

## ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

### Wharton County Junior College and the University of Houston

The University of Houston (UH) and the Wharton County Junior College (WCJC) wish to facilitate the transfer of students, enhance the number and quality of learning options at the institutions, and provide a seamless transfer process for students. UH and WCJC have entered into this Articulation Agreement (hereinafter "Agreement") and hereby agree as follows:

1. UH and WCJC are active educational partners in providing educational opportunities for currently enrolled and potential students of both institutions. Each institution will maintain the integrity of their separate programs and enter into this agreement as equal participants.
2. UH understands WCJC's mission of educating individual of its service area and of awarding two-year associate degrees. The purpose of this Agreement is to permit eligible and interested students to transfer certain course work from UH to WCJC to complete requirements for the associate degree issued by WCJC. This process is called **reverse transfer** or **reverse articulation**.
3. Students enrolled at UH who (i) previously attended WCJC or are currently enrolled at WCJC and (ii) meet Wharton County Junior College resident credit requirements will be eligible for reverse transfer credit.
4. Separate academic records for students will be maintained at each institution and each institution will be responsible for complying with all applicable laws related to such records, including but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
5. Authorized employees of UH and WCJC will have access to personally identifiable information about the students who receive or who are eligible for reverse transfer credit. UH and WCJC agree that their respective authorized employees will have a legitimate educational interest in the records of the students being served. UH and WCJC shall take reasonable steps to ensure that their respective counselors, employees, and administrators maintain the confidentiality of all student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. This provision shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.
6. For students admitted to and enrolled at UH, UH will review its database and determine (i) whether any of UH's students previously transferred coursework from WCJC, (ii) whether the students have indicated an interest in the reverse articulation program and (iii) whether the students have taken at least 24 hours of coursework that satisfies WCJC's minimum resident credit requirement. UH will transmit official copies of the UH transcripts for these students to WCJC. UH and WCJC agree to exchange transfer student information for the purpose of monitoring and promoting student academic success and degree conferral. The exchange may occur through paper transcripts or through secure electronic communication. Communication of



this student information shall occur each September or at other appropriate intervals agreed upon by the parties.

7. UH shall notify all students who transfer coursework from WCJC to UH of the existence of the purpose of this Agreement between UH and WCJC and of the likelihood that UH will share transcript information with WCJC. This notification to students shall be in writing and shall occur at the time of the student's application to UH.

8. Upon receipt of official UH transcript information, WCJC will conduct a degree audit of each affected student and evaluate all coursework that may assist in the completion of the student's associate degree at WCJC. Students who meet all WCJC degree requirements are eligible to receive a WCJC degree at no additional cost to the student. WCJC will notify each affected student that he or she is eligible to receive an associate's degree and eligible to participate in WCJC's graduation ceremony.

9. UH and WCJC agree to cooperate in communicating with each other and with their common and respective communities concerning the relationship between the two institutions. UH and WCJC agree to acknowledge and recognize the reverse articulation program on each institution's website and via other marketing and publicity methods; any such website/marketing materials must be approved in advance by both parties.

10. UH and WCJC agree to promptly communicate with each other any future curriculum changes, policy changes, or resident credit requirements that will affect this Agreement.

11. Each institution will designate in writing an employee who will serve as the point of contact for administration of this Agreement.

12. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. Venue for any dispute involving this Agreement shall be in Harris County, Texas.

13. Neither WCJC nor UH waives or relinquishes any immunity or defense on behalf of itself, its trustees, regents, officers, employees, volunteers, or agents as a result of the execution of this Agreement or its performance under this Agreement.

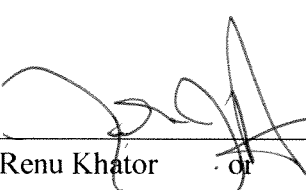
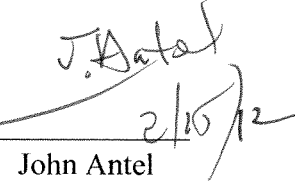
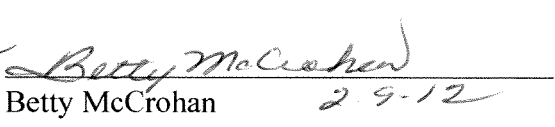
14. This Agreement will become effective upon the execution of signatures by the responsible authority for each institution. The transfer program will commence with the first days of UH classes in the Fall semester of 2011 and will conclude on the last day of UH classes of the last Summer session in 2016. Students are eligible to participate if they take UH classes during the fall semester of 2011 or during any subsequent semester occurring during the term of this Agreement.

15. Amendment, renewal or extension of this Agreement will require the written agreement of both institutions. Either party may terminate this Agreement by giving written notice to the chief administrative officer of the other institution at least 180 days prior to the termination. Upon

expiration or termination of this Agreement, no new students will be permitted to participate in the reverse articulation program. Any termination of this Agreement, however, shall not relieve either party from completing obligations in progress prior to the effective date of the expiration or termination. Both institutions agree that students who are currently enrolled on the effective date of the expiration or termination shall be allowed to continue their programs in accordance with the terms and conditions in effect prior to the expiration or termination of the Agreement. WCJC and UH intend and desire a continuing relationship for the purpose of exchanging information contained in the educational records of students who are participating in the program at the time of termination or expiration of this Agreement. The right of either institution to receive educational records terminates once all eligible students have completed their programs or are no longer eligible for the reverse articulation program.

16. This Agreement does not preclude UH or WCJC from entering into similar agreements with other institutions of higher education.

EXECUTED AS FOLLOWS:

 Renu Khator President University of Houston Date:	or	 John Antel Provost Date:	 Betty McCrohan President Wharton County Junior College Date:
--	----	--	---

REVIEWED BY:

  
OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY COUNSEL  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON