



Memorandum of Understanding Between Brookdale Community College and Stockton University

I. Introduction

The ability to transfer academic credits between institutions of higher education helps students save both time and money by eliminating unnecessary duplication and repetition of courses. Strong transfer partnerships, by extension, lower tuition costs, accelerate time to degree, strengthen graduation rates, and mitigate outmigration of students from New Jersey. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), dated June 1, 2025 strengthens the relationship between STOCKTON UNIVERSITY and BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE by offering multiple opportunities for students to seamlessly pursue Associate's and Bachelor's degrees at two outstanding institutions of higher education.

It does so by:

- Reaffirming institutional commitment to New Jersey's existing "Comprehensive Statewide Transfer Agreement;"
- Developing Program-to-Program articulation agreements for specific high-demand majors;
- Offering Conditional Dual Admission to STOCKTON UNIVERSITY for county college students beginning in the first year of their AA or AS degree;
- Providing a Reverse Transfer option in compliance with enacted New Jersey Reverse Transfer legislation, for those students who transfer to STOCKTON before completion of an AA or AS degree;
- Offering incentives, including joint advising, special programs, and designated scholarships, to encourage student participation.

II. Overview of Statewide Transfer Agreement

- A. Both STOCKTON and BROOKDALE affirm their commitment to the "Comprehensive State-Wide Transfer Agreement," commonly referred to as the Lampitt Law (<http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/PDFs/XferAgreementOct08.pdf>).
- B. Both institutions also commit to:
 - Recognizing AA or AS degrees from a New Jersey community or county college as fully transferable, and the preferred pathway for students participating in this conditional dual admissions agreement;

- Applying credits that do not culminate in an AA or AS degree from a New Jersey community or county college to the appropriate program, general education, graduation, and elective requirements for a BA or BS degree up to 64 credits;
 - Providing a list of courses and prerequisites that a transfer student with an AA or AS degree from a New Jersey community or county college needs to complete to earn their chosen BA or BS degree at Stockton;
 - Reviewing courses to determine institution-to-institution course equivalency to maximize the value of transferred credits within a student's degree and evaluating non-equivalent courses for credit on a case-by-case basis.
- C. At STOCKTON, up to 64 credits of coursework can be transferred either from a completed AA or AS degree or as individual courses; students must have received an earned grade of C or better in each course transferred (exception: a maximum of 66 credits is allowed in transfer from a regionally-accredited two-year college when the student has earned an associate's degree and been accepted for matriculation in STOCKTON's upper division Bachelor of Science in Nursing program).

III. Program-to-Program Articulation Agreements

- A. Both STOCKTON and BROOKDALE also support NJ Transfer, (<http://www.njtransfer.org/>), a state-wide program that assists students transferring from two-year institutions to determine course equivalencies at the senior college or university of their choice, and the Transfer Equivalency Tool (TREQ).
- B. To build on this system, STOCKTON and BROOKDALE agree to develop specific program-to-program articulation agreements for high-demand majors to facilitate the quality and ease of transfer of students into comparable academic majors. Such agreements will be appended to this MOU and reviewed regularly by both schools to ensure they remain up-to-date in terms of course descriptions and degree requirements.

IV. Conditional Dual Admission

STOCKTON and BROOKDALE further agree to strengthen the transfer process by offering conditional dual admission to STOCKTON. Students will be able to enter this program through one of two pathways, outlined below.

A. Admission via Stockton University

1. All first-year applicants who apply to STOCKTON, but are denied direct admission, shall receive notification of conditional dual admission to STOCKTON in partnership with BROOKDALE through this MOU.
2. To enroll, students must both sign a consent form allowing STOCKTON and BROOKDALE to share the student's information, and matriculate into BROOKDALE. To enroll, they must sign a Dual Admissions Application and Academic Record Release Form allowing STOCKTON and BROOKDALE to share the student's information.
3. Matriculation will be tracked by both institutions: 1) STOCKTON will provide application materials after prospective students complete the requisite consent forms; 2) BROOKDALE will track students matriculating to their campus, and provide STOCKTON with an electronic copy of each participant's transcript, free of charge on a mutually agreed upon schedule, so that STOCKTON may monitor student start dates, selection, grade point average, credits completed, and active or inactive status; and, 3) following a participating student's matriculation to STOCKTON, the University will provide

BROOKDALE with the following information annually: (i) whether the student is still attending STOCKTON; (ii) whether and when the student has completed 64 credits, thereby making the student available for Reverse Transfer (discussed in section V below); (iii) whether the student is maintaining a 2.0 GPA (or higher in some restricted programs); and (iv) whether the student has graduated.

