



21 Talcott Notch Road  
Farmington, CT 06032  
860.678.0005  
theccic.org

**Testimony for the  
Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee from  
Jennifer Widness, President  
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges  
March 9, 2017**

On behalf of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges I am submitting testimony on two bills before you today.

First, **SB 969, AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S HIGHER EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS** seeks to move the currently freestanding Office of Higher Education (OHE) into the State Department of Education. Under the proposal, the membership of the Planning Commission for Higher Education will be revised to include leaders from both public and private colleges in this state. The Commission will be charged with making a recommendation for the appointment of a director, working with OHE to implement the [Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education](#) (developed by the Commission in 2015) and to work together to find opportunities for collaboration among public and private colleges.

This vision is what Connecticut needs during these trying economic times. We need higher education institutions working together to meet the needs of the state's workforce and to ensure opportunities for partnership are seized upon.

**We have two recommended revisions for your consideration, however, if the proposal were to move forward.**

One, we would ask that the program approval moratorium passed last year ([Public Act 16-36](#)) be made permanent. Currently, OHE has the authority to approve all new programs offered by private colleges except Public Act 16-36 gave certain private colleges that met specific standards a two year exemption from this process. The public institutions of higher education do not send new programs to OHE for approval; their Boards have the authority to approve new programs without external review.

---

Albertus Magnus College  
Connecticut College  
Fairfield University  
Goodwin College  
Mitchell College  
Quinnipiac University  
Sacred Heart University  
St. Vincent's College  
Trinity College  
University of Bridgeport  
University of Hartford  
University of New Haven  
University of Saint Joseph  
Wesleyan University  
Yale University

CCIC Member Institutions are committed to being partners with the state in educating our future workforce and working with our state's employers to develop programs that will fill and grow higher paying jobs. The permanent elimination of this regulatory barrier allows us to be responsive and offer new programs that are relevant in a timely manner. It would also remove any potential conflicts and permanently level the playing field with the public institutions who would ostensibly share oversight over OHE through their prominent role on the Planning Commission.

In addition, we would suggest two small revisions to the make-up of the Planning Commission. One, we ask that the language be revised to allow CCIC to appoint a faculty member from one of our member institutions. Currently the bill authorizes CCIC to appoint a faculty member from a private occupational school in the state. Second, we would also ask that the President of CCIC retain its ex-officio nonvoting member status on the Committee.

We look forward to working with our public counterparts on this renewed vision for OHE and hope the legislature will support it with these modifications.

**SB 971, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS** seeks to promote transfer and articulation agreements among our institutions of higher education.

The intent of section one of this bill is not entirely clear. Section one (a) makes the development and implementation of a core of common courses permissive for public and independent colleges but section one (b) requires participation by faculty from the public and independent institutions of higher education in the development and implementation of this set of courses. Therefore, it is not clear whether participation is mandated or permissive.

We would strongly oppose any proposal that would regulate the core curriculum offered at an independent college. The missions of our member institutions are as diverse as the students they serve. This diversity is reflected in their curriculum and is to be applauded; not discouraged with state regulation.

With that being said, transfer students are an incredibly important segment of our student body. Many of our member institutions have entered into articulation agreements with the community colleges and have developed pathways that encourage transfers into their institutions. As the number of students enrolling in college in the northeast shrinks, I anticipate the number of pathways and agreements will expand even further. Below, see a snapshot of the many arrangements already in place.

We are supportive of section two of this bill which seeks to promote the various transfer and articulation agreements that are in place at public and independent colleges. Many times students are just not aware of all of the options available to them. We think it would be helpful for there to be a state portal that provides more information about all of the higher education opportunities available in state including the transfer and articulation agreements in place.



## Summary of CCIC Member Institutions' Transfer Policies & Articulation Agreements

March 2017

### **Albertus Magnus – New Haven**

Albertus Magnus currently has articulation agreements with five Community Colleges in Connecticut. These agreements state that students who have earned an Associate Degree (A.S. or A.A.) at these specified Community Colleges may enter Albertus as third year juniors where they can pursue the remainder of their four-year B.S or B.A degree. Colleges included are Gateway, Housatonic, Norwalk, Capital and Manchester Community Colleges.

