



# Northern Illinois University

## Articulation Agreement

### Northern Illinois University and Sauk Valley Community College

This Articulation Agreement ("**Agreement**") is made and entered into by and between the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University, a body politic and corporate of the State of Illinois with a principal business address of 1425 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, Illinois 60115 ("**NIU**") and the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 506, counties of Whiteside, Lee, Ogle, Henry, Bureau, and Carroll in the State of Illinois, a public community college, commonly known as Sauk Valley Community College, with a principal business address of 173 IL Rt 2., Dixon, Illinois 61021 ("**Community College**").

WHEREAS, the parties wish to form a cooperative relationship through this agreement to aid the transfer process of Community College students wishing to matriculate at NIU; and

WHEREAS, the relationship between Community College and NIU is built on mutual trust and collaboration and reflects a shared commitment to working together in the spirit of cooperation; and

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises hereinafter set forth, the parties hereto mutually agree as follows:

1. The Program. To better serve students and facilitate the transfer process between Northern Illinois University and Community College, the terms set forth in this Agreement shall apply to students completing the **Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice** at Community College who wish to seek admittance to the **Bachelor of Science in Public Service Leadership** program at NIU (the "**Program**").
2. Admission Requirements. Community College students must meet the requirements of the Program and the requirements stated in this Articulation Agreement, must be in good standing at Community College at the time of transfer, and must adhere to each institution's standard policies and procedures, including, but not limited to, those dealing with admission, enrollment in courses, transfer credits, financial aid, student conduct and discipline, academic probation, dismissal and reentry.

Acceptance into a specific NIU undergraduate degree program is based on the transferring student meeting the conditions and requirements applicable to that program. Specifically, students who have successfully completed the **Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice** at Sauk Valley Community College will be admitted to the **Bachelor of Science in Public Service Leadership** program at NIU, provided they meet the requirements stated in the Transfer Guide attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference, along with any other applicable admission requirements that may be required at NIU's sole discretion, and after the student's application has been reviewed and the student has been accepted for transfer to NIU.

Failure to meet the requirements of the Program does not preclude any student from applying and being considered for admission to Northern Illinois University using the traditional admission process.

3. Term and Termination: The term of this Agreement shall commence on July 1, 2025 ("**Effective Date**") and terminate on June 30, 2029 ("**Term**"), unless earlier terminated as provided for herein. The Term may be extended by the mutual written agreement of the parties. Either party shall have the right to terminate this Agreement, with or without cause, upon sixty (60) days prior written notice to the other party. Either party may terminate this Agreement immediately if the other party commits a material breach of this Agreement. Termination of this Agreement based on a material breach must be communicated to the other party in writing and must include a description of the breach. All Community College students admitted to NIU or enrolled at **NIU** at the time such termination becomes effective shall be permitted to complete their degree or program provided such students continue to successfully meet the course and Program requirements.
4. Regular Communication Between Parties. Representatives of both institutions agree to meet on a regular basis, but at least once a year to assess curricular changes and other conditions that may affect the nature of this Agreement.
5. Curricular Changes. Notwithstanding the foregoing, each party has the right and responsibility to make changes to its curricula and enrollment standards to maintain its academic integrity and meet accreditation standards. This Articulation Agreement does not preclude either institution from making curricular changes as it may solely deem appropriate in which case appropriate notice will be given to the operative academic personnel at the other institution.
6. Publications and Promotional Materials. NIU will provide Community College with appropriate publications and promotional materials regarding the subject matter of this Articulation Agreement. Community College shall undertake all commercially reasonable efforts to promote such NIU-issued publications and promotional materials among its students.
7. Records. Each institution shall keep appropriate records pertaining to its activities performed under this Agreement.
8. Notices. Service of all notices required or permitted under this Agreement shall be sent to Community College to the attention of the Director of Transfer Services in the Student Success Center at the address set forth on Page 1 of this Agreement. Notices to University shall be sent to the attention of the Executive Director of Community College Initiatives located in the Office of the Provost, 1425 West Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, IL 60115, or to any other address which a party specifies by giving notice in accordance with this Section. Notices are effective upon receipt and the sender has the burden of proving receipt.
9. Public Announcements and Intellectual Property. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, NIU and Community College will advertise the Program through appropriate and mutually agreed upon literature and web sites. Students may receive communications from **NIU** informing them of presentations, workshops, activities, student events and visits. Neither party shall issue any press release or other public announcement relating to this Agreement or the activities contemplated by this Agreement or use the other party's name, logos, marks or any other trade designations (including, but not limited to, on its website, in printed materials or in any other manner) or any other intellectual property of the other party (collectively, "**Institutional IP**") without the prior written approval of the other party, which approval may be withheld for any reason. Any approved use of Institutional IP shall be subject to compliance with all of the approving party's requirements, specifications and brand guidelines pertaining to the use of such Institutional IP. Each party shall comply with all reasonable requests from the other in the event any use of Institutional IP does not meet the reasonable expectations of the approving party. Neither party shall acquire or claim any right, title, interest or ownership rights of any nature whatsoever in any Institutional IP of the other party by virtue of this Agreement and shall cease use of any Institutional IP of the other party upon such party's request or upon termination of this Agreement. Any use of the other party's Institutional IP in a manner not authorized herein is a violation of this Agreement. Any and all goodwill that may result from use of the Institutional IP shall inure to the benefit of the owner of the Institutional **IP**.

