



Articulation Agreement

Between

Mercer County Community College

And

Rider University

Whereas Mercer County Community College (“MERCER”) and Rider University (“RIDER”) have expressed an interest in working together to develop institutional linkages between the two institutions for the purpose of reverse transfer. Both of the partnering institutions have developed a GUARANTEED REVERSE CREDIT TRANSFER AGREEMENT (“RCTA”).

This partnership provides a pathway so that students who have earned sufficient credits in prescribed courses at RIDER and who have been admitted to a baccalaureate degree program at RIDER may be awarded an associate degree by MERCER. The awarding of this degree will enable students to compete more successfully both in academic areas and in the workforce. Through the adoption of reverse transfer policies, institutions of higher education can assist non-completers in acquiring a valuable credential for academic work already completed.

Student Eligibility

1. Eligibility for the Reverse Credit Transfer Agreement requires the following:
 - a. The student must have earned a minimum of 45 credits that are degree eligible and transferrable from Mercer County Community College and overall a total of 60 college credits.
 - b. The student must complete and submit to RIDER a form granting consent to participate in the RCTA program.



2. Responsibilities of MERCER

- a. The acceptance of transfer credits will be determined solely by MERCER.
- b. The course requirements for degree completion will be evaluated by MERCER.
- c. Assure that RIDER promotional materials are available to students.
- d. Assign responsibility to the appropriate MERCER official to provide oversight of the RCTA and ensure best efforts in maximizing the effectiveness of the RCTA.
- e. Provide, as requested by RIDER, student-level data for reporting, accountability and assessment.
- f. There will be nothing to differentiate the RCTA from any other degree awarded by MERCER on the diploma or transcript.
- g. Students who are awarded a degree under the RCTA will be able to participate in the MERCER commencement ceremony.
- h. When the degree is awarded by MERCER, they will send an official transcript noting the conferral of the associate's degree to RIDER.

3. Responsibilities of RIDER

- a. In order to remain FERPA compliant, written consent must be obtained from the student to have his/her RIDER transcript sent back to MERCER using the RIDER Request for Transcript Form.
- b. RIDER will inform MERCER of students who desire to participate in the RCTA program.
- c. RIDER will publicize the Reverse Credit Transfer Agreement to current and prospective students via both print and electronic communication resources.
- d. Transcripts for the purpose of a degree audit must be official when sent from RIDER to MERCER.
- e. Release of transcripts will be in accordance with the policy of RIDER.



- f. One transcript may be requested and sent free of charge to MERCER.
- g. There is no time limit on students completing the associate degree through RIDER; students will remain eligible as long as they are enrolled at RIDER.

4. Responsibilities of eligible students

- a. Students are not eligible for RCTA if they currently possess an associate degree or higher.
- b. Students must provide to RIDER written consent indicating their desire to participate in the RCTA program.
- c. Students may be awarded an associate degree through the RCTA from MERCER and a baccalaureate degree from RIDER simultaneously.

5. Period of Validity, Agreement Renewal, and Opt Out Clause:

- a. **TENURE OF THIS AGREEMENT:** This agreement is valid for 5 years from the date of signature with the option of renewal should either party decide to terminate the agreement. Notice of termination must be given to either party by the other at least 6 months in advance of the end of period.
- b. The specific activities developed in order to achieve the proposed aims will be determined for each occasion by means of specific implementing agreements, according to the availability of resources.
- c. This agreement represents the full understanding of the parties to date. All amendments to his agreement and all implementing agreements entered under this agreement must be in writing and signed by both parties.



- d. The parties acknowledge that they are and shall remain independent legal entities, and that this agreement does not create an employment or agency relationship and that neither party is empowered to legally bind the other, unless specifically authorized to do so in a subsequent implementing agreement.
- e. This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Jersey.