

**GUARANTEED ADMISSION AGREEMENT
VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
AND
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY**

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) recognize the need to facilitate the admission of transfer students from Virginia's community colleges to VCU as they pursue their educational goals. In an effort to ease the transfer process and to promote the closer coordination of academic courses, programs and degrees offered by our institutions, we do hereby enter into the following Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA). This agreement supercedes the Articulation Agreement between Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia community colleges, signed on June 17, 1992.

Students who graduate from a transfer-oriented associate degree program at a Virginia community college with a 2.5 cumulative GPA, who meet the eligibility requirements described below, and who declare interest in enrolling at VCU through the GAA prior to graduation are guaranteed admission to and may enroll in VCU. These students are referred to as "GAA students." VCCS Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Arts and Sciences degrees are considered "transfer-oriented associate degrees," as well as VCCS General Studies associate degrees that have been approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) as transfer degrees according to the State Committee on Transfer (see website at <http://www.schev.edu/Students/SCThome.asp>). GAA students may expect the following:

1. Courses that are accepted by VCU will be applied to the attainment of the baccalaureate degree. Only credits applied toward the receipt of the transfer-oriented associate degree will be accepted, not to exceed 63 credits. GAA students will not be required to repeat course content that has been evaluated as equivalent to an upper-level course at VCU; however, students may be required to complete additional upper-level credits to meet VCU or program requirements.
2. VCU will guarantee the acceptance of all transferable credits earned from the transfer-oriented associate degree program from the Virginia community college and will accept the student with junior standing. However, VCU cannot guarantee that students will be able to complete all requirements for graduation within the 120-credit minimum required for graduation at VCU. Shortly after the time the *Letter of Interest* is signed by the appropriate VCU official, VCU will begin an advising process with the student.
3. Acceptance in some degree programs at VCU is competitive; thus guaranteed admission into VCU does not imply admission to these programs without further acceptance by the program or department offering the program. Students participating in the GAA should follow all special school, college and/or departmental application procedures and deadlines (<http://www.vcu.edu/ugrad/admissions101/deadlines.html>), as well as grade point requirements listed in the *VCU Bulletin* for native VCU students.
4. GAA students will be given the same consideration as native students for admission to competitive programs, as well as for registration, financial aid, student housing, and any other opportunities open to native students with junior standing.

5. Completion of a transfer-oriented associate degree at a Virginia community college will satisfy all VCU lower-level general education requirements except requirements that apply to all students or pre-requisites for the student's intended degree program at VCU.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for participation in this GAA, students must:

1. Graduate with a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA from a transfer-oriented associate degree program at a Virginia community college.
2. Prior to graduation from a Virginia community college, submit a *Letter of Interest* to transfer to VCU.
3. Maintain continuous enrollment at a VCCS institution with no more than one non-summer semester without enrollment.
4. Enroll at VCU within one year of completing the transfer-oriented associate degree.

Students who were previously enrolled at VCU and transferred back to a VCCS college to complete the transfer-oriented associate degree are not eligible for participation in the GAA. VCCS students who do not meet the GAA eligibility requirements listed above are eligible to apply for admission to VCU but will not be guaranteed admission under this agreement.

Benefits of the GAA for VCCS Students:

1. VCCS students may select the VCU *Bulletin* in effect at the time of enrollment in the GAA. Students in the GAA program also have the option of selecting the *Bulletin* in effect when they enroll in VCU.
2. The VCU application fee will be applied as a credit on the student's account.
3. VCCS students who have a GPA of 2.75 cumulative or higher may apply for one of ten need-based, in-state tuition and fees scholarships that VCU will provide annually for VCCS GAA students as long as the agreement remains in effect. Students who successfully compete for a scholarship may hold that scholarship for a maximum of two years. The second year of the scholarship is contingent upon the student's maintaining at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA at VCU during the first year. However, a student shall not receive a scholarship that, when added to other financial aid received by that student, will enable the student to receive total assistance in excess of VCU's in-state tuition and fees. Students applying for financial aid have an earlier application deadline (<http://www.vcu.edu/ugrad/admissions101/deadlines.html>).

Responsibilities of the VCCS:

1. Disseminate accurate information to VCCS transfer program students regarding the general conditions of this agreement. Those provisions include the conditions for guaranteed admission to VCU, and notification that admission to VCU does not guarantee acceptance to any particular major field of study.
2. Provide academic advising services to assist VCCS students in choosing courses that will best prepare them for their intended major at VCU. The VCCS will prepare faculty advisors and counselors to provide appropriate and accurate advising services related to students' plans to apply to VCU.
3. Annually update VCCS course equivalency information.