10. Personally Identifiable Information/Privacy. In connection with the performance of their respective obligations under this Agreement, Northern Illinois University and Community College will have access to students' personally identifiable information. NIU and Community College agree that access to such personally identifiable information shall be limited to their respective authorized employees who have a legitimate educational interest in the records of such students. The parties shall take reasonable steps to ensure that their respective counselors, employees, administrators, and subcontractors assigned to supporting students gain admission into the Program maintain the confidentiality of all student information as required by applicable law and this Agreement and protect such information from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification and disclosure. Neither party shall disclose personally identifiable information to any other party without the prior consent of the applicable student except as otherwise allowed by law or required by court order.

The parties recognize that they are bound to comply with all applicable privacy and confidentiality laws in their handling of the confidential and personal information and education records of students, including but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99). In connection with the confidential and personal information provided under this Agreement, each party shall comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and shall be considered to be a school official of the other party. Each party shall implement reasonable security procedures to protect the confidential and personal information from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification and disclosure. Each party shall immediately notify the other in the event of any actual, potential or threatened breach of its obligations under this Agreement, and will take all necessary and appropriate actions to restrain any and all use or disclosure of such confidential and personal information. Each party shall be liable for not taking appropriate action to restrain any and all use or disclosure of such confidential and personal information. Each party shall also be liable for failing to provide a notice of any actual, potential or threatened security breach to the other party. Subject to Illinois law, each party shall defend, indemnify and hold the other party harmless from and against any and all claims, losses, liability, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising from the unauthorized use or disclosure of such confidential and personal information. This provision shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.

11. Non-Discrimination. Each party represents that it shall not discriminate against any student on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical ability or any other legally protected class.

12. Indemnification. Subject to the limitations of applicable Illinois law, including the Court of Claims Act and the State Employee Indemnification Act, each party shall indemnify, defend and hold the other party harmless from any and all claims or losses arising out of failure to comply with any applicable laws or regulations, or the negligent acts or omissions of such party, its employees or agents in connection with the performance of this Agreement, including without limitation, any liability related to damage to persons or property.

13. Independent Contractors. In the performance of this Agreement, both parties are at all times acting as independent contractors and none of them nor their respective employees shall claim to be employees, partners, joint venturers, or agents of the other.

14. Non-Exclusivity. This Agreement is intended to be non-exclusive. It shall not prevent either party from entering into similar agreements with other institutions.

