



ARTICULATION AGREEMENT



Articulation agreement between Northern Arizona University and Aspen University
Effective Date: March 1, 2023

Section 1: Institutions and Purpose

Founded in 1899 in Flagstaff, Arizona, Northern Arizona University (NAU) is a Higher Learning Commission-accredited institution of higher education. It offers more than 125 academic programs at the Flagstaff Mountain campus as well as at more than 20 statewide locations. NAU's academic programs, research, public service, and creative endeavors enrich lives and create opportunities in Arizona and beyond. We develop solutions to challenges and drive innovation in a supportive, inclusive, and diverse environment. Aspen University is an accredited, post-secondary, higher education institution that is committed to offering a high quality, affordable education.

The purpose of this agreement is to advance the admission process and the awarding of transfer credit for Aspen University students enrolled in the DNP and applying for admission to the Northern Arizona University DNP program.

NAU has the capacity to provide access to a DNP program that is of acceptable quality and reasonably similar in content to Aspen's program within a reasonable time period and in the same geographic area. NAU will remain true to its own mission and operations and provide equitable treatment of accepted Aspen students as they do with their currently enrolled students.

Section 2: Statement of Agreement

NAU agrees to apply this articulation agreement to students who meet the following criteria:

- Students enrolled in Aspen University's DNP program as of August 1, 2022
- Students who were in Good Academic Standing as of August 1, 2022

This agreement does not apply to students transferring who do not meet the above criteria.



Aspen students applying to NAU are subject to the rules, policies, and procedures of NAU in effect at the time of application, including, but not limited to, those related to finances and graduation. NAU agrees to apply the following to the students who meet the above criteria upon acceptance into NAU.

- Accept Aspen University credits as transfer credit provided the courses are graduate level and they have received a B or better on each course. Maximum transfer of credit is 41 hours as per NAU policy.
- Students will be expected to take a total of 74 hours in the Doctoral program to meet NAU requirements as outlined on page 15 of the graduate handbook. These include 18 hours in the core courses, 11 credits in scholarly inquiry and a minimum of 4 hours in clinical immersion depending on transfer of clinical hours for a total of 1000 hours which is required (60 hours per credit unit). Current policy allows a transfer of 760 clinical hours if done in nursing for approved experiences.
- Additionally, the student DNP project is required prior to graduation and all students must also meet that requirement. The project is based on the DNP and NAU essentials and students should be prepared to submit this project for approval to the faculty and to the institutional review board prior to data collection and complete a final defense prior to graduation.
- Apply these Aspen University credits to NAU's programs as applicable, application for transfer of credits is made online through the graduate college.
- NAU's DNP program is 74 credits: Aspen's DNP program is 42 credits. If courses are transferred students will need to take electives to meet the requirements for graduation of 74 total credits.
- All students are expected to attend new student orientation (zoom or in person) once admitted.
- Students must hold a Masters degree in nursing from an accredited program to be admitted.
- DNP students must complete a graduate level statistics course prior to the start of their project including both descriptive and inferential curriculum and pass with a B or better to be admitted to the program.
- Admission requires documentation and review by the graduate faculty and may require an interview.
- The application fee to the doctoral program is \$65 and will be waived.
- Accept admissions documents (including copies of official transcripts and syllabi for transfer) from Aspen University as official documents. Program director for masters or doctoral program will need to verify the number of clinical hours completed to be transferred.
- NAU will provide timely notice of the availability of the program including information about differences between its program and Aspen's

Section 3: Admission and Matriculation

This agreement does not guarantee admission to NAU or admission into any specific program, unless otherwise stated. Students must apply for admission to NAU in accordance with the rules, policies, and procedures of NAU in effect at the time of acceptance.

As outlined in this agreement, courses transferred will fulfill some NAU program requirements. Students will be responsible for completing all graduation requirements of NAU in effect at the time of acceptance in order to earn their degree.



