



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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**QuickTakes!**

## **Thomas Edison to Offer 3+1 Bachelor's Degrees to New Jersey Community College Students**

August 23, 2019

Thomas Edison State University (TESU) has just established the NJ 3+1 Pathways program that allows New Jersey community college students to transfer up to 90 community college credits and then complete the remaining 30 credits required for graduation at TESU.

TESU has created three degree pathways leading to baccalaureate degrees for recent, current and future graduates of New Jersey community colleges. The move aligns with goals of the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education to create more 3+1 programs as well as more college-educated New Jersey residents.

"We are excited to partner with New Jersey's community colleges in building affordable and timely degree completion options for students throughout New Jersey," said Dr. Merodie A. Hancock, Thomas Edison president.

Through this innovative program, students can remain at their community college for an additional 30 credits beyond the associate degree and pay for those credits at the community college rate. Thus, this new program promotes associate and baccalaureate degree completion while driving the New Jersey State Office of Higher Education goal of 65 percent degree attainment by 2025, with the added benefit of keeping students in New Jersey. We see this as a three-way win for our students, our institutions and the state.

"We estimate that the average New Jersey community college student can now earn a baccalaureate degree for less than \$24,000 through this program," explained Dr. Hancock.

The 90-credit transfer allowance through this 3+1 program represents a 10-credit increase over TESU's traditional policy of accepting up to 80 community college credits from regionally accredited institutions.

Students will be able to choose among three TESU degree programs: the Bachelor of Arts with an area of study in Liberal Studies; the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

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*The College of New Jersey  
Kean University  
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Stockton University*

*Thomas Edison State University  
William Paterson University*

with an area of study in General Management; and the Bachelor of Science with an area of study in Technical Studies.

While TESU prides itself on recognizing college-level learning however and wherever it occurs in all of our programs, these three specific programs were chosen for the TESU/NJ 3+1 Pathways Program because they offer the most flexibility in transfer and breadth of academic focus.

“Mercer County Community College (MCCC) is very pleased to receive this welcoming news. We have been a longstanding partner with TESU. We already have a Three-plus-One arrangement with TESU in nursing. We are delighted about the three additional areas of study now qualify for Three-plus-One for those students who wish to complete a BA degree after graduating from Mercer,” said MCCC President Jianping Wang.

“We are proud to partner with Thomas Edison on this new initiative creating a pathway for more students to earn their undergraduate degrees,” said Brookdale President Dr. David Stout. “Our mission at Brookdale is to provide access to high-quality and affordable educational pathways,” said President Stout. “These three degree options at Thomas Edison fit that model and enable students to gain the necessary credentials to start or change careers without incurring significant debt.”

To learn more, go to <http://www.tesu.edu/3plus1>

### **About Thomas Edison State University**

*Thomas Edison State University provides distinctive undergraduate and graduate education for self-directed adults through flexible, high-quality collegiate learning and assessment opportunities. One of New Jersey’s senior public institutions of higher education, the University offers associate, bachelor’s, masters and doctoral degree programs. Students earn degrees through a wide variety of rigorous and high-quality academic methods that can be customized to meet their individual needs. Identified by The New York Times as “the college that paved the way for flexibility.” The University is a national leader in the assessment of adult learning and a pioneer in the use of educational technologies. The University is home to The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy and the New Jersey State Library is an affiliate. To learn more, visit <http://www.tesu.edu> or email [admissions@tesu.edu](mailto:admissions@tesu.edu).*