

DEGREE PROGRAMS

associate and bachelor's



SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE



The Value of a College Degree

In today's shifting job market, a college degree is fast becoming the standard credential requirement for professional employment. During competitive economic times, a college degree holds consistent value and continually opens the door to a greater number of proven job opportunities.

Few things can offer the lifetime benefits of a college degree, such as:

Higher salaries: College graduates earn almost twice as much as high school grads over the course of their careers.¹

Job opportunities: A college degree can give you an edge in the job market and has become a minimum requirement for the best jobs.

Upward mobility: Whether you want to keep climbing the company ladder, or try something completely different, a college degree may help you realize your career ambitions and land a better job.

Career change: If you find yourself longing to do something different, a college degree may provide the additional skills you need to make the leap to a new and more fulfilling career.

Personalized Degree Programs

At SUNY Empire State College, you design your own undergraduate degree. You will use guidelines developed by SUNY Empire State College and fulfill degree requirements developed by the State University of New York to design your degree to fit your goals.

Choose from 12 broad areas of study and design your degree:

- The Arts
- Business, Management and Economics
- Community and Human Services
- Cultural Studies
- Educational Studies
- Historical Studies
- Human Development
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Labor Studies
- Public Affairs
- Science, Mathematics and Technology
- Social Science

¹According to a 2010 report by the U.S. Census Bureau

Associate and Bachelor's Degrees

SUNY Empire State College

SUNY Empire State College has a student-centered philosophy grounded in the principles and practices of adult education. Students learn best when they are personally invested in the learning process. One way the college supports that philosophy is to provide you with the opportunity to plan your own degree.

The college supports students in developing their own degrees based on their educational goals and chosen field of study. You will also have the opportunity to build upon your previous knowledge.

By designing your own degree, you:

- have a voice in what you study and flexibility to match your degree to your goals and interests
- have an opportunity to pursue college credit through prior learning assessment and use previously earned credit from other college transcripts, advancing you more quickly toward your degree
- create a degree that is current in your chosen field.

You work with a faculty mentor to clarify your educational goals, decide on your learning path and create your own plan of study that matches your goals within the context of larger academic and professional expectations for your type of degree.

You need to complete the degree planning process within your first 32 credits of enrollment, or prior to your final 16 credits for your degree, whichever comes first.

The degree you design might look like degrees that students pursue at other colleges, or it could be quite different. The most important concept is that your degree really becomes “yours.”

The advantage of designing your own degree is that you decide what to include in it and how it is related to a particular field of knowledge.

At SUNY Empire State College, you begin by selecting your degree type and level – associate or bachelor’s, and your preferred area of study. You further define your degree by developing a focus for your studies—called a “concentration”—that best reflects your goal and learning.

Degree Types

Associate Degrees

An associate degree is equivalent to two years of full-time study and totals 64 credits, with at least 24 earned at SUNY Empire State College.

Bachelor's Degrees

A bachelor’s degree is equivalent to four years of full-time study and totals 124 credits, with at least 31 earned at SUNY Empire State College.

Working With Your Mentor

Every student at SUNY Empire State College is assigned a mentor, a faculty member who serves as an academic guide and resource. Your mentor’s role is to facilitate the reflection and exploration involved in planning your degree by listening, asking questions and helping you gain perspective on your academic experience. Your mentor provides guidance and works with you from

orientation through graduation, helping you choose studies, clarify college processes, decide on prior learning requests, design your degree plan and acquire your degree program plan approval. You formalize this ongoing conversation when you take the degree planning course.

An Educational Partnership

SUNY Empire State College and The College Network® have partnered to provide you with an opportunity to take what you’ve learned through The College Network and apply it toward a college degree.

The College Network’s online program and exams have been pre-evaluated for college-level learning by the American Council on Education. This means that you are eligible to receive college credit to use toward an undergraduate degree when you matriculate at SUNY Empire State College. Some modules from The College Network may require the completion of a third party examination such as DSST, Excelsior College or CLEP to receive transfer credit.

Start with The College Network and transfer to SUNY Empire State College to complete your degree online.

As an added value, SUNY Empire State College will waive the orientation fee when you apply online using a partner code provided by The College Network. You are also eligible to receive a \$100 Presidential Scholarship during your first term of enrollment.

Areas of Study

- The Arts
- Business, Management and Economics
- Community and Human Services
- Cultural Studies
- Educational Studies
- Historical Studies
- Human Development
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Labor Studies
- Public Affairs
- Science, Mathematics and Technology
- Social Science

Bachelor's Degrees

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement
- Emergency Management
- Health Care Administration
- Homeland Security
- Human Resources Management
- Information Systems
- Management
- Marketing
- Psychology
- Social Work

Additional degree offerings available
through SUNY Empire State College

Every undergraduate student
at SUNY Empire State College
designs his or her own degree.

Sample Degree Offerings for The College Network Learners

Associate Degrees

- Accounting
- Business Management
- Business Studies
- Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement
- Early Childhood Education
- Health Care Administration
- Human Resources Management
- Information Systems



Associate and Bachelor's Degrees

Admissions Information

An application is considered complete when the admissions office has received all of the following items:

- completed online application
- proof of high school completion (high school transcript, GED documentation, etc.)
- writing assessment (300 or more words describing reasons for applying to Empire State College, personal and professional goals, planned topics or areas of study and strengths and experiences)
- official transcripts from all institutions listed on the application
- proof of immunization (distance students are exempt from this requirement)
- the \$50 orientation fee is waived for applicants from The College Network[®]

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There is no minimum GPA requirement.
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Proof of high school completion, orientation fee and official transcripts should be mailed to:

Admissions
SUNY Empire State College
2 Union Ave.
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

International Applicants

International applicants from non-English speaking countries must show evidence of sufficient English-language proficiency through submission of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam. Applicants must achieve a score of 550 on the paper-based exam, 213 on the computer-based exam or 79-80 on the TOEFL (iBT) Internet-based exam.

In addition, applicants who have college credit from an institution outside the United States must have it reviewed by one of the following evaluation services to determine U.S. equivalency:

- Academic Evaluation Services, Inc. (AES)
- Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ECE)
- Educational Perspectives (EP)
- World Education Services (WES)

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For questions regarding the admissions process, call 1-877-256-5327 to speak with a representative from The College Network.
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Get started with The College Network today and earn your degree from SUNY Empire State College!

