

2024-2025 University of Mary Washington Bachelor of Arts in Communication & Digital Studies

TRANSFER GUIDE
Catalog Year: 2025-2026

Associate Transfer Degree Plan in Communication

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Complete at VCCS				Complete at UMW		
BACHELOR'S DEGREE REQUIREMENT	SATISFIED BY			BACHELOR'S DEGREE REQUIREMENT		
Course	Credits	CC Course	Notes	Course	Credits	Notes
SDV 100 does not transfer.	1-2	SDV 100 College Success Skills or 101 Orientation		DGST 101	3	Intro to Digital Studies (also meets Digital Intensive requirement)
Writing Intensive	3	ENG 111 College Comp I		COMM 340	3	Intro to Rhetoric and Communication; prerequisite for COMM 341 & COMM 460
Writing Intensive	3	ENG 112 College Comp II		COMM 341	3	Communication Research Methods (Writing Intensive)
Methods of Investigation Gen Ed: Humanities course 1	3	Any UCGS Humanities	These two courses must come from two different disciplines.	Upper-Level DGST course	3	Any 300- or 400- level DGST course
Methods of Investigation Gen Ed: Arts & Literature	3	Any UCGS Art, Humanities, or Literature		COMM 460 or DGST 460	3	Capstone in the Major (Writing Intensive and After Mary Washington)
Methods of Investigation Gen Ed: Social Science	3	Any UCGS Social & Behavioral Science (not History)		Upper-Level Major Elective (at least 2 total)	3	
Methods of Investigation Gen Ed: Humanities course	3	Any UCGS History		Upper-Level Major Elective (at least 2 total)	3	
Methods of Investigation Gen Ed: Natural Science	4	Any UCGS Natural Sciences				The Comm and Dig Studies major is 36 credits in total. The remaining work at UMW will include any gen eds needed beyond those waived by the associate degree and electives.
Methods of Investigation Gen Ed: Quantitative Reasoning course 1	3-5	Any UCGS Math				

COMM 205: Public Speaking	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking	Required for the CDS major			
Lower-Level Major Elective (up to 2 total)	3	CST 114 Survey of Mass Media	Meets lower level major elective requirement (up to 2)			
Lower-Level Major Elective (up to 2 total)	3	CST 201 Intro to Communication Theory and Research	Meets lower level major elective requirement (up to 2)			
Lower-Level Major Elective (up to 2 total)	3	CST 221 Public Relations CST 126 Interpersonal Communication CST 228 Writing Across Media CST 229 Intercultural Communication ENG 121 Intro to Journalism	Select 1st of 2 courses from this list (if CST 114 and CST 201 taken as part of Communication curriculum, additional lower-level major electives are not necessary as only 2 major electives can be lower-level).			
Lower-Level Major Elective (up to 2 total)	3	CST 114 Survey of Mass Media CST 201 Intro to Communication Theory and Research CST 221 Public Relations CST 126 Interpersonal Communication CST 228 Writing Across Media CST 229 Intercultural Communication ENG 121 Intro to Journalism	Select 2nd of 2 courses from this list (total of 4 major electives required for the CDS major, at least 2 need to be upper-level).			
	15-17	Additional transfer electives, if needed to meet 60 credits				
COMM 206: Small Group Communication	3	CST 115 Small Group	Required for the CDS major. If CST 115 is not taken at the VCCS it can be taken as UMW's COMM 206.			
CREDITS PRE-TRANSFER: 60-62				CREDITS POST-TRANSFER: 58-60		

TRANSFER GUIDANCE

Guaranteed Admission to the University of Mary Washington

By meeting the following criteria, you are eligible for admission. Separate admission to the Communication and Digital Studies program is not required.

- Earn a transfer associate's degree
- Earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 for your associate's degree
- Earn grades of "C" or higher in all of your courses for the associate's degree to be eligible to transfer those credits.

Please create an account through the www.TransferVirginia.org portal to register your intent to use this guarantee for admission to UMW.

IMPORTANT LINKS & DATES:

- **University Transfer Center:** <https://www.umw.edu/admissions/transfer/>
- **Register Intent to Transfer:** After the first 15 credits, complete this form and submit to admit@umw.edu to receive application fee waiver:
https://www.umw.edu/admissions/apply/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwsuSzBhCLARIsAlcdLm7YqpvY-g0oek29QYp07zH7Fx1AxPOylve3QjF2kqykZoAWiZCYNOQaAnAYEALw_wcB
Additional details are available at TransferVirginia.org.
- **Admission Application:** Apply by October 15 for spring admission, March 1 for summer admission, and April 1 for fall admission. Additional details and a transfer checklist are available at <https://www.umw.edu/admissions/transfer/>
- **Financial Aid:** <https://www.umw.edu/financialaid/>
- **FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid:** Apply by April 1 to ensure you receive the maximum aid for which you are eligible. FAFSA will still be accepted after the April 1 deadline. The required forms are found at studentaid.gov

WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING COURSES?

- Create a schedule for all required courses, pay attention to prerequisites and when courses are offered, complete your first math and English courses in your first year. For help, see Transfer Steps and Resource Center at www.TransferVirginia.org
- UMW requires proficiency in a second language as part of the general education requirements. This can be satisfied in a number of ways including completing four years of language in high school, transferring credits from a community college, or completing a sequence of language courses through the 201 level at UMW. American Sign Language is accepted for transfer as a second language. All of the options for satisfying this requirement are found in the UMW Catalog: <https://catalog.umw.edu/undergraduate/general-education/general-education-course-list/>
- Connect with an advisor at your community college and UMW within your first year. College Connect available in your account at www.TransferVirginia.org

IS THIS DEGREE RIGHT FOR ME?

