The Pathways to Excellence (PTE) program is a partnership between the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) and Piedmont Community College (PCC). It is a pathway for guaranteed admission to UNCW for students completing an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science with a cumulative GPA of at least a 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) in transferable, college-level coursework from PCC. Guaranteed admission to the University does not constitute admission to a professional school or specific program. Students entering the pathway will indicate their plans by submitting their intent form to the UNCW Office of Admissions.

UNCW will provide a Transfer Student Success Coordinator to meet with students at PCC at intervals throughout each semester at the community college, working in collaboration with community college advising staff to help students create a path of transfer and beyond.

UNCW will host PCC students annually in an open house event. UNCW will provide an application event each spring for PCC students, providing application fee waivers to students applying to transfer.

Students entering under the PTE program who have earned a transferable Associate degree (AA or AS) will meet the requirements of the North Carolina Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA). They will receive a waiver of University Studies Foundations & Approaches and Perspective requirements with the exception of PE, foreign language, and three credits from either Living in Our Diverse Nation or Living in a Global Society.

This agreement shall be effective upon the date of the last signature and serves as the basis of the partnership between the institutions. The agreement may be modified by mutual written consent or terminated by either party upon a thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other institution.