Albertus manages this program through its Dual Admissions Program and as long as students meet the terms and conditions, which include applying within one year of graduating, meeting all academic expectations and admissions requirements, they will enter as juniors. All transfer students will receive a full evaluation and will be informed of amount of credits applicable. Students admitted in the Dual Admissions Program can also qualify for significant financial aid assistance depending on the program they choose. The Albertus Magnus Transfer policy is provided below.

#### **Transfer Credit Arrangement** (directly from their [Website](#))

Generally, courses completed with a minimum of C (2.0 on a grade scale of 4.0) or better at fully accredited institutions are transferable for all collegiate level courses. (Albertus may accept courses with passing grades below a 2.0 as part of our community college dual admission programs\*)

- A maximum of 64 credits is transferable from accredited junior and community colleges.
- A maximum of 90 credits is transferable from accredited four-year colleges.
- A maximum of 45 “prior-learning” credits may be earned through CLEP and ACT-PEP examinations, challenge examinations, or a portfolio.
- Your acceptance into our programs and transfer credit acceptance is contingent upon the receipt of all final official transcripts.

### **Connecticut College – New London**

#### **Return to College Program**

Connecticut College has a specific Return to College Program ([RTC](#)) that is designated for students over the age of 25. RTC is designed to streamline the transferring of credits earned in the student's previous post-secondary career and was created to service the non-traditional student, such as veterans, who often have Community College earned credit.

#### **2YC (Two Year College Program)**

Connecticut College has established the 2YC Program which is open to any student enrolled in a two-year college who has completed the specified courses with a grade of B+ or better. Students who are accepted into this

program for either Computer Science or BioChem and will enter a cohort of similar students to complete their four-year degree. The following classes are to be completed at their two-year college before entry will be considered:

2YC Computer Science Program:

- Discrete Math
- Intro to Computer Science
- Data Structures
- Computer Organization & Architecture
- Two CS Electives

2YC Biochemistry Science Program:

- General Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- One Year of Study:
  - Calculus
  - Biology
  - Physics

Accepted students will be required to take the remainder of their classes as specified by the program of their choosing at Connecticut College. They will also have the opportunity to choose from a large variety of courses for their elective requirements. Students will also qualify for Financial Aid often in the form of grants.

### **Fairfield University – Fairfield**

Fairfield University's Engineering School has completed articulation agreements with the Community Colleges through a program called the "Academic Alliance for Degree Completion." On the basis of this academic alliance, Fairfield's School of Engineering will accept associate degree graduates from Community Colleges into its Bachelor of Science in Engineering programs.

Norwalk Community College

- *Engineering Science A.S. (64 credits)*
- *Computer Science A.S. (52-55 credits)*

Naugatuck Valley Community College

- *Math/Science A.S. – (63-66 credits)*

Gateway Community College

- *Engineering Science A.S. (67-68 credits)*

Three Rivers Community College

- *Engineering Science A.S. (64 credits)*

Housatonic Community College

- *Engineering Science A.S. (64 credits)*

Manchester Community College

- *Engineering Science A.S. (64 credits)*
- *Computer Science (58 credits)*

- Computer Engineering Science (51 credits)

### **Goodwin College – East Hartford**

Goodwin will consider transferring credits earned from most accredited institutions of higher education but has specific articulation agreements with Tunxis and Manchester Community Colleges. They also participate in The Alternative Credit Project that allows students to transfer credits from completed courses that are offered through the American Council on Education online program.

The following outlines the program and the accepted degrees as well as anticipated transfer credits based on the previously earned degree. In all cases credit that was earned in these established programs that also meet academic requirement will place the transfer student into a third year junior status at Goodwin College.

### **Manchester Community College**

- AS in Accounting to BS in Business Administration (88 Credits)
- AS in Accounting to BS in Management and Leadership (88 Credits)
- AS in Business Administration to BS in Business Administration (88 Credits)
- AS in Business Administration to BS in Management and Leadership (73 Credits)
- AS in Early Childhood Education to BS in Child Study (79 Credits)
- AS in Criminal Justice to BS in Public Safety and Security – Homeland Security Track (76 Credits)
- AS in Criminal Justice to BS in Public Safety and Security – Criminal Justice Track (85 Credits)
- AS in Disability Specialist to BS in Human Services (61-62 Credits)
- AS in Drug and Alcohol Recovery Counselor to BS in Human Services (82 Credits)
- AS in Environmental Science to BS in Environmental Studies – River Studies Track (74 Credits)
- AS in Environmental Science to BS in Environmental Studies – Environmental Health Track (82 Credits)

