

**Articulation Agreement
Between
The Board of Trustees of Illinois State University
and
Heartland Community College**

The Board of Trustees of Illinois State University (ISU) and Heartland Community College (HCC) hereby form a cooperative relationship through this Articulation Agreement ("Agreement") to serve our public constituents, smooth the transfer process, minimize duplication of instruction, and build on student learning experiences, recognizing the value of their collective efforts.

In exchange for the mutual benefits that will be realized by both institutions, and other good and valuable consideration the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties do hereby agree to the following:

1. The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a formal collaboration between the two institutions in an effort to facilitate the transfer and degree completion of HCC students enrolling into ISU for the Paraprofessionals Unlocking License in Special Education ("PULSE") program ("Program"). This Agreement does not apply to students transferring into ISU with a different Associate of Arts degree from HCC, or, choosing a different (non-PULSE) major at ISU.
2. Intending to run on an August 1 - July 31 cycle, this Agreement shall commence on the last date signed through July 31, 2030. This Agreement may be renewed for an additional five (5) year term upon the advance written agreement of the parties.
3. Students who meet the following criteria will be admitted to ISU's Special Education - Specialist in Learning and Behavior Online PULSE Program, subject to available Program capacity;
 - a. Successful completion of (i) an Associate of Arts Degree, (ii) a Bachelor's Degree, or (iii) 60+ credit hours-worth of courses listed on Exhibit A attached hereto which meet ISU transfer requirements;
 - b. Meet all published ISU admission criteria including minimum cumulative GPA from all attended institutions of higher education;
 - c. Successful completion of (i) PSY 101 – General Psychology, (ii) CHLD 207- Exceptional Child, and (iii) an Illinois Articulation Initiative ("IAI")-approved Asian, Middle East, Africa, Latin America or Indigenous Peoples of the World (AMALI) culture course;
 - d. Currently employed by a K-12 school district, unit or cooperative;
 - e. Minimum of 2 years of experience working as a Paraprofessional in a K-12 special education setting;

- f. Submit the required Employer Acknowledgement Form that has been completed and signed by an administrator at the school district, unit or cooperative the student is currently employed;
- g. Submit completed application for transfer to ISU by January 15, for start of ISU classes the next Summer term.

Provided, this Agreement does not guarantee admission for students seeking readmission or reinstatement to Illinois State University.

- 4. HCC and ISU will collaborate and coordinate the recruitment and transfer of students in accordance with the Program and degree requirements of their respective institutions. HCC will inform prospective students of this Program during student recruiting activities through co-branded marketing materials and/or other mutually agreed upon means. HCC will publish the details of this Agreement on their website for the benefit of students interested in participating in the Program. ISU and HCC will jointly approve any and all advertising related to the Program. ISU will provide online or print information regarding its academic program requirements and transfer credit policies.
- 5. Representatives of both institutions agree to communicate on a regular basis, and no less than every other year, to assess curricular changes and other conditions that may affect the nature of the Agreement.
- 6. This Agreement does not preclude either institution from making curriculum changes. A party making curriculum changes that may impact this Agreement will promptly provide the other party with written notice of any such curriculum changes.
- 7. Either party may terminate this Agreement by giving at least sixty (60) days advance notice to the other party at the contact information listed below. Students enrolled at the time of termination will be permitted to complete the Program.
- 8. Any notice required hereunder shall be deemed given when delivered in person or three (3) days after being sent by first class mail to the following addresses, which may be changed by notice provided pursuant to this paragraph:

For Illinois State University:
Kelli Appel
Director of Recruitment and Retention
College of Education
Illinois State University
Campus Box 5910
Normal, IL 61790

For Heartland Community College:
Rachel Cook
Associate Dean, Enrollment Services
Heartland Community College
1500 W. Raab Road
Normal, IL 61761