4. All application fees to STOCKTON will be waived for students whose admission is covered by this MOU.

B. Admission via Brookdale:

1. Students who do not enroll in conditional dual admission via their application to STOCKTON can still do so upon their acceptance to BROOKDALE, or at any time during their enrollment at BROOKDALE. To enroll, they must sign a Dual Admissions Application and Academic Record Release Form allowing STOCKTON and BROOKDALE to share the student's information.
2. The same stipulations for tracking, advising and access to special events apply to these students as to the students who are conditionally admitted to STOCKTON through a direct application (specified in section IV.A.3 and 4 above, and IV.C. 1 and 2 below).
3. Students who complete their AA or AS degree at BROOKDALE and fulfill all other criteria pursuant to this MOU will enter STOCKTON as fully matriculated students with junior standing.

C. Program Benefits

1. Students who participate in conditional dual admission will be eligible to apply for STOCKTON housing from the first year of their matriculation to BROOKDALE. Housing fees will be paid directly to STOCKTON. All Transfer Pathways residential students will be held to the same rules and regulations as STOCKTON's own residential students, and must comply with the campus Code of Conduct. Transfer Pathways residential students will be required to sign a separate contract with STOCKTON to confirm their understanding of these expectations; this contract also outlines such students' access to campus student support services while in residence, as well as responsibility for co-payments and uncovered charges.
2. Students who participate in conditional dual admission are also invited to participate in campus activities, student groups, and special events on both campuses from their first year of matriculation to BROOKDALE, and will receive a special STOCKTON identification card for these purposes. All Transfer Pathways students, regardless of whether they reside at STOCKTON, are required to comply with the campus Code of Conduct while participating in any campus activities.

V. Reverse Transfer

STOCKTON and BROOKDALE agree that the expectation is that students in this program will earn an AA or AS degree prior to transferring to STOCKTON. The institutions further agree that when that is not feasible for the student, the following process will be followed:

- A. Students who complete at least 45 credits at BROOKDALE (or the number of credits specified in the current Brookdale Community College Eligibility for Graduation Regulation), and successfully complete a cumulative total of 60 credits earned between their county college and a four-year institution, may be awarded an associate degree retroactively in accordance with the "Comprehensive State-Wide Transfer Agreement," a process known as reverse transfer.

- B. To actively encourage students to apply for reverse transfer, STOCKTON agrees to: 1) provide information to incoming transfer students about the reverse transfer process including the completion of BROOKDALE's Reverse Transfer Form; 2) notify students of their potential eligibility when they achieve 60 credits. In addition, BROOKDALE agrees to waive any degree audit or graduation application fees as an incentive for application.

VI. Time Limits

- A. Any full-time student who matriculates to STOCKTON within three (3) years of the student's original enrollment in BROOKDALE will be subject to the undergraduate degree requirements for the applicable STOCKTON program in place at the time of their original enrollment in BROOKDALE. If more than three (3) years has elapsed between the date of the original enrollment in BROOKDALE and a full-time student's matriculation to STOCKTON, the student must satisfy any degree requirements in place at the time of matriculation to STOCKTON.
- B. Any part-time student (i.e. a student that is classified by BROOKDALE as a part-time student in any one semester of continuous enrollment) that matriculates to STOCKTON within five (5) years of such student's original enrollment in BROOKDALE will be subject to the undergraduate degree requirements for the applicable STOCKTON program in place at the time of their original enrollment in BROOKDALE. If more than five (5) years has elapsed between the date of the original enrollment in BROOKDALE and the student's matriculation to STOCKTON, the part-time student must satisfy any degree requirements in place at the time of matriculation to STOCKTON.

VII. Academic Advising

- A. BROOKDALE students will be jointly advised by both STOCKTON and BROOKDALE when such students enroll at BROOKDALE to maximize each student's ability to enter STOCKTON having completed the correct prerequisite courses and been advised of all STOCKTON and program degree requirements.
- B. To support this work, STOCKTON may request that BROOKDALE provide office space on its campus to be staffed by a STOCKTON advisor; this will ensure that conditional dual admission students have ongoing STOCKTON support on such issues as course-to-course equivalency, program-specific requirements, additional admissions requirements, financial aid, and other matters related to matriculation. Any and all office space requests are to be made in writing to BROOKDALE, attention: VP, Finance & Operations, which will be determined promptly on a case-by-case basis with factors such as availability, duration and cost(s) taken into consideration at BROOKDALE's discretion.
- C. In addition, conditional dual admission students will benefit from ongoing, coordinated advising by representatives from both institutions to assist in course selection and ensure familiarity with graduation requirements of their proposed major. The students will also be invited to attend special events hosted on STOCKTON'S campus.