### **Tunxis Community College**

- AS in Business Administration to BS in Business Administration (87 Credits)

### **Mitchell College – New London**

Mitchell participates in the Common Application program to help transfer students apply to the college. The institution takes an individualized approach when considering each applicant and completes a full transfer evaluation for each considered student. When possible Mitchell will accept as many transfer credits from accredited institutions for applicable courses that are also offered on campus. As stated in Mitchell College's 2016-2017 Course Catalogue Articulation Agreements:

*“The College has in place a transfer policy which allows for the transfer of credit from regionally accredited institutions for appropriate coursework completed. In addition, the College has articulation agreements with institutions from which there is a pattern of student transfer. These agreements are revised periodically as curricula changes occur.”*

According to the office of the dean and admissions, in the past Mitchell has established agreements with Three Rivers, Middlesex and Manchester Community Colleges and currently these agreements are under review for updating.

### **Quinnipiac University – Hamden**

SAT and ACT scores are required for students with less than 30 college credits who seek to transfer to in the health science and nursing majors. The School of Business, Communications, Engineering, and College of Arts and Sciences do not have these same restrictions. All majors can be considered for transfer except the Physician's Assistant and Physical Therapy programs.

Quinnipiac will transfer certain courses and a review will take place prior to matriculation pending the courses and performance meets their academic guidelines. According to the Office of Transfer, Quinnipiac prefers to assess each student on a case-by-case level so that transfer credit can be maximized. The transfer councilor informs the Community Colleges of the core curriculum at Quinnipiac so that students who may desire to transfer can plan accordingly. Quinnipiac feels by not formalizing specific agreements they can be more proactive in maximizing credits transferred during the process.

### **Sacred Heart University – Fairfield**

Sacred Heart has established articulation agreements with all Community Colleges in Connecticut. The agreements between Community Colleges and the Jack Welsh School of Business and the Criminal Justice Department have been recently updated to reflect current course work. Some other examples include General, Business Administration, Business Management, Accounting, and Finance.

### **Saint Vincent's College - Bridgeport**

St. Vincent's College (SVC) welcomes and encourages applications from transfer students; transfer students follow the same admission procedures as other incoming students.

SVC has created the Housatonic Community College Consortium Agreement – Radiography A.S. Program to provide a guaranteed admission pathway for HCC students interested in the Radiologic Sciences Program offered at St. Vincent's College. Transferring students have the option to pursue an Associate and/or Baccalaureate degree in Radiologic Sciences. Requirements include that 50% of course work be completed at St. Vincent's and all students must complete their B.S. degree in five years after enrolling in the consortium agreement.

Details of the agreement include:

- HCC will identify potential students and refer them to the program
- Students at HCC will be invited to attend lectures and classes at SVC while enrolled at the community college
- Students will be guaranteed admission for transfer into the B.S. in Radiology program at SVC after course requirements are completed
- Students can take courses at SVC that are required for B.S. while at HCC at the community college credit per hour cost
- Registrars from both schools will work together annually to review reverse transfer program

### **Trinity College - Hartford**

A maximum of 18 course credits taken at other institutions prior to matriculation at Trinity may be transferred to Trinity. Pre-matriculation courses accepted for transfer will be reviewed by the Office of the Registrar for fulfillment of the Trinity general education requirements. A course description or syllabus may be requested for a course if its acceptability is in question. Transfer credit is not awarded for courses transcribed by other colleges or universities if those courses were offered as part of a college-in-high-school program (these are courses with

college syllabi that are taught to secondary school students by college teachers or by college-approved secondary school teachers and with enrollment limited to secondary school students).

Trinity has an extensive transfer credit policy that may be found [here](#).

Trinity also offers a non-traditional student program called Individualized Degree Program ([IDP](#)) that gives adult students the opportunity to complete their bachelor's degree at Trinity College. This program recruits from many local Community Colleges.

### **University of Bridgeport - Bridgeport**

The University of Bridgeport currently has [articulation agreements](#) with eight Connecticut Community Colleges. Students are allowed to transfer up to 66 credits from two year schools which will place them at a third year junior upon matriculation. Students will receive academic credit as long as a "C" or higher was obtained in the course they wish to transfer.

