

For Students: Q&A about NICC & PNC MOU Ending

Q1: “What does NICC & PNC’s ‘MOU ending’ mean?”

A: MOU is short for ‘Memorandum of Understanding’. An MOU is an outline of an agreement between two or more parties. The MOU was created for NICC to mentor PNC toward accreditation while sharing students and instructors (see more info. in Q2.) With the MOU ending, NICC & PNC will no longer be jointly affiliated beginning on May 18, 2024. Both institutions will be moving forward individually; no longer sharing courses, instructors, advisors, student resources, or accreditation following the spring semester.

Q2: “What does ‘accreditation’ mean? How does it affect me?”

A: Nebraska Indian Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), an institutional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. When a student takes a course from an accredited institution it means their credits may be accepted in transfer at other accredited institutions. Always check to see if the college you may want to transfer to is accredited.

If the college you choose to attend is *not* accredited, you will not receive federal financial aid. It will also mean your credits will rarely transfer to another school due to their transfer policies.

Q3: “Why are NICC & PNC no longer collaborating after SP24?”

A: In brief, NICC & PNC have different goals moving forward. Both are at different places in their educational journeys. Due to a financial disagreement and different institutional goals, we were not able to agree. While we’ve appreciated being able to work together these past few years, we understand the importance of each institution prioritizing its own goals.

Q4: “What does this mean for my future degree plans?”

A: Credits you have earned while enrolled at both NICC and PNC are on your NICC transcript and still count toward your NICC degree. Your official NICC transcript will always have an official seal and signature on the NICC transcript paper. If you have questions about your degree plan, please contact one of the following: Dawne Price dprice@thenicc.edu, Chrissy Leshner clesher@thenicc.edu, or Kristine Sudbeck ksudbeck@thenicc.edu.

If you are a Macy, Santee, SSC, or Online NICC student, this MOU will not change anything regarding your degree plan.

Q5: “As a PNC Student, does this mean I have to start over on my courses and degree plan?”

A: All classes already on your NICC transcript stay on your NICC transcript. These are classes and credits you have already earned. Any classes you are currently completing this SP24 along with your grades for those courses will also be posted to your NICC Transcript. As was shared, the collaboration between PNC and NICC does not end until May 18, 2024, which follows the end of the Spring Semester. It is always a good idea to review your transcript's courses, credits, and grades for accuracy every semester.

Q6: “Do I have to choose between NICC & PNC?”

A: Not exactly. It is true that, typically, students attend and enroll in one college at a time, but some students may opt to take classes at two institutions. However, it is important to understand how your financial aid and transfer of credits from each school will be impacted. You should ask questions about this and not assume that financial aid and credits earned won't be impacted. We will do our best to explain this to you so you can make the best decision about your next steps.

Q7: “If I continue with NICC how will this affect me?”

A: Your campus location will change to online. Your student advisor will change, but your [faculty advisor](#) will remain the same unless you change your program of study. Your NICC resources will remain the same. Textbooks and other correspondence will go directly from NICC to your address. The financial aid processes will remain the same since NICC, as an accredited institution, participates in the U.S. Department of Education Federal Student Aid (FSA) program and the American Indian College Fund - TCU Fund. If you have specific questions about your degree program start with your faculty advisor. If you have any questions about the processing of your transcripts or financial aid, contact the following: Dawne Price dprice@thenicc.edu, Chrissy Leshner clesher@thenicc.edu, or Kristine Sudbeck ksudbeck@thenicc.edu.

Q8: “What if I want to transfer out of NICC?”

A: From the HLC Student Guide(<https://studentguide.hlcommission.org/accreditation/>) If you are thinking about transferring to a new school, you will need to ask questions about that new school's transfer credit policies. The new school will examine the credits you have already earned and determine whether those credits will count toward a degree, and if they count as general education or degree major credits required for graduation. You should receive this information before enrolling at the institution so you can make an informed decision. Many

institutions will only accept transfer credits if they have been earned at an accredited institution.

In some cases, they will only take credits from certain accreditors, although HLC encourages flexible transfer options to accommodate students. The decision is ultimately that of the transfer institution. Note that accreditors do not determine transfer policies; it is the purview of each individual institution as to which credits they will accept.