

GUARANTEED ADMISSION AGREEMENT

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY AND VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

James Madison University (JMU) and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) recognize the need to facilitate the transfer of students from Virginia's community colleges to JMU. In an effort to ease the transfer process and communicate a clear pathway for admission to VCCS students who intend to graduate with a VCCS transfer-oriented associate degree and transfer directly to JMU to earn their baccalaureate degree, the VCCS and JMU do hereby enter into the following Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA).

DEFINITIONS

"Transfer-oriented associate degrees" are those VCCS Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), and Associate of Arts and Sciences (AA&S) degrees identified by the State Council on Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) as university-parallel transfer degrees. This includes VCCS General Studies associate degrees that have been approved by SCHEV as university-parallel transfer degrees according to the state Committee on Transfer (see website at <https://www.schev.edu/docs/default-source/about-section/committees-and-groups/state-council-on-transfer/recognized-general-studies-transfer-associate-degrees.pdf>)

"GAA student" refers to a student who signed and submitted a *Guaranteed Admission Agreement Letter of Intent* form to complete a transfer-oriented associate degree from a VCCS institution and transfer to JMU, and meets the requirements of this agreement.

ELIGIBILITY

Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA) students must:

1. Be degree seeking at a Virginia community college and have formally applied to graduate with a transfer-oriented associate degree program.
2. Complete and sign a *Guaranteed Admission Agreement Letter of Intent* form.
 - A. It is primarily the responsibility of the student who chooses to pursue this guaranteed admission agreement to know and understand the requirements of his or her transfer-oriented associate degree program, as well as degree requirements and the specific program of study requirements for his or her intended major at JMU.
 - B. The student will review the Guaranteed Admission Agreement and will sign a *Letter of Intent* to enroll at JMU. The form also requires a signature from either an advisor at the VCCS institution or a designated JMU Transfer Advisor signifying they met with the student to understand the 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.
3. Present a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.000 on a 4.0 scale upon application to JMU **and** upon graduation from the VCCS institution.
 - A. If a student has attended multiple institutions, they must have earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.000 on a 4.0 scale at the present VCCS institution **and at each** previous institution.

- B. All work attempted at the VCCS institution and any other institution(s) attended will be considered by JMU. The only exception is that, in compliance with JMU policy, a student is allowed to repeat up to **two** different 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.
4. Provide transcripts from **all** institutions attended, including high school.
 5. 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.
 6. Earn a minimum of a 3.000 GPA in the core academic area courses (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.
 - A. At least one college-level transferable course must be completed at the time of application in each of the core academic areas.
 - B. A student who employs AP, IB, or Cambridge International exam credits to completely fulfill any of the core academic areas (language, lab science, math or humanities and social science) of the approved associate degree(s) may not be eligible for participation in the GAA. AP, IB, and Cambridge International exam scores must be in accordance with JMU policy in order for a student to be eligible for participation in the GAA. Students must submit AP, IB, and Cambridge International exam scores by the stated admissions application deadline for consideration. Exam scores that a student wishes to be considered must be sent by the admissions application deadline.
 - C. JMU programs, with the exception of the JMU Adult Degree Program (ADP), do not evaluate, or grant credit for, College Level Examination Program (CLEP) examinations. A student who employs CLEP credit to completely fulfill **any** of the core academic areas (language, lab science, math or humanities and social science) of the approved associate degree(s) is **not** eligible for participation in the GAA.
 7. Submit the *JMU Application for Admission* by the application deadline for the semester you wish to enroll 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.
 - A. 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.
 - B. 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.
 8. Notify the JMU Office of Admissions if there is a change in desired major after submitting the application.

EXCLUSIONS TO THE GUARANTEED ADMISSION AGREEMENT

1. Students who were previously enrolled at JMU and transferred to a VCCS institution are not eligible for participation in the GAA.

2. 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 in order to be eligible for the GAA.
3. 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.
4. 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 or those who have been convicted of, pled guilty or no contest to, a felony.

