

**AFFILIATION AGREEMENT**  
**BETWEEN**  
**THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO**  
**SCHOOL OF PHARMACY & PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**  
**AND**  
**THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY AT ERIE, THE BEHREND COLLEGE**

**INTRODUCTION**

This Agreement is made by and between The Pennsylvania State University, a non-profit corporation organized and instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its principal office located at 111 Old Main, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802, on behalf of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College (hereafter “Penn State Behrend”) and The State University of New York, an educational corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with its principal office located at H. Carl McCall SUNY Building, Albany, New York 12246, by and on behalf of The University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences with offices located at 270 Pharmacy Building, Buffalo, New York 14214-8033 [hereinafter referred to as “The University at Buffalo”].

The University at Buffalo and Penn State Behrend recognize that certain students have the capacity and readiness to complete their undergraduate bachelor’s degree and their Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree training in less than the normally required eight years of study.

The University at Buffalo and Penn State Behrend desire to encourage and educationally stimulate these students by providing an opportunity for them to accelerate their course of study in approximately seven years of full-time study.

**PART I**

**SCOPE OF THE COLLABORATION**

The areas of cooperation, subject to mutual consent, include activities and programs offered at either institution as deemed mutually desirable and feasible. Both institutions agree to contribute to fostering development of collaborative relationships to the mutual benefit of their faculty and students.

The University at Buffalo and Penn State Behrend are entering into this Affiliation Agreement pursuant to which students can obtain a Bachelor of Art or Science degree and a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree in seven years via a 3 + 4 arrangement (the “Program”). The spirit of this Affiliation Agreement is to provide highly qualified and motivated students a convenient and predictable process from which they can plan academically and financially.

## PART II

### 3 + 4 CURRICULUM & PROGRAM TERMS

#### A. Curriculum

- a. Penn State Behrend and The University at Buffalo agree to cooperate in providing an accelerated 3 + 4 undergraduate/professional school education leading to the baccalaureate degree from Penn State Behrend and the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) degree from The University at Buffalo. The first phase (undergraduate) of the collaborative program will consist of the completion of a minimum of 103 semester hours in the Biology (Health Professions option) BS program/major at Penn State Behrend and, for the fall entering class, 35.5 credits from the first-year of the four-year curriculum of the Doctor of Pharmacy program at The University at Buffalo. Under this agreement, the student would then receive a baccalaureate degree from Penn State Behrend and, upon approval of The University at Buffalo, the student will complete the remaining years of professional study and requirements for the Doctor of Pharmacy degree. This is a seven-year program developed between Penn State Behrend and The University at Buffalo that allows a participating student the opportunity to receive a baccalaureate degree and a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. The first three years of the program are completed at Penn State Behrend and the last four years are spent at The University at Buffalo.
- b. The University at Buffalo first year courses consist of a core curriculum required for PharmD certification. Penn State Behrend will accept The University at Buffalo's core as major required courses or electives for completion of the 35.5 credits. The majors listed in (a) above are eligible for this Program, but other majors may be added by mutual written agreement.
- c. Each institution shall continue to be solely responsible for matters of course content, faculty, student evaluation, awarding of credit, accreditation and related issues regarding the issuance of its degrees.
- d. If either institution makes or plans to make a material change in its curriculum related to the Program, that institution will notify the other institution in a timely manner so the impact of such change on the Program can be mutually evaluated.

#### B. Application and Admission Process

- a. Penn State Behrend 3+4 students interested in the 3+4 BS/PharmD Program should consult with their 3+4 Program Advisor during their freshman/first-year or sophomore/second- year to discuss and plan for the 3+4 requirements, listed in B(b) below.
- b. The University at Buffalo PharmD Admissions Committee is seeking the following minimum requirements. In order to remain in the program(s), a participant must achieve or maintain the following:
  1. Completed 103 credits at Penn State Behrend; all Penn State Behrend Core Curriculum requirements; all course requirements of the department(s) or program(s) in which the student is majoring and/or minoring and have an agreement in writing by way of a Table 1A with those departments or programs to accept course credit from The University at Buffalo as satisfying major(s) and /or minor requirements. Transfer credits, whether from an Advanced Placement program or from another institute of higher education, may qualify towards meeting the requirements of this Affiliation Agreement following the information [here](#)

(<https://pharmacy.buffalo.edu/admissions/doctor-of-pharmacy--pharmd-/pharmacas/pharmacas-requirements.html>).