Section 4: Changes in Curriculum or Program Requirements

Changes made to relevant curriculum at either Aspen University or NAU will necessitate review of the programs at both institutions to determine if reassessment of this articulation agreement is necessary. If deemed appropriate, a new agreement will be generated and signed.

Each partner assumes responsibility for informing the other of these changes. Changes to curriculum and/or program requirements must be communicated in writing no later than 30 days from the date of change.

Section 5: Term and Termination

This agreement shall commence as of March 1, 2023 and shall terminate on March 1, 2024, unless terminated earlier as provided elsewhere in this agreement. This agreement may be renewed by the mutual written agreement of both institutions for additional terms, not to exceed one (1) year. Either party may terminate or suspend this agreement for convenience upon sixty (60) days' written notice; provided, however, that the parties shall discuss and reasonably attempt to resolve the issues that led to the notice of termination or suspension. Notwithstanding the termination of the agreement, any student who has applied for admissions and meets the terms of this agreement prior to or during the sixty (60) day period shall be treated as if this agreement continues to be in effect.






Section 6: General Provisions

In carrying out the responsibilities and obligations of this Agreement, neither party shall be acting as the agent or principal of the other with regard to dealings with third parties, including students. Neither party shall have the authority to make any statements, representations, nor commitments of any kind or to take any action binding the other except as provided for herein or authorized in writing by the party to be bound.

This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties. No waiver, consent, modification, or change of terms of this Agreement shall bind either party unless in writing and signed by both parties.



Section 7: Signatures

 <hr/> <p><i>Dr. Marcos Gayol, Dean, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Distance Education programs Aspen University</i></p>	 <hr/> <p><i>Dr. Janina Johnson, Executive Director School of Nursing Northern Arizona University</i></p>
 <hr/> <p><i>Dr. Joanne Weiss, Provost Aspen University</i></p>  <hr/> <p><i>Katie Brown, Registrar Aspen University</i></p>	 <hr/> <p><i>Dr. Karen Pugliesi, Provost Northern Arizona University</i></p>



Transfer Credit Pathway

Aspen University students applying to NAU’s DNP program may receive up to 41 semester credit hours of transfer credit; students must meet the minimum grade requirements outlined in the transfer credit guidelines in the [academic catalog](#). Request for transfer of credit requires syllabi of the course and transcript of passing grade of B or higher. Forms for requesting credit transfer are available from the graduate school web page. Clinical hours must be verified by the program director from the transferring program in writing. Students must complete graduate level statistics with both inferential and descriptive content with a grade of B or above to be admitted to the program.

DNP (NAU) & DNP (Aspen)

NAU Course	Aspen University Course Equivalent
NUR 609 Synthesis of Writing, Research and Statistical Principles in Healthcare	Transcripts reviewed on case-by-case basis for course equivalency
NUR 677 Methods for Evidence-based Practice	DNP810 Evidence-based Practice for Quality Improvement
NUR 700 Introduction to Doctor of Nursing Practice	No equivalency; required NAU DNP course
NUR 701 Healthcare and Policy for Advanced Practice Nursing	DNP820 Health Policy and Advocacy
NUR 703 Doctor of Nursing Practice Clinical Immersion	Transfer up to 760 of the required 1000 practicum practice hours
NUR 705 Leadership for Advanced Practice Nurses in Clinical Practice	DNP835 Strategic Leadership and Business Management
NUR 712 Evidence-based Practice: Project Planning and Implementation	No equivalency; required NAU DNP course
NUR 714 - Health and Vulnerable Populations	DNP830 Global Population Health
NUR 716 - Organizational and Systems Leadership for Quality Care	DNP805 Organizational and Systems Leadership
NUR 704 - Evidence-based Practice: Project Evaluation	No equivalency; required NAU DNP course
NUR 706 - Evidence-based Practice: Dissemination	No equivalency; required NAU DNP course

Students enrolled in Aspen University DNP program can earn nursing elective transfer credit for the following completed courses:

- DNP800 Theoretical and Scientific Underpinnings
- DNP840 Strategic Planning and Financial Management
- DNP825 Health Information Management and Informatics