15. Force Majeure. Neither party shall be liable for any delays in the performance of any of its obligations hereunder due to causes beyond its reasonable control, including but not limited to fire, strike, war, riots, acts of any civil or military authority, acts of God, pandemic, epidemic or other public health emergency, judicial action, unavailability or shortages of labor, materials or equipment, enrollment restrictions ordered by either institution, or failure or delay in delivery by suppliers or delays in transportation.

16. Costs and Expenses. Each institution will be responsible for its own costs and expenses incurred in

connection with the fulfillment of its obligations under this Agreement. Neither institution will have the authority to authorize or incur financial liability on behalf of the other. Payment of tuition, fees, and living costs is the responsibility of the individual students in the Program. Each party acknowledges that it shall have its own separate arrangements with its students for the amount and payment of tuition during the period the student is enrolled with that party. Neither party shall have any rights or obligations regarding the amount of tuition charged by the other party.

17. Headings and Interpretation. The section headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement. Each party participated in the negotiation and drafting of this Agreement, assisted by such legal counsel as it desired, and contributed to its revisions. Any ambiguities with respect to any provision of this Agreement will be construed fairly as to all parties and not in favor of or against any party.

18. Assignment. Neither party may assign this Agreement or any right or duty under this Agreement, or subcontract to any other person, entity or agency the performance of any of its obligations under this Agreement, without the prior written consent of the other party, which can be withheld at its discretion.

19. Waiver. A party does not waive any right under this Agreement by failing to insist on compliance with any of the terms of this Agreement or by failing to exercise any right hereunder. Any waivers granted hereunder are effective only if recorded in a writing signed by the party granting such waiver.

20. Severability. If any of the provisions of this Agreement are determined to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provisions shall be severed from the Agreement, and the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect; provided, however, that with respect to any material provision so severed, the parties shall negotiate in good faith to achieve the original intent of such provision.

21. Authority and Compliance with Law. Each party hereby represents that (i) it has the full right and power to enter into and fully perform this Agreement in accordance with its terms; (ii) the execution, delivery, and performance of this Agreement will not infringe upon the rights of any third party or violate the provisions of any agreement to which it is a party; and (iii) it and its employees and agents will comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations in performing its obligations arising out of this Agreement.

22. Insurance. Each party shall maintain, either commercially or through a self-insurance program, coverage for general liability insurance for personal injury and property damage caused by negligent acts or omissions of its employees, agents and officers, in minimum coverage amounts of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 in the aggregate. Upon request, certificates of insurance shall be provided by each party naming the other as an additional insured for the purposes of this Agreement. Each party shall maintain workers' compensation insurance in amounts not less than that required by statute for its respective employees performing work in connection with this Agreement.

23. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be interpreted and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois, without regard to its conflict of laws principles.

24. Electronic Transmission. The parties agree that a signature transmitted to the other party by facsimile or other electronic transmission shall be effective to bind the party whose signature was transmitted. The parties further agree that any xerographically or electronically reproduced copy of this fully executed agreement shall have the same legal force and effect as any copy bearing original signatures of the parties. This Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

25. Entire Agreement. This Agreement, together with all attached exhibits and schedules which are incorporated by this reference, constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes the parties' prior agreements, understandings and discussions relating to the subject matter of this Agreement. It may not be modified, amended, supplemented, or otherwise changed, except by a written agreement signed by the parties. Anything herein to the contrary notwithstanding, the provisions

of this Agreement relating to indemnification and any other provisions which by their nature should survive termination or expiration of this Agreement, shall so survive.

**Exhibit A**  
**Transfer Guide**  
**AAS in Criminal Justice to BS in Public Service Leadership**

This Transfer Guide is an exhibit to the Articulation Agreement between the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University and the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 506, counties of Whiteside, Lee, Ogle, Henry, Bureau, and Carroll in the State of Illinois, commonly known as Sauk Valley Community College, with an Effective Date of July 1, 2025. All capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the same meanings set forth in the Articulation Agreement.

