

**TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH GUARANTEED ADMISSION
BETWEEN VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY AND THE VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SYSTEM**

In accordance with the Virginia State Policy on Transfer, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) recognize the need for and importance of facilitating the transfer of students from one institution to the other as they pursue their educational goals. The VCCS and VCU enter into this agreement to provide all students an opportunity for guaranteed admission to the university. VCCS students who do not meet the requirements described herein are encouraged to apply and may be considered for admission under the regular admission procedures of the University.

This agreement supersedes the Guaranteed Admission Agreement between VCU and the VCCS signed April 12, 2013. It does not nullify individual program-to-program agreements articulated since April 12, 2013.

Section 1: Definition of Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA)

An agreement between a two-year institution or the VCCS (system office) on behalf of community colleges and a four-year institution according to which a student is guaranteed admission to the four-year institution by earning a transfer degree or a specified applied degree and satisfying specified academic benchmarks and criteria. Students transferring under a general admission GAA are not necessarily entitled to be admitted to a specific degree program.

Section 2: Requirements for Admission

A. Applicable Associate Degrees:

This agreement applies to all SCHEV approved transfer degrees offered through the VCCS including the Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), Associate of Arts & Sciences (AA&S), and Associate of Fine Arts (AFA) degrees. This includes all A.S. and A.A.&S in General Studies currently offered at VCCS colleges. Students who complete the Uniform Certificate of General Studies are also eligible for guaranteed admission to VCU under the terms and conditions of this agreement.

B. Minimum GPA requirement:

A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 for credits earned at the degree-granting institution is required. VCU will recognize the cumulative GPA as recorded on the VCCS transcript and not recalculate based on multiple course attempts. Courses transferred into the two-year college are not included in the GPA computation.

C. Limitations due to academic or disciplinary record:

VCU reserves the right to deny admission or enrollment to students who have been academically dismissed or suspended or to those convicted of a felony. Disciplinary records are considered in determining eligibility for admission and enrollment.

D. Course requirements:

In order for credits to transfer to VCU, students are required to earn a grade of C or better in each college course applicable to the transfer degree from a VCCS institution. VCU recommends students consult VCU's transfer maps for course recommendations for specific VCU majors (<https://majormaps.vcu.edu/transfer>).

E. Minimum credits to be completed at associate degree institution:

Students are required to earn an associate degree with 60 or more credits; a minimum of 30 credits must be completed at the degree-granting institution. This agreement may be used for re-entry into VCU. However, students who enrolled at VCU prior to completion of the associate degree, stopped-out, and then re-applied to VCU with an associate degree will not be eligible for a waiver of VCU's general education requirements.

F. Maximum credits applicable for transfer:

A maximum of 90 transfer credits will apply towards the bachelor's degree requirements. However, VCU recommends that students complete no more than the minimum number of credits required for completion of the associate degree.

G. Testing requirements:

No test scores are required.

H. Admission application and enrollment:

VCU recommends, but does not require, students complete the standard Transfer Application by the priority deadlines for fall and spring semesters established on the VCU Office of Admissions website in order to ensure timely application review and academic advising for VCU classes. If needed, students admitted through the GAA may request a one-year extension for their enrollment. However, in order to be eligible for the Virginia two-year College Transfer Grant, students must enroll at VCU within one year of completing the associate degree.

I. Transcript submission:

Students are required to provide an official transcript with the Transfer Application. Students must submit an official transcript including all final grades and documentation of the conferred associate degree within one month of enrollment at VCU.

J. Registration of Intent to use the agreement:

VCU recommends, but does not require, students register their intent to use this agreement after completion of 15 college credits through the Transfer Virginia portal or the VCU Office of Admissions website. By registering their intent to enroll at VCU, students will receive admission information and transfer advising support from VCU prior to their application.

Section 3: Application of Associate Degree to General Education Requirement

Completion of a transferable associate degree or the Uniform Certificate of General Studies satisfies all lower-division general education requirements at VCU.

