

TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH GUARANTEED ADMISSION BETWEEN GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY AND THE VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

In accordance with Virginia's *State Policy on College Transfer*, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and George Mason University (Mason) 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 Mason 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 should apply for admission under the regular admission procedures of the University.

This agreement supersedes all previous agreements between Mason and the VCCS. It does not nullify individual program-to-program agreements articulated from this date.

Section 1: Definition of Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA)

An agreement between 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), Associate of Arts & Sciences (AA&S), and Associate of Fine Arts (AFA) degrees identified by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) as transfer degrees based on a baccalaureate-oriented sequence of courses. Additionally, Mason recognizes all VCCS General Studies associate degree programs.

B. Minimum GPA requirement:

Students must present a minimum cumulative 2.85 VCCS grade point average upon application to Mason and upon graduation from the VCCS institution. Mason will recognize the GPA reflected on the final VCCS transcript and will not recalculate based on multiple course attempts. VCCS courses completed with D or F grades must be repeated and the grade replaced before the application to Mason. If a student has enrolled at multiple institutions, a 2.85 GPA on college coursework attempted in the five years before the application to Mason is required. Official transcripts from all previous colleges and universities must be sent to the Office of Admissions.

C. Limitations due to academic or disciplinary record:

Mason 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 university.

D. Course requirements:

Students must earn no grade lower than a "C" in any course at the VCCS institution. Courses completed with D or F grades must be repeated and the grade replaced before the application to Mason. Students must complete ENG 112 and one of the following math courses: MTH 154, 245, 261, 263, or 288 before applying. Older VCCS MTH courses that equate to a Mason Core quantitative reasoning course may be substituted. These course equivalencies are reflected in the Mason Transfer Credit Matrix.

E. Minimum credits to be completed at associate degree institution:

Students are required to earn an associate degree with 60 or more credits; a minimum of 30 credits must be completed at the degree-granting institution.

F. Maximum credits applicable for transfer:

Mason will consider a maximum of 90 transfer credits, with no more than 75 credits from a community college.

G. Testing requirements:

Mason does not require standardized test scores for admission under the Guaranteed Admission Agreement. Non-native speakers of English must meet the University English language proficiency requirement. This is satisfied with VCCS ENG 111 and 112 with grades of C or better in each course.

H. Admission application and enrollment:

GAA applicants may apply for fall or spring semester enrollment. March 1 is the application deadline for fall and October 1 for spring. Admitted transfer students must submit the transfer enrollment deposit by June 15 for fall enrollment or December 1 for spring enrollment. Additional transfer details are available on the George Mason University Office of Admissions website.

I. Transcript submission:

Official transcripts from all previous college or university enrollments must be submitted to the Office of Admissions after submission of the transfer application. Students with international transcripts have additional application requirements outlined on the Office of Admissions website.

J. Registration of Intent to use the agreement:

Mason does not require students to register their intent to use the agreement. Students must select a regular or GAA admission option when completing the transfer application. Students who are ineligible for GAA admission are automatically reviewed for regular admission consideration.

Section 3: Application of associate degree to General Education Requirement

Completion of a SCHEV recognized transfer associate degree or any Associate of Science or Associate of Arts & Sciences in General Studies degree satisfies lower-level Mason Core requirements.

Section 4: Application of this Agreement to Students Earning associate degree Concurrent with High School

Students who earn associate degrees concurrently with high school diplomas are not eligible for transfer admission. These students must apply for first-year admission.

Section 5: Applications of this Agreement to Students Earning Credit by Exam

Credit awarded at a previous institution for AP, Cambridge International, CLEP, or IB exams will be reevaluated by Mason. Transfer credit is granted for scores that meet the established Mason criteria. Minimum scores for credit by exam are available on the Office of Admissions website. GAA applicants using credit by exam to satisfy the English and Math admission requirements should consult the Mason website early in their community college career.

Section 6: Associate Degree Completion Criteria and Catalog Determination

Enrolled GAA students receive the Mason undergraduate catalog year in effect for their first semester at Mason. Upon request of the Office of the University Registrar, GAA students may utilize the Mason catalog degree requirements in effect for the two years prior to the student's most recent admission to Mason following the award of the applicable VCCS associate degree. All degree components, including the major and minor, must be included in the Mason University Catalog for a single catalog year.

Section 7: Transfer Guide – Student Document

The attached Transfer Guide represents all requirements for admission under this GAA and the benefits that result. The Transfer Guide will be applied as the student-facing document for this agreement. Major-specific transfer guides will be developed and featured on 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 college also guarantees admission into their major or program of choice.

Section 8: Administration of Agreement

The George Mason University official responsible for all aspects of the GAA is the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs or his/her designee. The VCCS official responsible for all 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 amended by mutual agreement by the President of George Mason University and the VCCS Chancellor. Termination may be initiated by either party upon one (1) year prior written notice. Students who begin GAA-applicable associate degree programs are eligible for GAA admission for two years after termination becomes effective.

The effective date of this Agreement is the date last signed by the President of George Mason University and the VCCS Chancellor. The signed Agreement will be available 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.

Mason Responsibilities


- Use portal and internal data to track students who apply and enroll via the GAA. Use this data to maintain the ability to honor the agreement in respect to enrollment capacities.

Section 9: Review Clause

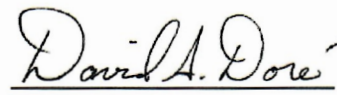
Mason and the VCCS will review this agreement and the student tracking data every three years to adjust as deemed appropriate to maintain its integrity and value and for the improvement of the transfer process. Retroactive changes are not applicable to students already enrolled or registered under the provisions of the existing GAA.

If no changes are necessary, the documented review below will extend this agreement for an additional three years.

Signatures


Dr. Gregory Washington
President
George Mason University

10/10/24
Date


Dr. David Dore
Chancellor
Virginia Community College System

9/24/2024
Date