

TRANSFER OPTIONS AND BENEFITS

Transfer Option	What is it?	Benefits
<i>Transferring with an Associate Degree (AA, AS, AAS)</i>	An associate degree is an undergraduate degree normally awarded after at least two years of full-time study. It is the first level of postsecondary education available to high school graduates. This level of degree provides basic academic knowledge and is the foundation to further undergraduate study.	Earning an associate degree can offset the cost of a bachelor degree, increase the likelihood of completing a bachelor degree in four years, and prepare you for advanced-level studies.
<i>Articulation Agreement</i>	This document is an agreement between colleges and universities formalizing the transfer policies for a specific academic program or degree in general.	Articulation agreements provide you with transparency about transfer credits. They also reduce the likelihood of course duplication, save money and save time as you earn your degree.
<i>Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA)</i>	The GAA is a document that provides a clear transfer pathway for students earning AA, AS or AAS degrees from a VCCS college or Richard Bland College. Students who follow the GAA and meet all the terms of the agreement are assured transfer admission to the partnering university. GAA admission is offered to students pursuing a first bachelor degree.	Guaranteed admission agreements secure admission to an institution.
<i>Guaranteed Program Admission Agreement (GPAA)</i>	This is a document that provides a clear transfer pathway for students earning AA, AS or AAS degrees from a VCCS college or Richard Bland College. Students who follow the GPAA and meet all the terms of the agreement are guaranteed transfer directly into a specific program of study. GPAA admission is offered to students pursuing a first bachelor degree.	GPAAs guarantee the transfer of credits to a specific program of study at your selected institution.

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<i>Uniform Certificate of General Studies (UCGS)</i>	The general studies certificate verifies that you have completed a total of 31-32 credits of guaranteed transfer courses spread over the common general education core for universities in Virginia.	This is a certificate that indicates successful completion of the first half of an associate degree. This certificate guarantees the transfer of 31-32 credit hours that satisfy lower division general education requirements at each public institution of higher education in Virginia.
<i>Passport Program</i>	Certifies the completion of 16 credits of guaranteed transfer courses over 5 specific academic areas. This is not a credential.	The passport guarantees the transfer of 16 credit hours that satisfy lower division general education requirements at each public institution of higher education in Virginia.
<i>Reverse Transfer</i>	The process of transferring credits from the 4-YR institution where you are actively enrolled back to the 2-YR institution where you were previously enrolled to complete and ultimately award the associate degree, once your permission is obtained.	Reverse transfer allows you to retroactively earn an associate degree, thus increasing the likelihood of bachelor degree completion, boosting earning potential, and complementing your resume.

Note: In addition to these transfer options, you may also wish to explore the Transfer Guide that outlines course requirements and key pre-transfer information for majors at Virginia institutions. It provides a road map from associate degree to bachelor degree with exact coursework required for specific majors and important deadlines to take for each step in the transfer process.

Next Steps: Explore your options with degree programs and articulation agreements for guaranteed admission into your institution of choice. An associate degree represents a valuable step toward moving into a bachelor program.