VIII. Financial Aid and Assistance

- A. Participating students' financial aid will be processed and provided by BROOKDALE when such students are enrolled at BROOKDALE. When participating students are enrolled at STOCKTON, they may apply for financial aid through STOCKTON pursuant to the University's applicable policies and procedures.
- B. STOCKTON will provide five (5) one-year scholarships of \$2,000 per year to BROOKDALE graduates whose admission to STOCKTON is covered by this MOU.

IX. Cooperation, Assessment and Other Initiatives

- A. STOCKTON and BROOKDALE acknowledge that a successful affiliation requires ongoing cooperative efforts, assessment, and support. In addition, both institutions acknowledge the potential for the existence of further opportunities for collaboration and association.
- B. STOCKTON and BROOKDALE agree to work together to provide opportunities for BROOKDALE students who have completed two semesters at BROOKDALE to participate in the Live Work Learn summer experience program. This initiative is designed to support students' financial, professional, and academic growth by providing:
- **Residential housing** at Stockton's Atlantic City campus during the summer at no cost.
 - **Employment opportunities** with participating Atlantic City businesses, allowing students to earn wages while gaining valuable, hands-on workforce experience.
 - **Career preparation** through a structured pre-program orientation and online career readiness training sessions.

NOTE: This program is available to Brookdale students, regardless of whether they plan to transfer to Stockton.

- C. Consequently, STOCKTON and BROOKDALE agree to establish an advisory committee to ensure best practices in the following areas: (a) recruitment and enrollment management; (b) academic services; (c) student services; (d) marketing; and (e) facilities use.
- D. This MOU will be assessed after five (5) years of operation using a mutually agreed upon assessment plan, and then thereafter, if the MOU is extended, as agreed by and between both institutions.

X. Intellectual Property and Publicity

- A. STOCKTON and BROOKDALE agree to work cooperatively to create marketing language to promote this MOU's program-to-program articulation agreements, and conditional dual admission. To do so, STOCKTON and BROOKDALE will be granted non-exclusive and non-transferable permission to use the other institution's name and logo for academic and promotional purposes. This includes permission to use mutually agreed-upon domain names and URLs to support initiatives in this MOU without royalty or fee, upon advance written approval by both parties.
- B. Both institutions shall notify one another when asked for statements or press releases relating to this MOU and shall take reasonable steps to secure authorization from one another approving such messages prior to making any public statements. Contact Brookdale's College Relations Department at: 732 224 2453.

XI. Fundraising, Foundation, and Alumni Activities

- A. STOCKTON and BROOKDALE shall retain the right to treat students who have completed relevant degree programs described in this MOU as alumni of their institutions.
- B. Likewise, both institutions reserve the right to solicit donations from matriculated students and alumni who have completed degree programs described in this MOU.
- C. Participating institutions may work jointly in developing mutually beneficial fundraising and alumni engagement strategies.

XII. Separate Accounting; No Change in Status

- A. Costs and revenues will not be shared or allocated between participating institutions. During the period that a participating student is enrolled at BROOKDALE, all costs and revenues arising from such enrollment will be paid to BROOKDALE. During the period that a participating student is enrolled at STOCKTON, all costs and revenues arising from such enrollment will be paid to STOCKTON.
- B. STOCKTON and BROOKDALE, and their respective Boards of Trustees, will continue to maintain their independent authority, rights, and privileges as set forth in their respective enabling statutes and bylaws. Moreover, the employees of STOCKTON and BROOKDALE shall continue as employees of their respective institutions, with all of the rights and obligations attendant thereto. The foregoing shall not preclude STOCKTON or BROOKDALE from entering into arrangements in the future to jointly employ certain individuals. Each institution shall be responsible for funding its own budget.

XIII. Term, Renewal, and Termination

- A. This MOU shall have an initial term of five (5) years from the date it becomes effective. Thereafter, this MOU may be renewed via a writing signed by both institutions prior to expiration of the current term.
- B. This MOU may be terminated by either STOCKTON or BROOKDALE by written notice to the other institution if:
 - 1. There shall have been a material breach of any of the covenants set forth in this MOU on the part of either institution, which breach (if susceptible to cure) is not cured within thirty (30) days following written notice to the institution committing the breach, or;
 - 2. The other institution shall cease to maintain its accreditation or licensure, or;
 - 3. The other institution or any of its employees or agents shall engage in any conduct that could reasonably be expected to adversely affect the reputation of the institution seeking termination.
- C. Either institution may terminate this MOU for any reason or no reason upon one year's written notice to the other institution.
- D. In the event that this MOU is terminated per section XIII C, it is understood and agreed that the institutions will work in good faith to ensure early termination will not apply to those students already accepted to STOCKTON and BROOKDALE under the terms of this MOU.