2. The University at Buffalo prerequisite courses must be successfully completed with a grade equal to, or greater than, a C (2.0) by the end of the summer semester prior to fall matriculation.
  3. Earned a prerequisite course science and mathematics GPA of 3.0 or above and cumulative/overall GPA at Penn State Behrend of 3.0 or above; and
  4. Students must apply to The University at Buffalo using the Pharmacy College Application Service (PharmCAS) no later than October 1 of their junior/third year of academic studies; and
  5. Submit two letters of recommendation from members of Penn State Behrend faculty no later than November 1 of their junior/third year.
  6. Upon invitation, The University at Buffalo will also require a formal interview with designated interviewers as part of the PharmD admissions process. Information regarding this requirement will be provided following the receipt of all application documents.
  7. Maintain the appropriate moral and ethical standards necessary for admission and for the eventual attainment of professional licensure.
  8. Selection is based on scholastic achievement, aptitude, personal qualifications, and evidence of motivation toward pharmacy. These are judged from the college record, grade point average, letters of reference and evaluation, and a personal interview. In addition to intellectual and academic competence, the School's Admissions Committee considers communication skills, leadership ability, community service, health care-related or research experience, and motivation for pursuing a career in pharmacy.
  9. All students enrolled in the PharmD program must submit a Criminal Background Check (CBC) from a vendor approved by The University at Buffalo at the student's expense. The CBC is due within 15 days of the acceptance confirmation email.
  10. At the end of the first and second years, participants must submit an official transcript of grades to the PharmD Admissions Committee. Their performance in the program will be evaluated and they will receive a written or electronic response informing them of their status. Failure of a participant to achieve or maintain these standards will result in his or her removal from the program. Unsuccessful application or discontinuance following acceptance will not preclude direct application to The University at Buffalo through its PharmCAS application process and will not be considered in any future admissions review process.
  11. A candidate in good standing will have the option of spending the fourth year of the program at Penn State Behrend to complete a baccalaureate degree rather than at The University at Buffalo in the first year of the PharmD program. Choosing this option will necessarily extend the length of the program to eight years. During the fourth year at Penn State Behrend, a participant must maintain the same academic standards as specified for the first three years in order to remain in good standing. The student would need to reapply through PharmCAS in the fourth year.
- c. Admission to The University at Buffalo will be conditional upon the student meeting the requirements in B(b) above. Students applying will be granted a PharmCAS application coupon code for The University at Buffalo application.

- d. Students who do not meet the stated requirements are still eligible to apply to the Program but may not gain admission as determined by the admissions department at The University at Buffalo.
- e. Each institution is solely responsible for its own admission criteria, process and acceptance decisions.
- f. The institutions may modify the admissions criteria and process by mutual written agreement as needed.
- g. Students must be enrolled continuously in the Program in order to receive the benefits of the Program.
- h. Following the receipt by The University at Buffalo of all requirements listed in B(b) above, The University at Buffalo will review and arrive at an admission decision.
- i. The University at Buffalo will inform Penn State Behrend's 3+4 Program Advisor of annual admission decisions in a timely manner.

#### C. Enrollment at The University at Buffalo

- a. Penn State Behrend will accept as transfer credits applicable to the bachelor's degree up to 35.5 semester credits of course work taken at The University at Buffalo in which the student received a grade of S or better. These credits will transfer to Penn State Behrend as Science General Transfer Credit (SC XFRGEN). The Penn State Behrend Office of the Registrar will apply these credits to the student's degree audit to complete the bachelor's degree requirements, in consultation with the Biology Undergraduate Coordinator as needed. Penn State Behrend will not accept as transfer credits any credits of course work taken at The University at Buffalo in which the student received a grade lower than S. A student's undergraduate GPA for degree-granting purposes at Penn State Behrend will be the GPA at the end of the Penn State Behrend phase of the undergraduate program. Grades from The University at Buffalo are not transferable to Penn State Behrend.
- b. The University at Buffalo will not accept for transfer credit any course work at Penn State Behrend. A student's GPA at The University at Buffalo will be determined based on courses taken at The University at Buffalo.
- c. If a student withdraws from The University at Buffalo for any reason prior to the completion of the first year of work, to obtain a bachelor's degree from Penn State Behrend, the student must complete the undergraduate degree at Penn State Behrend according to its regular program requirements. Any such student returning to Penn State Behrend to complete the Bachelor of Science degree shall be allowed to transfer all credits for course work completed at The University at Buffalo with a grade of S or better.

