

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
DREW UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND
RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Drew University, College of Liberal Arts (Drew) and Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) enter into this collaborative relationship specifically to facilitate the transfer of honors program students into a baccalaureate program at Drew.

This collaborative Agreement will enable honors program students with an associate's degree from RVCC to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree at Drew. For the purposes of this Agreement, an "honors program student" is an RVCC student who has taken at least four honors classes prior to earning their associate's degree. To be eligible to participate in this Agreement, RVCC honors program students should apply to Drew at the beginning of the semester in which their associate's degree will be completed. Subsequently, students must graduate from RVCC with an associate's degree, and a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 3.25. (It is recognized that students need a 3.5 to graduate with honors. The lower GPA here reflects minimum eligibility for students who have completed at least two semesters of honors prior to earning the associate's degree).

I. ACADEMIC and ADMISSION

Obligations of Drew University:

1. Qualified students who have successfully completed at least two semesters in the honors program at RVCC, who have earned an Associate's degree with at least a 3.25 GPA, and who are admitted to Drew will be granted junior (5th semester) status.
2. A course-by-course articulation will be completed for all RVCC General Education courses, in addition to electives that round out an applicant's honors program at RVCC.
3. Beginning in a student's first semester in the honors program at RVCC, an admission counselor and an academic advisor or faculty member from Drew will visit RVCC to meet with interested students in a group and individually along with RVCC staff in order to review curricular choices that will maximize the transferable credits to Drew. These meetings will assure that interested students pursue courses that will transfer to Drew and enable the student to graduate with a bachelor's degree after two years of full-time study. This will occur once a semester while the students are enrolled at RVCC (more as needed).
4. During the spring semester of the first year, interested students from the honors program at RVCC will visit the Drew campus as a group, will attend classes of interest and will meet with Drew faculty and staff to discuss their academic interests and their progress toward transfer. Transportation will be financed by Drew.
5. Beginning in the second year, qualified students may take a course at Drew at no charge in the fall semester and, upon application to transfer, may take a second course in the spring semester at no charge.
6. Admission applications will be due by February 1st of the student's second year at RVCC and candidates will be notified of admission, financial aid and scholarship decisions by April 1st. Candidates must notify Drew of their intention to accept or decline the offer by May 1st. (For students receiving their Associates degree in December, an October 1st application deadline and a November 1st notification date would be required.)

7. The application fee for students who apply pursuant to this Agreement will be waived.
8. A cohort of qualified students (target=5) will be admitted to Drew each year, assuming interest and qualified applicants. The actual number may vary from year to year depending on available space.
9. Qualified students will be admitted under this Agreement for the semester beginning Fall 2016.
10. Drew will conduct a special orientation session for new transfer students. It will also arrange for RVCC students admitted under this agreement to form a cohort with honors transfers from other community colleges. This cohort will be guided by a faculty or staff mentor during the first transitional semester at Drew.
11. Drew will consider, as an extension of this agreement, the inclusion of selected NJ STARS students in this cohort.
12. For the first year of this agreement, current sophomores will be eligible to take a course at no charge at Drew upon application for admission for Fall, 2016.

Obligations of Raritan Valley Community College

1. To continue the tradition of academic rigor and excellence for which their honors program is known.
2. To dedicate an advisor to work with the honors students while at RVCC and in preparation for transfer.
3. To facilitate Drew faculty and staff visits to campus, and to publicize this to prospective students.
4. To facilitate a trip to Drew during the spring semester of the first year.

Joint Obligations

1. Agree to develop and implement advertising and promotional efforts to communicate the benefits of this Agreement, including posting information on this Agreement on each institution's website.
2. Designate a representative or representatives who will coordinate the Agreement between the two institutions.
3. Collaborate in providing students with information and academic advising about this Agreement, academic requirements, and the process of transferring.
4. Work together to coordinate the application process and the tracking of students in the cohort.
5. Exchange data and documents that will contribute to the maintenance and improvement of this Agreement, enhance the transfer process, and promote effective cooperation between institutions. These will consist of data about individual transfer students, including admissions information and grades. The institutions will exchange data only after obtaining appropriate permission from the students.
6. Consult with each other through appropriate channels prior to implementing major changes in policy or curricula that directly affect students transferring under the terms of this Agreement, and keep each other informed of any other changes of policy or curricula that affect those students.
7. Facilitate and support consultation and collaboration between the institutions as it relates to this Agreement, degree requirements, and other academic matters.

II. FINANCIAL AID

Obligations of Drew University:

1. Each admitted honors student with a GPA of 3.75 or higher will receive a \$25,000 annual Honors Scholarship from Drew.

2. Admitted honors students with a GPA of a 3.5 or higher will receive a \$20,000 Presidential Scholarship.
3. A Deans Scholarship of \$15,000 will be awarded to honors students achieving a 3.25 GPA or higher.
4. Students who are members of Phi Theta Kappa will receive an additional \$2500 scholarship per year.
5. All students admitted under this agreement, including those awarded the academic scholarships above, will be eligible to receive need-based grants, loans and work-study to meet their demonstrated financial need according to Drew's analysis of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, minus an expected student summer earnings contribution. Academic scholarship recipients who also demonstrate financial need according to the college's aid policies will hold the scholarship as a part of their need-based financial aid package.
6. Each honors student admitted under this agreement who qualifies for academic and/or need-based aid will be eligible to receive up to four semesters of financial aid and scholarships for full-time study.

Revision, Renewal and Termination of this Memorandum of Understanding

Drew University and Raritan Valley Community College are responsible for identifying and communicating to each other any change in the policies or requirements of their respective institutions that affect this Agreement.

This Agreement will be in effect as of the date of its signing. The appropriate individuals at each institution will review it upon request. Either institution may terminate this Agreement at any time by written notice at least one year in advance of the effective date of termination. Should this Agreement be terminated, it is understood that all honors students who have been accepted to Drew, as a part of this Agreement, will be provided all of the obligations as stated.

The willingness of both institutions to enter into this Agreement in order to facilitate the transfer of honors students from Raritan Valley Community College into Drew University, and to expand their opportunities for academic success there, is indicated by the following signatures.

The undersigned representatives of the parties, Raritan Valley Community College and Drew University have executed this Agreement on the dates indicated:

For Raritan Valley Community College:

For Drew University:

M. McDermott 6.22.2015
 President Date

[Signature] 7/15/15
 President Date

Patrice Glenn 6/19/2015
 Dean of Academic Affairs Date

[Signature] 6/23/15
 Senior Vice President, Enrollment Date