

TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH GUARANTEED ADMISSION BETWEEN JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY AND THE VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

In accordance with the Virginia State Policy on Transfer, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and James Madison University (JMU) 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 JMU 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 all previous agreements between JMU and the VCCS or its individual institutions signed prior to July 1, 2022. It does not nullify individual program-to-program agreements articulated since this date.

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 program. GAAs should be state-level agreements.

Section 2: Requirements for Admission

A. Applicable Associate Degrees:

Approved associate degrees are those VCCS Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), and Associate of Arts and Science (AA&S) degrees identified by the State Council on Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) as transfer degrees based on a baccalaureate-oriented sequence of courses. This includes VCCS General Studies associate degrees that have been recognized by SCHEV as transfer degrees according to the State Policy on College Transfer: <https://www.schev.edu/home/showpublisheddocument/298/637807416962200000>. JMU maintains a list of approved transferable associate degrees on its transfer website.

B. Minimum GPA Requirement:

Students must present a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale upon application to JMU **and** upon graduation from the VCCS institution. If a student has attended multiple institutions, all work attempted at each institution will be considered; students must have earned the minimum cumulative grade point average at the present VCCS institution and at each previous institution. A student is allowed to repeat up to two courses where the initial grade earned will not be included in the grade point average calculation. A student who has repeated more than two courses is not eligible to apply to JMU through the Guaranteed Admission Agreement but is eligible to apply through the traditional transfer admissions process.

Students must also earn a minimum of 3.0 GPA in the core academic area courses of language, lab science, math, humanities, and social science. Language includes English, foreign language, and/or speech communications courses. Math includes courses that are beyond the Algebra 2 level. Humanities and social science include history, government, political science, psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, geography, religion, and/or philosophy courses.

C. Limitations Due to Academic or Disciplinary Record:

JMU reserves the right to deny admission or the benefits of this agreement to students who have been suspended, dismissed, or expelled for academic or non-academic reasons from any college.

D. Course Requirements:

Students are required to earn no grade lower than a "C" in any course at the VCCS institution, or any previous institution, that has not been repeated and the grade replaced at the time of application. At least one college-level transferable course must be completed at the time of application in each of the core academic areas listed above. Consult Section 5 of this agreement for an explanation of limitations related to fulfilling course requirements through credit for prior learning (AP, IB, Cambridge International Examination, and CLEP).

E. Minimum Credits to Be Completed at Associate Degree Institution:

Students must meet all requirements to earn a transfer associate degree as determined by their VCCS institution, including a minimum of 60 credits. Students who were previously enrolled at JMU and transferred to a VCCS institution are not eligible for participation in the GAA.

F. Maximum Credits Applicable for Transfer:

JMU does not limit the number of credits applicable for transfer; however, a minimum percentage of credits must be earned at an accredited four-year institution and at JMU in order to be awarded a bachelor's degree from JMU. See Section 6 for completion criteria.

G. Testing Requirements:

JMU does not require any standardized test scores for admittance under the Guaranteed Admission Agreement.

H. Admission Application and Enrollment:

Students at VCCS institutions who have formally applied to graduate with an approved transferable associate degree are eligible for guaranteed admission if they meet all criteria. Students must submit the online JMU admission application by the application deadline for the semester they wish to enroll in and request that all previously attended colleges/universities/high school submit an official transcript to JMU's Office of Admissions upon completing a minimum of 45 credit hours. The online JMU admission application and all transcripts must be submitted by February 1 for Summer Term admission; by March 1 for Fall Term admission; and by October 1 for Spring Term Admission.

Students who are on track to complete all requirements of the GAA by the end of the spring term will be given priority for the upcoming fall semester. Students completing the requirements for the GAA during the summer who wish to enter JMU for the fall semester must have no more than two courses left to complete during the summer session.

In accordance with state and federal guidelines, some students may be ineligible to enroll at JMU based on their immigration status. The Office of Admissions reserves the right to request supporting documentation to determine immigration status and eligibility.

I. Transcript Submission:

Students are required to provide official transcripts from **all** institutions attended, including high school. Students should request that all previously attended colleges/universities/high school submit an official transcript to JMU's Office of Admissions upon completing a minimum of 45 credit hours.

