Description and Regulations

In order to provide greater opportunity for students to continue to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees at a reasonable cost, Northern Essex Community College (“NECC”) and the American College of History and Legal Studies (ACHLS) enter into a degree completion articulation agreement that would allow NECC graduates to obtain a B.A. degree in History and Law from ACHLS and, if the student desires, a J.D. degree from Massachusetts School of Law (“MSL”). Talented students whose grades make them eligible for an accelerated program will be able to obtain both a B.A. and a J.D. in six years rather than the usual seven. The following parameters guide the program:

- The student will spend the first two years at NECC satisfying its designated Associate Degree requirements. The student is encouraged to take numerous courses which are intellectually rigorous and help the student to develop strong analytical and writing skills. A description of the typical general education block and other suggested courses that may constitute the 60 transferrable credit hours is attached hereto.

- A student in ACHLS B.A. program will take 60 credit hours in the ACHLS’ program in her final two years, and will then graduate with a B.A.

- A student who qualifies for the joint B.A./J.D. program will spend one year taking 30 hours of credit at ACHLS and will then enter law school at Massachusetts School of Law. After 30 credit hours are successfully completed at the Law School, those credits will be transferred back to ACHLS and the student will receive a Bachelor of Art degree from ACHLS. The student will also receive a J.D. degree after successful completion of the 60 remaining credits at the Law School.

Admission Criteria and Process

Information about the NECC/ACHLS Program will be housed in the Academic Advising Office and on the Academic Advising Website. Students interested in the program should consult with their advisor or the Dean of Academic Advising, Transfer, and Articulation at NECC hopefully doing so early in their studies towards their degree.
Admission of NECC’s graduates to the B.A. or joint B.A./J.D. Degree Program will require the following:

- A 2.7 cumulative G.P.A. at the time the Associate Degree is conferred. (A student whose grade point average falls between 2.3 and 2.69 may still apply for the program but will not be admitted unless the student=s record and application materials clearly demonstrate that he or she possesses the requisite skills to successfully complete the program.)

- Students must earn a grade of “C” of in all of the courses designated as preparation for the ACHLS B.A. track. (See attached Transfer Block)

- Good conduct by the student as demonstrated by no judicial board or academic review sanctions or disciplinary action of any kind.

Students considering applying to the B.A. or the joint B.A./J.D. Degree Program should consult with their advisor or the Dean of Academic Advising, no later than November 15th of the academic year in which the student is to graduate. A student should apply to the ACHLS program by March 15th of the year the student is graduating. The application will include:

- Completion of the ACHLS application form and payment of the application fee.

- Submission of official transcripts from all institutions of higher education that the student has attended.

- An interview with NECC’s Dean of Academic Advising or like official who will provide a letter of recommendation describing the student’s qualifications.

- An additional letter of recommendation from a faculty member or an associate at work.

- A personal statement.

- Interview with an admission=s officer at ACHLS and completion of an essay.

In considering applications, ACHLS will pay special attention to detailed qualitative assessments of the student’s capabilities as they are articulated in the letters of recommendation.
Additional information about ACHLS and its application criteria may be found at www.achls.org or in the ACHLS Catalog. Potential applicants should consult these publications prior to application.

Students who qualify for the joint B.A./J.D. program will receive automatic admission to MSL upon attaining a 2.7 Grade Point Average at the end of their first year of study at ACHLS and completion of the law school=s application (assuming the student has not engaged in bad conduct). Upon successful completion of the student=s first 30 credits at the law school, those credits will then be transferred to ACHLS to satisfy the remaining credit requirements for the B.A. in the ACHLS program. The student will then receive his or her B.A. degree from ACHLS. The student will receive a law degree from MSL after successful completion of the remaining 60 law school credit hours needed for a J.D. degree. The student must satisfy all regular graduation requirements for a Juris Doctor degree.

Students who obtain a 2.3 G.P.A. at the completion of 60 credits at ACHLS, and obtain their B.A. degree, are eligible for automatic admission to MSL=s J.D. program upon completion of the law school=s application and satisfactory completion of the law school=s essay admission test. Students must also maintain a record of good conduct to be admitted in the J.D. program. All other students at ACHLS are eligible for admission to the law school by completing the general application process and meeting the required criteria.

Lawrence R. Velvel, Founding Dean, American College of History and Legal Studies

David F. Hartleb, J.D. President, Northern Essex Community College

Lane A. Glenn, Ph. D. Vice President, Academic Affairs Northern Essex Community College

Grace Y. A. Young, MSW Dean, Academic Advising, Transfer and Articulation Northern Essex Community College
ASSOCIATE DEGREE TRANSFER CREDIT

The course categories listed below comprise one transfer block (one that has been established by the Massachusetts State System as the Mass Transfer Block) that satisfies the general education and core requirements of ACHLS. This transfer block helps to ensure that students are adequately prepared to successfully complete their B.A. requirements at the ACHLS.

The 2-year college may modify the transfer block to accommodate specific courses within their particular institution or propose a different transfer block than the one below with ACHLS approval; such blocks must also prepare students to be successful at the ACHLS.

Students who have obtained their Associate Degree with 34 credit hours of general education credits that fall outside the transfer block listed below, and outside of any alternative a transfer block created by their particular community college, may also be eligible for admission to the ACHLS. ACHLS does reserve the right to, and will evaluate their general education courses on a case-by-case basis.

**ACHLS Gen Ed Transfer Block Consistent with the Mass Transfer Block**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Composition/Writing</td>
<td>6 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral and/or Social Sciences</td>
<td>9 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities and/or Fine Arts</td>
<td>9 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural or Physical Science</td>
<td>7 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required General Education credit</td>
<td>34 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additionally as part of those 34 credit hours, or the remaining 26 credit hours that makes up the 60 credit requirement, a student may transfer to ACHLS, it is recommended, but not required, that students take:

- Spanish or any Romance Language: 3 credit hours
- Economics or Statistics: 3 credit hours
- World History or World Civilization: 3 credit hours
- Seminar in Advanced Writing: 3 credit hours