- The CDS major enhances understanding of and skill in oral communication by introducing students to communication theories and by providing opportunities to practice communication in a variety of settings.
- CDS Majors develop the critical tools to study and use digital technology to effectively communicate in a dynamic new media environment.
- The course work in this major focuses on new theoretical directions in the field of digital studies, and provides students with a dynamic understanding of how communication practices currently work through digital means and how those practices can be adapted to meet their future needs.
- CDS courses help students develop the durable skills that employers are looking for including skills in communication, collaboration, critical thinking, research, and our digital culture.
- As a truly interdisciplinary major, CDS majors can easily double-major, or add a minor, in a host of other disciplines.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON MY DEGREE OF WORK I HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED?

- **Associate Transfer Degree Completion:** Transfer students with a VCCS transferable associate degree have completed the UMW general education requirements except second language competency, digital intensive, divers and global perspectives, After Mary Washington, and beyond the classroom general education requirements. Several of these requirements are integrated into the communication and digital studies major. UMW does allow students to satisfy these requirements through qualifying transfer coursework.
- **Dual Enrollment - Completion of Associate Degree in HS:** Students participating in dual enrollment programs are considered as freshman applicants. Dual enrollment courses taken at the high school are treated identically with the same course when taken on a college campus; dual enrollment status does not affect the transferability of the course.
- **Credit for Prior Learning:** UMW accepts credit for AP, IB, CLEP, Cambridge, and other qualifying previous coursework. Equivalencies are provided here: <https://academics.umw.edu/registrar/transfer-information/transferring-credit-ap-ib-or-previous-coursework/> Virginia Community College System courses which receive guaranteed equivalent credit are provided here: <https://academics.umw.edu/registrar/transfer-information/resources-and-publications/babs-transfer-credit-guide/transferrable-credit/virginia-community-college-system-vccs/>
- **Catalog Year:** Students must complete general education requirements associated with the academic year that they enroll at UMW. Students complete major requirements associated with the academic year in which they declare their major.

IS THIS COLLEGE RIGHT FOR ME?

- UMW will feel like home. Our campus is gorgeous, green, and full of opportunity. Join a club sports team. Audition for a musical. Lead the way in the Student Government Association. Train with our esports team. Or sit back, relax, and take it all in from the cozy comfort of Ball Circle.
- UMW is a small university located in Fredericksburg, VA. We offer small class sizes and courses are taught by faculty committed to student learning and success.
- UMW offers high impact experiences beyond the classroom. Faculty are committed to collaborating with students on research projects and outreach experiences.

- UMW is located between Washington, DC, and Richmond, VA, in the largest technology corridor in Virginia. UMW students enjoy a multitude of internship opportunities where they can apply their academic knowledge while gaining professional experience. UMW students receive support with resumes and job searches through the department and university resources and can earn academic credit for qualifying internship experiences.
- Learn more about our college at www.TransferVirginia.org

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- UMW has a co-enrollment agreement with Germanna Community College which allows Germanna students to take up to five courses at UMW to transfer back to their Germanna associate degree program. This allows students to receive UMW course experiences at Germanna tuition rates. Students must submit a letter of intent after completing 15 credits at Germanna: <https://www.umw.edu/admissions/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2022/05/Germanna-CoEnrollment-Form2022.pdf>
- Completing your associate transfer degree post-high school satisfies all lower division general education requirements and increases the chance of completing your bachelor's degree.
- Exceeding 3 years or 90 credits at your community college means you have exhausted your financial aid at that college and have limited your future financial aid at UMW.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS DEGREE?

Explore possible careers, salaries, and job outlooks at www.TransferVirginia.org

Students earning a BA in Communication and Digital Studies are highly sought after in some of the fastest-growing job sectors in the nation. Graduates are also well prepared for further study in graduate programs in communication, digital studies, and other related fields.

PROGRAM SUCCESSES & HIGHLIGHTS

- CDS offers a record number of academic internships in a variety of workplaces.
- Majors have gone on to graduate study in many of the top graduate programs in the country, many with graduate assistantships.

- CDS majors have the opportunity to conduct research with faculty members. Several students present their work at on-campus events and professional conferences each year.

WHAT ARE MY CHANCES FOR GETTING ACCEPTED?

- With an associate's degree and a 3.0 minimum cumulative GPA, you may qualify for UMW's Guaranteed Admissions Agreement with the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and Richard Bland College. Additional details are available here: <https://www.umw.edu/admissions/transfer/our-commitment/guaranteed-admission-agreement/>
- Each fall, UMW enrolls approximately 300 students from the Virginia Community College system and other schools inside and outside of Virginia.

DO MORE WITH YOUR DEGREE!

- Most students have an internship at some point during their time at UMW. The CDS Department sponsors many academic internships for its majors. The Department and the University support students with campus job fairs, resume workshops, and interview preparation.
- CDS majors often work with offices and programs across campus to manage social media, produce video projects, and communication campaigns.
- Our department sponsors a chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the official academic honor society of the National Communication Association. Majors can qualify once completing a required number of courses with a 3.5 GPA in the major (and a 3.0 overall).

OTHER THAN CLASSES, ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS?

- Students must earn at least 30 credits at UMW as a degree-seeking student (not including physical education credits).
- Students must earn a GPA of 2.0 in both their major and overall coursework in order to complete their degree.