#### D. Mutual Responsibilities

- 1. Penn State Behrend agrees to:
  - (a) Provide courses that meet the prerequisite requirements for the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program at The University at Buffalo.
  - (b) Designate a person who will serve as coordinator of the collaborative program at Penn State Behrend. The coordinator is and will:
    - (i) be responsible for promoting the affiliation to prospective and current students by providing information to the university admissions staff,

- career planning and placement officers, the Penn State Behrend Committee members, and all pre-pharmacy student advisors.
  - (ii) keep students and pharmacy student advisors abreast of current information applicable to the affiliation.
  - (iii) maintain advising files for Penn State Behrend students who intend to apply to the collaborative program.
  - (iv) serve as liaison between Penn State Behrend and The University at Buffalo for any and all issues involving the affiliation.
- (c) Confer the baccalaureate degree on candidates who successfully complete all degree requirements of Penn State Behrend, and who successfully complete the first year of professional study at The University at Buffalo. Students must earn a minimum of 103 semester hours in the Biology (Health Professions option) BS program/major at Penn State Behrend, and for the fall entering class, 35.5 semester hours from the first-year of the four-year curriculum of the Doctor of Pharmacy program at The University at Buffalo to receive the Biology BS baccalaureate degree. For the fall entering class, the first year in the PharmD program at The University at Buffalo will include science courses or their equivalents listed [here](https://catalogs.buffalo.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=2&poid=592&returnto=68) ([https://catalogs.buffalo.edu/preview\\_program.php?catoid=2&poid=592&returnto=68](https://catalogs.buffalo.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=2&poid=592&returnto=68)). Only grades of S or better will transfer from the University at Buffalo to Penn State Behrend. University at Buffalo courses and credits, but not grades, will be listed on the Penn State Behrend transcript.
2. The University at Buffalo agrees to:
- (a) Designate a person who will serve as coordinator of the collaborative program at The University at Buffalo. The coordinator is [Jennifer Rosenberg, PhD](#) and will:
    - (i) serve as a liaison between The University at Buffalo and Penn State Behrend for any and all issues involving the affiliation.
    - (ii) inform appropriate personnel of the existence of the agreement and encourage them to support it.
    - (iii) ensure that an official transcript from the first year of the PharmD program is forwarded to Penn State Behrend in a timely fashion.
  - (b) Assure entry a minimum of 2 seat(s) in the incoming class for Penn State Behrend students who are deemed fully acceptable by The University at Buffalo PharmD Admissions Committee. Applicants failing to meet the requirements of their conditional acceptance may not be enrolled. These individuals will be counted against the 2 seat(s) assured entry from Penn State Behrend.
  - (c) Penn State Behrend students who have been identified as candidates for this program will be invited to visit The University at Buffalo prior to their application either in-person or by videoconference. Information regarding affiliation program visit days will be provided to the Penn State Behrend liaison.
  - (d) Liaisons from the two institutions will meet annually to evaluate the progress of the program.

#### E. Tuition and Financial Aid

- a. For academic years 1-3, while in residence at Penn State Behrend, students will pay the standard tuition rates to Penn State Behrend and be eligible for all standard scholarships, grants and loan programs from Penn State Behrend.

- b. For academic years 4-7, while in residence at The University at Buffalo, students will pay The University at Buffalo standard tuition rate to The University at Buffalo and be eligible for all standard scholarships, grants and loan programs from The University at Buffalo.
- c. During the three years in residence at Penn State Behrend and the four years in residence at The University at Buffalo, financial aid will be calculated in accordance with the host school's then-current eligibility policies and will be provided by the host institution.
- d. All Penn State Behrend students will be fully eligible for scholarships and grants provided to incoming students at The University at Buffalo.

#### F. Recruitment

- a. Penn State Behrend and The University at Buffalo will collaborate to create a brand identity for the Program that supports the individual brands of the institutions and promotes the Program.
- b. The University at Buffalo will integrate agreed-upon marketing communications into the Penn State Behrend marketing communications process to attract highly qualified students.
- c. The University at Buffalo will provide logos and digital artwork to market the Program. Any use of The University at Buffalo shall be approved in advance by The University at Buffalo. Furthermore, all materials describing the Program must be approved by both The University at Buffalo and Penn State Behrend.