XIV. Compliance with Applicable Laws

- A. Participating institutions agree to abide by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and any other applicable federal and state laws/regulations addressing student privacy. Any student data proposed to be shared (whether before or after the execution of this MOU) will be shared only in compliance with FERPA or any other applicable federal and state laws.
- B. Both STOCKTON and BROOKDALE, in its programs and services, adhere to New Jersey's non-discrimination policy for Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity. Both STOCKTON and BROOKDALE prohibit discrimination and harassment against its employees, students, and applicants based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, or any other protected characteristic, as required by [Title VI](#), [Title IX](#), [Section 504](#), and all other applicable federal and state laws.

C. This MOU will be governed by, and construed under, the laws of the State of New Jersey without regard to conflicts-of-laws principles. All disputes arising under this MOU shall be resolved by arbitration in the State of New Jersey in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association then currently in effect, or by an individual arbitrator mutually agreed upon by both institutions. Demand for arbitration of any such dispute shall be made within a reasonable time after the dispute has arisen, and shall in no event be made after the date when institution of legal or equitable proceedings for the resolution of such dispute would be barred by the applicable statute of limitations as determined under the laws of the State of New Jersey. Any demand for arbitration shall include all disputes then known to the demanding party. Judgement upon the award rendered hereby may be entered in any court having competent jurisdiction thereof or application may be made to such court for a judicial acceptance of the award and an order of enforcement, as the case may be.

D. Accreditation Policy And Procedures Applicable To Brookdale Community College

The Middle States Commission of Higher Education (MSCHE/Commission) has developed the *Third-Party Providers Policy and Procedures* to articulate the Commission's expectations for quality, integrity, transparency, and disclosure for institutions working with third-party providers. The policy and procedures also address written arrangements, which require approval prior to implementation through substantive change process. The Commission developed *Third-Party Providers Policy and Procedures* following an analysis of the role of third-party providers in higher education as well as in consideration of comments received during the call for public comments period. As a result of the comments, the Commission made a number of clarifications to the definition of third-party provider, which is limited in scope within the **Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation (Fourteenth Edition), Evidence Expectations by Standard Guidelines, policies and procedures**, and applicable federal regulatory requirements.

The Commission has always had expectations for institutions relating to integrity and truthful representation in arrangements with third-party providers dating back to the *Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education* (2011). Key considerations from Commission policies and guidelines that touched on third-party providers have been incorporated into the new *Third-Party Providers Policy and Procedures*. As a result, the former policies known as *Contracts by Accredited and Candidate Institutions for Education-Related Services, International Programs Offered by Accredited Institutions*, as well as *Third-Party Providers Guidelines*, are withdrawn effective January 1, 2024.

The new policy addresses the use of third-party providers by institutions and requires that institutions maximize transparency and student considerations in these relationships, provide forthright reporting and disclosure of any such relationships and their terms, and follow any federal or state regulations that may also govern the provider relationship. The procedures describe the evidence required for Commission review of third-party providers during accreditation activities as well as prior approval of written arrangements through substantive change.

The policy and procedures became effective on January 1, 2024, and are available on the **Browse Policies and Procedures page** and can be found using the search filter. The Commission released a summary of the comments on the **Policies Under Review page** in January 2024.

Brookdale Community College is sharing this information being that STOCKTON falls within the definition of third-party service provider, and the Parties will be entering into this MOU ("Agreement" or "Contract") regarding a program that impacts the student experience, supports student services and/or that your institution will have a contractual relationship with the College (Standards III, IV and VII). In light of the new MSCHE Policy, and the fact that the College is responsible for the management, assessment, oversight and support of its third-party service providers, STOCKTON warrants and agrees to abide by the compliance, assessment and reporting requirements of the Policy and within the established timeline for evaluation, analysis and follow up procedures, if/when required.

Failure to comply with the foregoing requirements may necessitate a termination of Contract "for cause" effective immediately via written notice from Brookdale.

- E. This MOU may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original of this MOU and all of which will be deemed to constitute the same letter. To the extent permitted by law, a signature delivered via facsimile or email will be considered as an original for the purposes of acknowledging and agreeing to the terms of this MOU.
- F. This MOU supersedes any other similar agreement or MOU, written or otherwise, or any representations made thereto, between participating institutions, or any past practices of a nature provided for herein.
- G. STOCKTON and BROOKDALE each represent that all necessary action has been taken to authorize the execution and delivery of this MOU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, participating institutions have duly executed this instrument, effective on June 1, 2025 regardless of date(s) of execution.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED:

BROOKDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE:



Dr. David M. Stout
President

Date: 6/1/2025

STOCKTON UNIVERSITY:



Dr. Joseph Bertolino
President

Date: 6/1/2025