J. Registration of Intent to Use the Agreement:

A student must register his/her/their intent to use this agreement by completing and signing a *Guaranteed Admission Agreement Letter of Intent* form available on the JMU Undergraduate Admissions website: <https://www.jmu.edu/admissions/index.shtml>. The form can be submitted in hard copy or electronically and requires a signature from either an advisor at the VCCS institution or a designated JMU Transfer Advisor signifying they met with the student to review requirements. The *Letter of Intent* can be submitted at any point a student is enrolled in a VCCS institution but must be submitted by the application deadline.

Students are also encouraged to note their intent to transfer to JMU through the Guaranteed Admission Agreement through the Transfer Virginia portal. This will not replace the *Letter of Intent* required at JMU.

Section 3: Application of Associate Degree to General Education Requirement

Completion of an approved transfer associate degree satisfies all General Education requirements at JMU.

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

Students who earn the transfer-oriented degrees concurrently with high school diplomas are not eligible for participation in the GAA. Students must complete at least 24 credit hours at the college or university level **after** graduating from high school to be eligible for the GAA; students who have completed fewer than 24 credit hours after high school can still apply to JMU but will not be eligible for the GAA. No distinction will be made by JMU regarding college courses applicable to the transfer associate degree that are taken through dual enrollment arrangements with high schools.

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

Credit awarded at a previous institution for AP, IB and Cambridge International examination scores will be reevaluated by JMU. Credit is not guaranteed for these courses; credit will be granted only if AP, IB, and Cambridge International examination scores meet established JMU criteria. CLEP exams are not accepted for credit into undergraduate programs at JMU except in the Adult Degree Program.

As previously mentioned, students must complete at least one college-level course in each of the core academic areas (language, lab science, math, or humanities and social science) prior to applying for guaranteed admission. This requirement must be met through coursework or exam scores that are eligible for transfer credit at JMU. Exam scores that a student wishes to be considered must be sent by the admissions application deadline.

Though there are some limitations on eligibility for the GAA, students can still access the benefits of an approved transferable associate degree, such as the general education waiver at JMU, if one or more of the requirements for the associate degree are fulfilled through CLEP or through AP, IB, or Cambridge International exam scores that aren't eligible for transfer credit at JMU.

Section 6: Associate Degree Completion Criteria and Catalog Determination

VCCS students will be assigned to the JMU undergraduate catalog in effect for their first semester at JMU, but they have the option of requesting the undergraduate catalog in effect at the time of their enrollment into the Guaranteed Admission Agreement and may continue with the degree requirements as specified in this catalog for up to five academic years. If the transfer to JMU is not made within five years, then the student will follow the JMU undergraduate catalog in effect at the time of transfer to JMU.

All JMU students must complete a minimum of 120 credit hours to earn a bachelor's degree. A minimum of 50% of the total credit hours required for graduation must have been earned at an accredited four-year institution and a minimum of 25% of the required credit hours must have been earned at JMU.

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

This agreement will remain in effect until modified or terminated. This Agreement may be modified only by mutual agreement by the VCCS Chancellor and President of JMU. Termination may be made by either party upon one (1) year prior written notice. Students who register their intent to use this agreement 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 JMU 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.

JMU Responsibilities

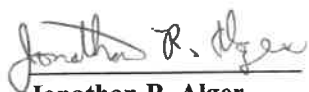
- Use portal and internal data to track students who register their intent to use the GAA. Use this data to maintain ability to honor agreement in respect to enrollment capacities.
- Use portal and internal data to track students who register their intent to use this agreement and engage with students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

Section 9: Review Clause

JMU 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



Jonathan R. Alger
President
James Madison University

4/27/23

Date



Sharon Morrissey
Interim Chancellor
Virginia Community College System

3/28/2023

Date

Review Documentation

Review Date	Completed By	Agreement Extension

Note: Recorded by the VCCS, shared with senior institution, and updated in the Transfer Virginia Portal

Appendix A: Transfer Guide Mapped to Undeclared Major for JMU: The Transfer Guide will be applied once development is complete.