted six (6) months prior to the termination date. Students accepted into the program prior to the termination date will be allowed to continue in the program.

OBLIGATIONS OF WILKES UNIVERSITY

- Wilkes University will provide academic advising to Maricopa students. Additionally, Wilkes University will provide materials, catalogs, and other information to Maricopa advisors to facilitate their understanding of university requirements and academic programs. Wilkes University agrees, at its own expense, to hold at least one advising event each year at Maricopa for prospective transfer students.
- Wilkes University may place Maricopa students, interested in attending Wilkes University, on its mailing lists and invite the students to participate in cultural events, social activities, and presentations open to the public and occurring on campus.

- If warranted by the student's academic achievement and/or special talents, Wilkes University will inform the student of scholarship opportunities.

**OBLIGATIONS OF MARICOPA**

- Maricopa will provide Wilkes University with timely curriculum updates.

**JOINT OBLIGATIONS**

- Maricopa and Wilkes University agree to exchange data and documents as agreed that will contribute to the maintenance and improvement of these transfer arrangements, and promote effective cooperation between the two institutions. The institutions will exchange admission, grades, and retention data after obtaining appropriate permission from the students involved and in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws.

- Wilkes University will work with Maricopa on recruitment efforts.

- Students transferring to Wilkes University will receive advising from both institutions, assisting them in timely degree completion.

- Under this MOU, both institutions will work together to identify scholarship opportunities for Maricopa students.

- Information about this MOU will be available at both institutions and on both institutions' websites.

- Maricopa and Wilkes University agree to provide direct links between their institutional websites, indicating the existence of this MOU.

- Transfer articulation materials developed by an articulating institution are not valid without a MOU signed by the Maricopa Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost.

- In collaboration with the Maricopa Community Colleges, the development, distribution, and accuracy of all transfer articulation products (e.g., Transfer Guide) are the responsibility of Wilkes University.

---

**Maricopa Community Colleges**
Maria Harper- Marinick, Ph.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

**Wilkes University**
Terese Wignot, Ph.D.
Interim Provost

*Contact Information at Maricopa:*
Rose Rojas
Director for Transfer and Academic Partnerships
2411 West 14th Street
Tempe, AZ 85281
(Phone) 480-731-8039 (Fax) 480-731-8717
rose.rojas@domail.maricopa.edu

*Contact Information:*
Kristine Pruett
Assistant VP for Strategic Initiatives
Wilkes University
84 West South Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766
(Phone) 570-408-4676
Kristine.pruett@wilkes.edu

---

MCCCD – WILKES UNIVERSITY MOU 3 4/11/14