UB has articulation agreements with the following Community Colleges:

- Gateway Community College
- Housatonic Community College
- Norwalk Community College
- Naugatuck Valley Community College
- Middlesex Community College
- Quinebaug Community College
- Northwestern Community College
- Capital Community College

UB has established pathways for two-year degree holders from these schools to pursue a four-year degree in the same discipline.

### **University of Hartford – Hartford**

The University of Hartford has established articulation agreements with eight local Community Colleges. Each agreement is individualized to the school and based on their offered programming. All agreements are posted online and accessible to any student who is interested in transferring to UHART. Transfer evaluation goes through the office of Admission but the individual departments have the final say in whether or not the course is transferrable.

#### Articulation Agreements\*

Asnuntuck Community College

- Associate's in ECE to Early Childhood Education

Capital Community College

- CIS with Web Option to Multimedia & Web Design
- AS in ECE to Early Childhood Education B.S.

Gateway Community College

### Manchester Community College

- Barney School of Business
- Communication Studies
- Interpersonal & Organizational Communication
- Paralegal Studies

### Middlesex Community College

- AS in Accounting & Business to Barney School
- Criminal Justice
- Communications

### Naugatuck Valley Community College

- Audio Engineering Tech
- Computer Engineer Tech
- Electronic Engineer Tech
- Electromechanical Engineer Tech ECT
- Electromechanical Tech MET
- Electronic Engineer & Tech NetCom
- Electronic Tech with Mechatronics
- Mechanical Engineer Tech
- Mechanical Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical Engineering

### Northwestern Connecticut Community College

### Tunxis Community College

- AS in ECE to Early Childhood Education

\*When applicable degree specific agreements or pathways are listed

### **University of New Haven – New Haven**

UNH has a Dual Admissions and core-to-core transfer agreement with many local colleges. The program was designed to offer a seamless transition for students who wish to complete a four-year degree at UNH. Students simply have to complete their two-year degree at one of the partner schools, have at least a 2.5 GPA and fill out standard application paperwork. Most will enter as third year juniors, pending courses are completed under established academic guidelines and principals. UNH also has three program specific agreements with local community colleges.

### **Standard Articulation Agreements**

- Gateway Community College
- Housatonic Community College
- Three Rivers Community College

- Naugatuck Valley Community College

### **Program Specific Articulation Agreements**

- Gateway Community College - Dental Hygiene
- Norwalk Community College - Criminal Justice
- Manchester Community College - Criminal Justice

### **University of Saint Joseph's – West Hartford**

USJ has [articulation agreements](#) with Connecticut Community Colleges. The accepted transferred credits will determine what year the student will enter upon enrolling.

USJ has a dedicated "[Transfer Equivalencies](#)" [webpage](#) that has outlined transferable courses and their equivalents to allow students to plan accordingly. Students who transfer more than 24 credits will be relieved from taking specific courses all USJ students are general required to take (1<sup>st</sup> Year Seminar, Religion, Philo/Ethics Course). Institutions listed on this page include:

- Asnuntuck Community College
- Capital Community College
- Gateway Community College
- Housatonic Community College
- Manchester Community College
- Middlesex Community College
- Naugatuck Valley Community College
- Northwestern Connecticut Community College
- Norwalk Community College Norwalk
- Quinebaug Valley Community College
- Three Rivers Community College Norwich
- Tunxis Community College

### **Wesleyan University – Middletown**

Wesleyan has a scholarship program for Connecticut Community College students known as the [Etherington Scholars Program](#), named for Wesleyan's former president Edwin Etherington. This program attracts some of the top graduates of the state's two-year state colleges and helps them prepare for a productive future in Connecticut. All CCC transfer applicants are considered for the Etherington Scholarship on the basis of financial need.

Transfer credits are assessed on an individualized basis with no established specific articulation agreements.

### **Yale University – New Haven**

Admitted transfer students may be eligible to transfer up to a maximum of eighteen course credits. The Yale College Dean's Office evaluates transcripts for all admitted transfer students to determine course transferability, once a student has been admitted. College courses that are similar to those available to Yale undergraduates are likely transferable.