

**GUARANTEED ADMISSION AGREEMENT**  
**VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**  
**AND**  
**VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY**

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), recognizing the need to facilitate the transfer of students from the community college to Virginia Tech, resolve to adopt a Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA). Virginia Tech provides special opportunities to help VCCS students experience a smooth transition.

In an effort to facilitate the transfer process, VCCS and Virginia Tech provide the following guaranteed admission agreement.

**Definitions**

“Transfer-oriented associate degrees” refers to VCCS Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Arts and Sciences degrees. This includes VCCS General Studies associate degrees that have been approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) as transfer degrees according to the State Committee on Transfer (see website at <http://www.schev.edu/Students/GeneralStudiesWebText.pdf>).

“GAA student” refers to a student who graduates from a transfer-oriented associate degree program at a Virginia community college with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.40 or higher on a four-point scale and who intends to transfer to Virginia Tech. All repeated grades are considered in calculation of the grade point average.

“GAA Contact” refers to staff members designated by each Virginia community college and by Virginia Tech who work with prospective GAA students.

**Academic Admission Agreement**

GAA students are guaranteed admission to Virginia Tech for either Summer or Fall Term and may expect the following:

1. Virginia Tech will guarantee the acceptance of all transferable credits earned from the transfer-oriented associate degree program, not to exceed 60 credits. No distinction will be made by Virginia Tech regarding college courses applicable to the transfer-oriented associate degree that are taken through dual enrollment arrangements with high schools. Please reference (4) if earning high school diploma concurrent with an associate degree.

2. Completion of the transfer-oriented degree program will guarantee completion of the Virginia Tech Liberal Education (general education) component of the undergraduate curriculum.
3. Virginia Tech cannot guarantee that students will be able to complete all requirements for graduation within the credit minimum required for graduation. Virginia Tech will inform the student at the time of enrollment if there are additional course requirements beyond the minimum semester hours needed for graduation. Such courses will be specified in writing.
4. Dual Enrollment Students without a Degree
  - High school students with dual enrollment credits are considered freshmen with transfer credit, not transfer students. Dual enrolled high school students should complete a Virginia Tech Freshman Application and will be reviewed for admission using the holistic criteria for all freshman applicants.
  - If admitted, no distinction will be made by Virginia Tech regarding college courses applicable to the transfer-oriented associate degree that are taken through dual enrollment arrangements with high schools.

#### Dual Enrollment Student with a Degree Concurrent with High School Graduation

- Students earning an associate degree concurrent with high school graduation (sometimes referenced as dual enrollment or Early College) are not eligible for admission under the terms of this agreement.
- Students earning an associate degree concurrent with high school graduation are considered freshman with transfer credit, not transfer students. Such students must apply as freshman and should complete a Virginia Tech Freshman Application and will be reviewed for admission using the holistic criteria for all freshman applicants.
- If admitted, no distinction will be made by Virginia Tech regarding college courses applicable to the transfer-oriented associate degree that are taken through dual enrollment arrangements with high schools. Virginia Tech will guarantee the acceptance of all transferable credits earned from the transfer-oriented associate degree program, not to exceed 60 credits.
- Native VCCS students are those students with credits from VCCS only. A native VCCS student who earns an associate degree from the VCCS concurrent with high school graduation will be considered in compliance with the State Transfer Policy regarding the articulation of their credits and will have met lower-division general education courses. Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and CLEP credits will be re-evaluated by Virginia Tech upon enrollment.

#### **Eligibility**

To be guaranteed admission to Virginia Tech for Summer or Fall term, students must:

- Complete the requirements to become GAA students (graduation from a transfer-oriented degree program at a Virginia community college with a cumulative grade point average [GPA] of 3.40 or higher on a four-point scale and submit an official transcript showing completion of the associate degree to the Virginia Tech Office of

Undergraduate Admissions.)

- Earn a grade of B or better in all English courses, mathematics courses specific to the intended major, science courses with labs specific to the intended major, and social sciences courses. Successful portfolio review and audition are required of all fine arts and music applicants.
- Have earned a grade of “C” or higher in each community college course applicable to the transfer-oriented associate degree program.
- Have earned a minimum of 45 credits of the total required for the transfer degree at a VCCS institution after high school graduation. Students who were previously enrolled at Virginia Tech and transferred back to a VCCS college to complete the transfer-oriented associate degree are not eligible for participation in the GAA. VCCS students who do not meet the GAA eligibility requirements listed above are eligible to apply for admission to Virginia Tech but will not be guaranteed admission under this agreement.