ACCEPTANCE AND APPLICATION OF TRANSFER CREDIT

A Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA) student enrolled in a university parallel program at a VCCS institution who meets JMU's transfer admissions requirements and completes all requirements for a transfer-oriented associate degree may enroll at James Madison University and may expect the following:

1. All courses accepted by JMU will be applied to the attainment of the baccalaureate degree.
2. Completion of the university-parallel transfer degree will satisfy all General Education requirements at JMU.
3. For graduation with the baccalaureate degree, all JMU students must complete a minimum of 120 credit hours; further, at least 50% of the credit hours accepted by JMU must be from accredited senior (four-year) institutions of higher education, including JMU (60 credits for degree programs of 120 credits), and a minimum of 25% of the total credit hours must have been earned at JMU (30 credits for degree programs of 120 credits).
4. JMU does not guarantee that the student will be able to complete all requirements for graduation within the 120-credit hour minimum required for graduation at JMU.
5. The student will be informed by JMU at the time the program of study is approved for his or her major if there are any course requirements that would require credit hours beyond the 120-credit hour minimum needed for graduation.
6. 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.
7. 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. Since JMU transfers credit on a course-by-course basis, credit not accepted by JMU will not transfer.
8. JMU programs, with the exception of the JMU Adult Degree Program (ADP), do not evaluate, or grant credit for, College Level Examination Program (CLEP) examinations.
9. VCCS students may select the JMU undergraduate catalog in effect at the time of enrollment in 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.

ADMISSION TO JMU COLLEGES AND ACADEMIC UNITS

Acceptance in some colleges and academic units at JMU is competitive; acceptance into JMU does not imply admission to these programs without further acceptance by the college or academic unit offering the program. Information concerning JMU programs with admission and progression standards is available at <https://www.jmu.edu/advising/majors/admission-progression-standards.shtml>. Students participating in this admission agreement should follow all special college and/or academic unit application procedures and deadlines, as well as grade point requirements listed in the JMU catalog and supplied by the academic unit for native JMU students.

RESPONSIBILITIES

VCCS institutions will:

1. Disseminate accurate information to VCCS transfer program students regarding the general conditions of this guaranteed admission agreement. Those provisions include the conditions for guaranteed acceptance to JMU and notification that acceptance to the university does not guarantee acceptance to any particular major program of study.
2. Provide academic advising services to assist VCCS students in choosing courses that will best prepare them for their intended major at JMU. The primary point of contact for academic advising and course enrollment inquiries is JMU University Advising (universityadvising@jmu.edu).
3. Notify the Associate Director of Transfer Student Success at JMU when situations arise that warrants VCCS faculty and JMU faculty interaction to address advising or curricular issues.
4. Collaborate with JMU to promote the guaranteed admission agreement among prospective and current VCCS students.

JMU will:

1. Provide the VCCS with course equivalent information regarding VCCS courses and JMU equivalent courses.
2. Disseminate accurate information to prospective transfer students regarding the general conditions of this guaranteed admission agreement. Those provisions include the conditions for guaranteed acceptance to JMU and notification that acceptance to the university does not guarantee acceptance to any particular major program of study.
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 VCCS institutions to JMU.
4. Review and update all JMU-produced advising guides or advising sheets every three years.
5. Notify the appropriate individual at the VCCS when situations arise that warrant VCCS faculty and JMU faculty interaction to address advising or curricular issues.
6. Collaborate with the VCCS to promote the guaranteed admission agreement among prospective and current VCCS students.
7. Provide tracking data on performance of transfer students at JMU, including credits presented and accepted in transfer, JMU courses attempted and completed, cumulative GPA, major, graduation date from JMU, and comparisons with students who did not enter JMU under the terms of this agreement. The specific data elements of the report will be determined by Institutional Research staffs from the VCCS and JMU and provided by July 1 of each year.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

1. The VCCS will designate officials who will be responsible for all aspects of the guaranteed admission program at VCCS institutions. JMU will designate individuals responsible for all aspects of this guaranteed admission agreement at JMU.
 - ◆ Representing JMU will be the Vice Provost for Student Academic Success and Enrollment Management and the Dean of Admissions.
 - ◆ Representing the VCCS will be the Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic and Workforce Programs and the Director of Academic Programs and Policy.
2. Both parties are to communicate the conditions of this agreement to their respective clientele (external and internal constituents). JMU and the VCCS will review this agreement 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 agreement.
4. The guaranteed admission agreement 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 agreement may take advantage of its terms for two years after termination becomes effective.

Approval of Agreement:

The terms of this Agreement supersede all previous Agreements.

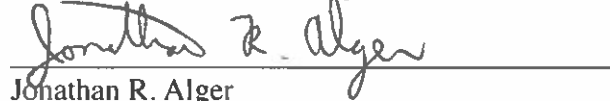
Virginia Community College System



Glenn DuBois
Chancellor

03/30/2021
Date

James Madison University



Jonathan R. Alger
President

05/26/2021
Date