



ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

AND

Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center

Prepared by

Dr. Sherri Link, Director of Academic and Student Affairs
Saint Francis University, Division of Professional Studies

&

Ms. Nicole Zernick, Interim Director
Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center

2025-2026

PATIENT CARE TECHNICIAN ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

Saint Francis University
and
Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center

Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center, (GACTC) and Saint Francis University (SFU), Division of Professional Studies (DPS) hereby establish this transfer articulation agreement for the transfer of secondary students and alumni to Saint Francis University.

Recognizing that the missions and goals of both institutions include serving the educational and workforce needs of Pennsylvania, the high quality of both institutions, the growth of the career education movement throughout the state and in our region, and the need to provide multiple paths to healthcare careers for both traditional-aged and returning adult students, this agreement allows for seamless transition for students and guarantees admittance and the Division of Professional Studies provided performance standards are met at the Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center.

The primary purpose of this agreement is to enhance the transferability between the accredited secondary programs at GACTC and SFU. For the 2025-2026 academic year, students can transfer a maximum of three (3) credits through the GACTC health occupations program into Saint Francis University's Patient Care Technician (PCT) program. They will be able to waive PCT 101 and PCT 102. They will take PCT 103 through PCT 106 at SFU and upon graduation they will have earned 18 college credits. They will also have earned the patient care technician certification and the opportunity to sit for the National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT) PCT exam. This certification will allow students to be employed as Level II PCTs. The goal is to help students find a path to a college education that is readily apparent, time sensitive, easily understandable, logistically organized, stackable, and financially responsible.

PRINCIPLES OF AGREEMENT

1. Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center students are eligible to transfer into Saint Francis University's Patient Care Technician program offered through the Division of Professional Studies. *This agreement is not offered as a transfer to traditional day-time undergraduate programs.* If a student wishes to apply to traditional day-time undergraduate programs, he/she may do so by contacting the Office of Admissions (814-472-3100 or admissions@francis.edu). Transfer into the Division of Professional Studies programs can be done by contacting the office of DPS at (814-472-3012 or professionalstudies@francis.edu) or visiting www.francis.edu/professionalstudies.
2. GACTC students are responsible to obtain, and submit an application for admission, and to submit an **OFFICIAL** transcript to Saint Francis University indicating successful completion of the secondary or post-secondary diploma or certificate. Potential students will be required to meet the admissions requirements for the program in which they choose to apply for admission. Students applying to the PCT program will be required to provide a copy of the certificate or diploma earned while attending GACTC.
3. The determination of major program requirements for the Patient Care Technician certificate will be the responsibility of Saint Francis University.
4. Any statute of limitations on the acceptance of GACTC transfer credits towards PCT major requirements will be consistent with the statute of limitations for all Saint Francis University students. Credits accepted in transfer will not be used by Saint Francis University in the computation of the student's grade-point-average or the awarding of academic honors.
5. Both Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center and Saint Francis University will publicize and promote this agreement to potential and current students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the general public. Saint Francis University staff will be invited to any transfer advising sessions, career days, or open houses; and will provide transfer admissions materials to students requesting such information. GACTC will announce to its current students and to its alumni when Saint Francis University is holding open houses for possible transfer students. Saint Francis University will be included on the web listing and other pertinent materials regarding transfer and articulation agreement programs. Appropriate logos and other marketing materials will be provided to the GACTC for such use.
6. Each institution will designate an official who will be responsible for all aspects of the articulation program at that institution. GACTC and SFU will review this agreement every two years to make any necessary adjustments. Either institution may terminate this agreement after providing written notification at least 90 days in advance of the effective date of termination. It is understood that such changes will not adversely impact students already covered under the provisions of the existing

agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, either party may terminate the Agreement immediately in the event that participation under the Agreement may give rise to a violation of any requirement of federal or state law or regulation or the requirements of any accrediting agency having jurisdiction.

Greater Altoona Career and Technology Center and Saint Francis University hereby authorize this articulation agreement effective immediately upon the signatures of both institutions.

CONTACTS FOR COORDINATION:

All notices and other communications required hereunder by either party to the other shall be in writing, delivered personally, electronically with validation of receipt, by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, or by overnight courier, and shall be deemed to have been duly given when delivered personally or received when using overnight courier or three business days after being deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

Saint Francis University:
Dr. Sherri Link
Director, Academic and Student Affairs
PO Box 600
Loretto, PA 15940
slink@francis.edu

Career & Technology Center
Ms. Nicole Zernick
GACTC
1500 4th Ave.
Altoona, PA 16602
nicole.zernick@gactc.edu

or to such other persons or places as either party may designate by written notice to the other.

APPROVALS:

Signature: 
Michael McGinnis (Jun 9, 2025 12:57 EDT)

Dr. Michael McGinnis
Vice President for Academic Affairs
Saint Francis University
117 Evergreen Drive
Loretto, PA 15940

DATE: 06/09/2025

Signature: 

Ms. Nicole Zernick
Interim Director
GACTC
1500 4th Ave.
Altoona, PA 16602

DATE: 06/09/2025












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Final Audit Report

2025-06-09

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