SEA-Path
Memorandum of Understanding
I. PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding (MOU) is to establish a process by which Cape Fear Community College (CFCC) and the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) develop and implement collaborative admissions and curriculum articulation arrangements that increase affordable access to world-class higher education for students in New Hanover and Pender counties through providing dual-admissions pathways toward the attainment of associates and bachelor’s degrees. This MOU also stipulates the commitments of each signatory institution regarding its support of this initiative. Moreover, this MOU affirms that the collaborative efforts described herein support and advance the institutional missions of both CFCC and UNCW.

Collectively, these collaborative efforts are referred to herein as SEA-Path. The purpose of SEA-Path is to provide qualifying students with opportunities to complete an associate’s degree at CFCC and then seamlessly transition to one of UNCW’s undergraduate colleges. SEA-Path will also allow students to benefit from dual-admission to CFCC and UNCW. Students admitted to both CFCC and UNCW as part of the SEA-Path program will have full access to the support services and campus resources of each institution, appropriate to their enrollment status.

II. ADMISSION OF STUDENTS

Regarding the admission of students into the SEA-Path program, the signatory institutions agree to the following:

CFCC agrees to:
  ❖ Assist applicants with completing the SEA-Path admissions process. Students will apply to SEA-Path through CFCC. If accepted, the student’s application will be forwarded to UNCW for guaranteed acceptance provided the student meets program criteria.
  ❖ Designate a program advisor to coordinate the program on the CFCC’s campus; this advisor will serve as lead mentor for students at CFCC who are participating in the program and serve as the main liaison between CFCC and UNCW in support of the SEA-Path initiative.
  ❖ Work closely with UNCW advising staff to provide students with appropriate advising and course scheduling information toward the earning of a degree at CFCC and the completion of the appropriate UNCW program.
  ❖ Coordinate financial aid awarding with UNCW’s financial aid office to raise the likelihood that students will have adequate funding to complete their Bachelor’s degree.
  ❖ Offer priority registration each semester to students who participate in the SEA-Path program.
  ❖ Assist in promoting the program and in identifying students who meet the criteria for dual admission to CFCC/UNCW in specific programs.
UNCW agrees to:

- Provide dual admission to SEA-Path students who meet and maintain the eligibility criteria (meeting UNC System Minimum Course Requirements [MCR] and 2.5 community college GPA) for the SEA-Path program and when relevant, to the UNCW program associated with their pathway.
- Waive the application fee for students participating in the program.
- Students dually enrolled will have the opportunity to choose one on-line or main campus class per term (starting their second semester after high school graduation) at UNCW. UNCW will provide a $200 scholarship toward each dual enrolled course (up to a total of 3 courses, with continued UNCW GPA average of 3.0).
- Transfer merit based scholarships are awarded annually to incoming transfer students and SEA-Path students will have the opportunity to be considered for these scholarships once they graduate from CFCC and plan to enroll fulltime at UNCW.
- Accept all credits earned under the approved dual-enrolled articulation agreement once the student achieves the AA, AE, AFA, AS, or designated AAS degree at CFCC. Students successfully completing a separately approved pathway program will be admitted into the appropriate UNCW college or school.
- Allow access to program participants to UNCW student services, facilities, and programs (athletic facilities, library resources, cultural events, etc.) appropriate to their enrollment status.
- Provide program participants with a UNCW email account to allow them to receive announcements and event notifications.
- Provide campus visits to program participants to allow for a seamless transition from CFCC to UNCW.

III. SHARED DATA & PROMOTION

CFCC agrees to:

- Supply reasonable access to SEA-Path student-level data (e.g., name, date of birth, year of graduation) for the purposes of advising and program evaluation, with the understanding that such data will be kept strictly confidential by UNCW, except as required by applicable law, court order, or subpoena.
- Provide access to SEA-Path student transcripts and schedules, either electronically or in hard copy, for the purposes of effectively advising students (Student FERPA release would be included in the admissions packet for dual enrollment).
- Provide lists of December graduates and potential May graduates of our AA, AS, and AFA programs with a GPA of 2.25 or better to UNCW no later than March 1; the lists will include student contact information (address, phone and email).

UNCW agrees to:

- Share information beyond the scope of the SEA-Path program described herein, provided we have received appropriate permission from the student/applicant and these permissions have not be withdrawn, in the following ways:
  - Add a disclosure to the UNCW admissions application stating that student information may be shared with CFCC.
• Add language to the denial letter sent to local UNCW first-year applicants and UNCW First Year Spring Admits referring students to CFCC to explore other options.
• Provide a list of all UNCW local first-year and CFCC transfer applicants denied admission to UNCW to CFCC staff, which will include the reason for denial.
• Provide a list, including contact information, of all UNCW students placed on academic dismissal to CFCC staff.
• Add language to the academic dismissal letter referring dismissed students to CFCC to regain satisfactory standing.
• Add language to the letter sent to UNCW Fall applicants offered delayed admission for Spring referring students to CFCC if they wish to begin making progress towards their UNCW degree during the Fall semester.

IV. DEVELOPING TRANSFER PATHWAYS

CFCC and UNCW hereby establish the following guidelines for developing and modifying college transfer pathways that support the SEA-Path program:

❖ Each institution will develop and modify the programs of study associated with SEA-Path pathways through its regular curriculum review and modification procedures. The faculty of each institution will have primary responsibility for determining the curriculum modifications that are required to facilitate SEA-Path pathways.
❖ CFCC will provide to UNCW all curriculum information necessary to support the development and modification of SEA-Path pathways, including program of study requirements, course descriptions, course outcomes, and syllabi.
❖ Both institutions will support and facilitate collaborations between their faculty for designing SEA-Path pathways and determining course articulations.

V. INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATIONS

CFCC and UNCW will collaborate to provide the highest-quality instruction to support the SEA-Path program pathways and students. Opportunities for collaboration may include:

❖ Cosponsoring professional development experiences for faculty and support staff involved with the SEA-Path program.
❖ Supporting SEA-Path program students’ access to open educational resources
❖ Sharing instructional spaces and resources, including science and computer labs, when necessary to support the SEA-Path program.
❖ Collaborating to improve and provide support for the online instructional offerings associated with the SEA-Path.
❖ Partnering to place students in experiential learning opportunities such as work-based learning, apprenticeships, and clinical rotations.
❖ Collaborating to provide seamless student support services for SEA-Path program students.
VI. GOVERNANCE, REVIEW, TERMINATION, AND INDEMNITY REGULAR REVIEW OF MOU

This Memorandum of Understanding and the rights and obligations of the Parties hereto shall be governed by and construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina without regard to any principles of conflicts of laws that would make applicable the law of any other jurisdiction.

This Memorandum of Understanding is valid for a term of two years from the implementation date indicated herein and may be renewed prior to the expiration of this term by mutual agreement of the President of CFCC and the Chancellor of UNCW. This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to annual review by CFCC and UNCW and may be terminated by either party with a notice of at least 120 days provided by the terminating institution in writing to the other institution. Modifications proposed by either institution will require the signed approval of the President of CFCC and the Chancellor of UNCW. Addendums to this MOU describing the specific parameters of SEA-Path program pathways, articulation of credit, and program or college-specific admissions requirements will be added and reviewed as part of the annual review process.

As Chief Executive Officer, I hereby endorse this memorandum of understanding on behalf of my institution.

University of North Carolina Wilmington

Cape Fear Community College

Jose V. Sartarelli  
Chancellor

James P. Morton  
President