9. It is understood and agreed that neither party to this Agreement shall be legally liable for any negligent or wrongful acts, either of commission or omission, of the other, unless such liability is imposed by law and this Agreement shall not be construed as seeking to either enlarge or diminish any obligation or duty owed by one party against the other or against third parties.
10. Both parties agree to comply with all applicable federal and state laws, orders, and regulations. Neither party shall engage in unlawful discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, pregnancy, sexual orientation, order of protection, gender identity and expression, age, marital status, disability, genetic information, unfavorable military discharge, status as a veteran, or sex (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking). Program students are subject to all ISU policies, codes of conduct, and procedures at the time of enrollment, and as amended thereafter.
11. The relationship of each party to the other under this Agreement shall be that of independent contractor, and no employment, partnership, or joint venture relationship shall be created by the entry into or performance of this Agreement by the parties.
12. Both parties affirm that, to the best of its knowledge, there exists no actual or potential conflict between such party's business, or financial interests and its obligations under this Agreement; and, in the event of a change in either of its private interests or obligations under this Agreement, and such party will raise to the other any questions regarding a possible conflict of interest which may arise as a result of such change.
13. This Agreement may not be assigned to either party without the prior written consent of the other party. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. The Agreement, attachments, and incorporated references shall constitute the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the content of said Agreement. This Agreement may not be amended by either party unless such amendment is mutually acceptable to both parties and is reduced to writing and signed by both parties.
14. The failure of either party to enforce any provision hereof shall not be construed as a waiver of such party's right to enforce such provisions in the future. In the event that any provision of this Agreement shall be held to be void, voidable or otherwise unenforceable, the remaining provisions, shall remain in full force and effect. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, including by facsimile signature, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which together shall constitute a single instrument.
15. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois, without regard to the conflicts of laws. Any dispute arising hereunder shall be brought only in a court of competent jurisdiction located in Illinois.

16. Confidentiality. Both ISU and HCC may receive confidential student information as a result of participation associated with this Articulation Agreement. ISU and HCC agree to abide by the student protections as outlined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
17. Use of Trademark. ISU and HCC agree to grant mutual, non-exclusive, non-transferable rights to utilize each other's trademarks, logos, or other institutional identifiers as provided by each party for the purposes of promoting this agreement, and for no other purpose. Should improper use of any trademark by either institution be determined, ISU and HCC shall attempt to collaboratively work to rectify the usage. Usage does not grant any right or interest to acquire said trademarks.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date below.

Board of Trustees of Illinois State University

By:  12/5/25
Ani Yazedjian, Ph. D. Date
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Reviewed and Approved
as to legal form
Office of General Counsel

Heartland Community College

By:  12/9/25
Sarah J. Diel-Hunt, Ph.D. Date
Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs

(Exhibit A)

Course Requirements for Transfer to ISU

Heartland Community College

First Semester

ENGL 101: Critical Reading & Writing (ENG 101) – 3

CHLD 207: Exceptional Child (SED 101/IDEAS) – 3

Any IAI Math – 3

Any IAI Life Science – 3*

Any IAI Humanities – 3

Second Semester

COMM 101 – Introduction to Oral Communication (COM 110) – 3

PSY 101: Introduction to Psychology (PSY 110) – 3**

Any IAI Physical Science – 3*

Any IAI Fine Arts – 3

IAI Social and Behavioral Science – 3**

Third Semester

ENGL 102: Multimodal Composition (ENG 145) – 3

IAI course with “N” designation (AMALI) – 3

IAI Humanities or Fine Art – 3

IAI Social and Behavioral Science – 3**

Additional AA course – 3

Fourth Semester

Additional AA course – 3

Additional AA course – 3

Additional AA course – 3

Additional AA course – 3

Additional AA course – 3

*One science course must be a lab course

**Two disciplines must be represented in social/behavioral science courses

Illinois State University

Summer Semester

SED 205: Family, Professional, and Community Collaboration – 3

SED 206: Foundations of Instruction and Assessment in Special Education - 3

SED 360: Transition From School to Adulthood – 3

Fifth Semester

SED 361: Education of Learners with Severe Disabilities – 3

SED 342: Language and Literacy Development – 3

SED 368: Math Methods For Learners with Disabilities – 3

Sixth Semester

SED 345: Literacy Applications – 3

SED 362: Systematic Instruction – 3

SED 287: Independent Study – 1

Summer Semester

SED 388: Class wide and Individualized Behavior Supports – 3

SED 391: Current Laws and Initiatives – 2

EAF 228: Social Foundations of Education – 3

Seventh Semester

SED 390: Assessment To Instruction – 3

SED 287: Independent Study – 1

SED 252A01: Field Work In Learning Behavior Specialist: Adv Clin Exp Pt I - 4

SED 252A02: Field Work In Learning Behavior Specialist: Adv Clin Ex Pt II – 4

Eighth Semester

SED 392: Content Strategies, Analysis, And Collaboration – 3

STT 399A59: Student Teaching Specialist In Learning & Behavior – 12

Total number of hours: 120