### **PART III**

#### **Confidentiality**

- A. The institutions may exchange information that could be confidential and not (a) generally known to the public, (b) already known, through legal means, to the party receiving the information, or (c) legally obtained from a third party.
- B. Each institution agrees to identify in writing confidential information and to use the other's confidential information solely for the purpose contemplated by this agreement and not to disclose such confidential information to any person or entity other than as necessary for such purposes or as required to be disclosed by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, administrative body or governmental body, or by subpoena, summons or legal process, or by law, rule or regulation.

### **PART IV**

#### **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- A. Penn State Behrend will not charge tuition for the transitional year to students who enter The University at Buffalo PharmD program immediately following the junior year; however, Penn State Behrend will require students to apply for graduation and pay all graduation fees. Students while enrolled at The University at Buffalo in that transitional year following their junior year at Penn State Behrend shall be considered matriculated pharmacy doctoral students at the first professional year level in the graduate/professional phase of the doctoral program and shall pay the applicable SUNY graduate/professional PharmD tuition and all applicable fees.
  - (a) Any student participating in the affiliation program who wishes to apply for financial assistance should apply to Penn State Behrend for the semesters during which the student shall be enrolled at Penn State Behrend and to The University at Buffalo for the

semesters during which the student shall be enrolled in the PharmD program. Students participating in this affiliation agreement shall not receive any preferential consideration in obtaining financial assistance over other students from institutions that are not so affiliated.

- (b) Penn State Behrend students shall not receive any preferential consideration by The University at Buffalo PharmD Admissions Committee; they will be held to the same rigorous standards as other applicants. Final admissions decisions will be solely at the discretion of The University at Buffalo.
- B. Penn State Behrend and The University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will fully comply with any applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations barring discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, handicap, sexual preference or veteran status. Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement, the Parties agree that Penn State Behrend retains all of its rights under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- C. It is understood that this Agreement is not intended to and shall not be construed to create the relationship of agent, servant, employee, partnership, collaborative venture or association between Penn State Behrend and The University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences but is rather an Agreement by and between independent institutions.
- D. In accordance with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") in order for The University at Buffalo to share information about the students from the student's educational rights, Penn State Behrend must agree not to disclose the information to a third party without the student's consent, and to use the information only for the purposes for which it was disclosed.

## **PART V**

### **Amendment, Review and Termination of This Agreement**

- A. Either party may take the initiative to amend this agreement by submitting suggestions in writing. The *amended* Agreement will become effective when signed by the respective agents authorized by each party to execute such amendments (*amendments are in italics*). This Agreement will go into effect beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year and will remain in effect until either party indicates otherwise in writing, at least one (1) year in advance. Any decision to terminate the program will not affect the status of any Penn State Behrend students currently accepted into or enrolled in the program at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

For purposes of written notification, all notices to parties hereunder must be in writing, signed by the party giving it, and shall be served either personally or by certified mail, return receipt requested, and addressed as follows:

To the UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO:

SUNY Office of General Counsel  
University at Buffalo  
The State University of New York  
955 Main Street, Suite 7222  
Buffalo, New York 14203

To the AFFILIATE:

Director of the School of Science  
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College  
4205 College Drive  
Erie, PA 16563

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the institutions hereto have offered their signatures:

**FOR UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF PHARMACY & PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Gary Pollack

Dean of the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

Date:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Graham Hammill

Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

Date:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Allison Brashear

Vice President for Health Sciences

Date:

**FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY AT ERIE, THE BEHREND COLLEGE**

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Ralph Ford, Ph.D.

Chancellor, Penn State Behrend, The Pennsylvania State University

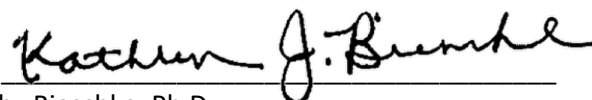
Date: 3/24/2025

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Margo DelliCarpini, Ph.D.

Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses and Executive Chancellor, The Pennsylvania State University

Date: 3/26/2025

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Kathy Bieschke, Ph.D.

Senior Vice Provost, The Pennsylvania State University

Date: 4/3/2025