*This is a sample course pathway. Students must work with their advisor to develop a curriculum plan that meets their scheduling needs.  
 Summer classes can also reduce the load during the fall and spring semesters.*

**First Year (SVCC)**

<b>First Semester</b>		<b>Second Semester</b>	
CJS 101 Intro to Criminal Justice	3 hrs (SOC/CRIM 289)	CJS 120 Introduction to Corrections	3 hrs (SOC 101TR)
COM 131 Intro to Oral Communication	3 hrs (COMS 100)	CJS 232 Police and Patrol Operations	3 hrs (SOC 100TR)
PSC 163 Am Government & Politics	3 hrs (POLS 100)	BIO 104 Introductory Biology	3 hrs (BIOS 103)
ENG 101 Composition I	3 hrs (ENGL 103)	PSY 103 Introduction to Psychology	3 hrs (PSYC 102)
CIS 109 Intro to Computers	3 hrs (OMIS 259)	ENG 103 Composition II	3 hrs (ENGL 203)
FYE 101 First Year Experience	1 hr (UNIV 101)	CJS 130 Criminal Investigation	3 hrs
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 hrs</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>18 hrs</b>

**Second Year (SVCC)**

<b>First Semester</b>		<b>Second Semester</b>	
CJS 233 Community Policing	3 hrs (UNIV 100TR)	CJS 135 Criminal Law	3 hrs (POLS 101TR)
SOC 111 Introduction to Sociology	3 hrs (SOC 170)	CJS 231 Criminal Evidence & Procedure	3 hrs (SOC 100TR)
HUM 210 Intro to the Humanities	3 hrs (UNIV 103/4TR)	CJS 238 Criminology	3 hrs (CRIM 288)
CJS 200 Ethics in Criminal Justice	3 hrs (SOC 101TR)	ACC 101 Financial Accounting	3 hrs (ACCY 206*)
CJS 208 Juvenile Delinquency	3 hrs (SOC 101TR)	CJS Elective	3 hrs
MAT 240 Elementary Statistics	3 hrs (STAT 100*)		
<b>Total</b>	<b>18 hrs</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15 hrs</b>

*\*MAT 240/STAT 100 counts as major course credit*

*\*ACC 101/ACCY 206 counts as major course credit*

### Third Year (NIU)

First Semester		Second Semester	
PSPA 411 The Ethical Public Administrator	3 hrs	POLS 331 Public Administration	3 hrs
POLS 330 Bureaucracy and the Public Policy Process	3 hrs	PSPA 320 Public Service Leadership	3 hrs
PSPA 412 Public Budgeting	3 hrs	PSPA 332 Strategic Performance Management of Public Service Organizations	3 hrs
SPGA 490 Professional Portfolio Assessment	1 hr	Gen Ed – Creativity and Critical Analysis	3 hrs
SOCI 375 Sociology of Organizations	3 hrs	Elective (PSL List Course)	3 hrs
Elective	3 hrs		
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 hrs</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15 hrs</b>

### Fourth Year (NIU)

First Semester		Second Semester	
PSL Elective or Other Elective	3 hrs	PSL Elective or Other Elective	3 hrs
PSL Elective or Other Elective	3 hrs	PSL Elective or Other Elective	3 hrs
Elective	3 hrs	PSL Elective or Other Elective	3 hrs
Elective	3 hrs	SPGA 480 Capstone	3 hrs
Elective	3 hrs	Elective	3 hrs
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 hrs</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15 hrs</b>

### COMMENTS

- 120 hours are required to graduate, with at least 40 hours at the 300-400 level credit.
- 54 hours are required from a four-year institution, and 30 hours are required from NIU.
- General Information – [Public Service Leadership \(B.S.\) \(School of Public and Global Affairs\)](#)

### INSTITUTIONAL CONTACTS

- Northern Illinois University: [transfercenter@niu.edu](mailto:transfercenter@niu.edu), 815-753-0446
- Sauk Valley Community College: Transfer Center, [advising@svcc.edu](mailto:advising@svcc.edu)

### DEPARTMENTAL CONTACTS

- Northern Illinois University: Department of Public Administration, 815-753-0183
- Sauk Valley Community College: Transfer Center, [advising@svcc.edu](mailto:advising@svcc.edu)