Section 4: Application of this Agreement to Students Earning Associate Degree Concurrent with High School

Guaranteed admission to VCU applies to students who earned an associate degree concurrent with their high school studies. Such students are required to earn a transferable associate degree with a minimum of 60 credits completed through a Virginia community college with a GPA of 2.5 or higher. VCU will accept college credits earned at high school as long as students earn a grade of “C” or better in each community course applicable to the transfer degree from a VCCS institution. High school students who earn an associate degree concurrent with graduation from high school must follow the freshman application deadline and indicate they are applying as a freshman when prompted on the admission application.

Section 5: Applications of this Agreement to Students Earning Credit for Prior Learning

Credit for courses completed through Advanced Placement, Cambridge, CLEP, DANTES, International Baccalaureate, and Armed Services experience will be accepted according to stated policies for acceptance of credit, which can be found in the VCU Undergraduate Bulletin for the year the GAA student enters VCU. For these credits to be accepted by VCU, GAA students are responsible for submitting the necessary transcripts or documentation of this additional coursework to VCU no later than the end of the first semester of enrollment at VCU.

Section 6: Associate Degree Completion Criteria and Catalog Determination

VCU will honor the degree requirements of the VCU Undergraduate Bulletin in effect at the time of the student’s admission to VCU. However, upon student request, VCU will honor the degree requirements of the VCU Undergraduate Bulletin in effect at the time of the student’s first post-high school enrollment into an appropriate associate degree at the two-year institution as long as the student has maintained continuous enrollment at the two-year institution for a maximum of four years from their first enrollment at the VCCS institution.

Section 7: Transfer Guide – Student Document

The associated Transfer Guide represents all requirements for admittance under this GAA and the benefits that result. The Transfer Guide will be applied, once development is complete, as the student-facing document for this agreement. Major-specific transfer guides will be developed and featured at the Transfer Virginia portal (<https://www.transfervirginia.org/>). Students should check the Transfer Guidance section of those transfer guides to understand whether admission into the university also guarantees admission into their major or program of choice.

Section 8: Administration of Agreement

The VCU officials responsible for all VCU aspects of the GAA and Register of Intent to Transfer are the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and the Vice President for Strategy, Enrollment Management and Student Success or his/her/their designee. The VCCS official responsible for all VCCS aspects of the GAA is the Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic and Workforce Programs or his/her/their designee, in consultation with the Guaranteed Admission Review Committee of the VCCS Academic and Student Affairs Council.

This agreement shall remain in effect for an initial period of three (3) years. This agreement may be renewed for set terms of three years thereafter upon written agreement by both parties. This Agreement may be modified only by mutual agreement by the VCCS Chancellor and President of VCU. Termination may be made by either party upon one (1) year prior written notice. Students who register their intent to use this agreement through the Transfer Virginia portal under the GAA prior to the date of termination are eligible for admission for two years after termination becomes effective.

The effective date of this Agreement is the date last signed by the President of VCU and the VCCS Chancellor. The signed Agreement will be maintained in the Transfer Virginia Portal.

VCCS Responsibilities

- Submit a PDF of the official signed Agreement to the Portal Coordinator.
- Use portal data to track which four-year institutions students are targeting for the GAA and provide support to students.

VCU Responsibilities

- Use portal and internal data to track students who register their intent to use the GAA. Use this data to maintain the ability to honor this agreement in respect to enrollment capacities.
- Use portal data to track students who register their intent to use this agreement and engage with students to best prepare students for transfer.

Section 9: Review Clause

VCU and the VCCS will review this agreement and the student tracking data every three years to adjust as deemed appropriate to maintain its integrity and value and for the improvement of the transfer process. Changes will not be applied retroactively to students already enrolled or registered under the provisions of the existing GAA.

If no changes are necessary, the documented review below will extend this agreement for an additional three years.

Signatures

 3/22/24

Michael Rao
President
Virginia Commonwealth University

 3/8/2024

David Doré
Chancellor
Virginia Community College System