4. Notify the Chief Transfer Officer (<http://www.schev.edu/AdminFaculty/VTTOcontact.asp>) at VCU when situations arise warranting VCCS faculty and VCU faculty interaction to address advising or curricular issues.
5. Collaborate with VCU to promote the GAA among prospective and current VCCS students.
6. Provide VCU with a summary of research findings and actions taken based on data supplied by VCU on transfer student performance.

Responsibilities of VCU:

1. Provide the VCCS with course equivalent information regarding VCCS courses and VCU equivalent courses. Conduct an annual review of course equivalency information to insure that this information is shared with the VCCS on a timely basis. (http://www.vcu.edu/ugrad/admissions101/transfers/transfer_guide_course_equivalent.pdf)
2. Disseminate accurate information to prospective transfer students regarding the general conditions of the GAA. Those provisions include the conditions for guaranteed admission to VCU, and notification that admission to the university does not guarantee acceptance to any particular degree program.
3. Provide academic advising services to GAA students during the term prior to transfer to assist these students in making a smooth transition from the community college to VCU.
4. Notify the Chief Transfer Officer (<http://www.schev.edu/AdminFaculty/VTTOcontact.asp>) at the Virginia community college (or the VCCS representative) when situations arise that warrant VCCS faculty and VCU faculty interaction to address advising or curricular issues.
5. Collaborate with the VCCS to promote the GAA among VCCS students.
6. Annually provide tracking data on performance of GAA students at VCU, including credits presented and accepted in transfer, VCU courses attempted and completed, cumulative GPA, major, graduation date from VCU, and comparisons with native students. The specific data elements and the timing of the report will be determined by Institutional Research staffs from the VCCS and VCU.

Responsibilities of the Student:

1. It is primarily the responsibility of students who choose to pursue the GAA to know and understand the requirements for a transfer-oriented associate degree, as well as degree requirements and the specific requirements for their intended major at VCU.
2. The student will review the GAA and the intended program of study at VCU and will sign a *Letter of Interest* to enroll at VCU. The *Letter of Interest* should be signed after the student has completed at least 15 transferable credit hours at the Virginia community college, and before the student completes the transfer-oriented associate degree. It is incumbent upon the student to revise the *Letter of Interest* with any change of name, contact information, community college program of study, desired VCU degree program of study, or expected date of graduation from a VCCS college prior to transferring to VCU. The student also must inform VCU upon any decision to discontinue participation in the GAA.
3. The student must contact the counselor/advisor at the appropriate community college for approval before initiating changes in his or her program of study.
4. The student must obtain a transfer-oriented associate degree at a Virginia community college with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a four-point scale. A minimum grade of "C" must be obtained in each course the student wishes to transfer. Eligible

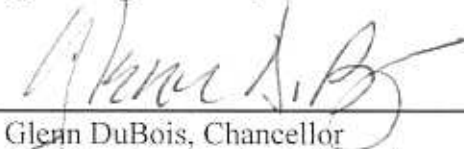
transfer students must provide transcripts from any other institutions attended and documentation for Advanced Placement, CLEP, or other advanced standing credit applied toward completion of the transfer-oriented associate degree.

5. Follow the VCU application and admission processes (<http://www.vcu.edu/ugrad/>) and timelines (<http://www.vcu.edu/ugrad/admissions101/deadlines.html>). Note that VCU has an earlier application deadline for students seeking financial aid.

Review of the GAA:


1. The VCCS will designate officials who will be responsible for all aspects of the GAA at the VCCS. VCU will designate individuals responsible for all aspects of the GAA at VCU.
 - a. Representing VCU will be the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and the Vice Provost for Instruction, or designees.
 - b. Representing the VCCS will be the VCCS Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Research and the VCCS Assistant Vice Chancellor for Educational Programs and Instructional Technology, in consultation with the Articulation Subcommittee of the Academic and Student Affairs Council.
2. Both parties are to communicate the conditions of the GAA to their respective clientele (external and internal constituents). VCU and the VCCS will review the GAA at a minimum of every three years and make adjustments or amendments as deemed appropriate to maintain the integrity of each institution as well as for the improvement of the transfer process and student articulation. Such changes will not adversely affect students already enrolled and covered under the provisions of the existing GAA.
3. The GAA will remain in effect until terminated by either party upon written notice to the other party of an intention to terminate. Such notice should be given at least one year in advance of the effective date of termination, and students who entered under the GAA may take advantage of its terms for two years after termination becomes effective.

Approval granted by:



Glenn DuBois, Chancellor
Virginia Community College System
3/8/06

Date



Eugene P. Trani, President
Virginia Commonwealth University
3/8/2006

Date