In addition, successful portfolio review and audition are required of all fine arts and music applicants.

Virginia Tech reserves the right to deny admission to students who have been academically dismissed or suspended or to those convicted of a felony. Per university policy, all applicants and currently enrolled students must report arrest, conviction, and protective orders. Disciplinary records are considered in determining eligibility for admission.

**Benefits to Virginia Community College Students**

1. Virginia Tech waives its application fee for students with demonstrated financial need. An interested student should submit a written request, which includes an explanation of financial hardship, to the Virginia Tech Office of Undergraduate Admissions by February 15 prior to the Summer or Fall term of application.
2. Through the community college GAA Contact, students can obtain the name and contact information for the Virginia Tech GAA Contact, who can direct them to Virginia Tech departmental advisors for advice and information on meeting requirements for various Virginia Tech majors.
3. Completion of the transfer-oriented degree program will guarantee completion of the Virginia Tech Liberal Education (general education) component of the undergraduate curriculum.
4. GAA students who enroll at Virginia Tech will be considered on the same basis as native students for admission to competitive programs, registration, financial aid, scholarships, student housing, parking, and any other opportunities open to native students with junior standing.

5. GAA students enrolling at Virginia Tech are eligible to apply for scholarships designated by Virginia Tech especially for GAA and VCCS students. Nine “*Lifeline Scholarships*” are awarded annually based on academic merit and the receipt of an associate degree from the VCCS. Of the nine awards, three (one full scholarship and two one-half scholarship) scholarships will be designated for GAA students. The two full scholarships are equivalent to one year of tuition at Virginia Tech. The seven one-half scholarships are equivalent to one-half of one year of tuition at Virginia Tech. No separate scholarship application is required. General Scholarship application is required for all other university scholarships. All students are automatically considered once they are granted admission to Virginia Tech.

### **Responsibilities**

GAA students must follow all Virginia Tech application processes and all special departmental/program application procedures, deadlines, and grade point average requirements.

The community college will:

1. Advise students regarding courses needed to complete the transfer-oriented associate degree.
2. Notify students of transfer opportunities to Virginia Tech under this GAA by posting links to the agreement on the VCCS Transfer Website (<http://www.vccs.edu/Students/TransferList.aspx>) and the Virginia Education Wizard ([www.vawizard.org](http://www.vawizard.org)).

Virginia Tech will:

1. Consider GAA students who enroll at Virginia Tech on the same basis as native students for admission to competitive programs, registration, financial aid, scholarships, student housing, parking, and any other opportunities open to native students with junior standing.
2. Provide tracking data on the performance of GAA students at Virginia Tech, including credits presented and accepted in transfer, Virginia Tech courses attempted and completed, cumulative GPA, major, graduation date from Virginia Tech, and comparisons with native students. The specific data elements and the timing of the report will be determined by the institutional research staffs at VCCS and Virginia Tech and provided by July 1 of each year. FERPA disclosure statements are required from IR staff for documentation of receipt and maintenance of data.

### **Review of the Agreement**

The VCCS will designate officials who will be responsible for all aspects of the GAA at the VCCS. Virginia Tech will designate individuals responsible for all aspects of the GAA at Virginia Tech. Representing Virginia Tech will be the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment and Degree Management, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, and the University Registrar and Chief Transfer Officer. Representing the VCCS will be the VCCS Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Research and the Director of Educational Policy, in consultation with the Articulation Subcommittee of the Academic and Student Affairs Council.

**Virginia Tech and the VCCS will review the GAA every three years to make adjustments as deemed appropriate to maintain its integrity and for the improvement of the transfer process. Changes will not adversely affect students already enrolled under the provisions of the existing GAA.**

**The GAA will remain in effect until terminated by either party upon written notice. Such notice should be given one year in advance of the date of termination; students who entered under the GAA may take advantage of its terms for two years after termination becomes effective.**

**Glen DuBois, Chancellor**

**Dr. Charles W. Steger, Jr., President**

**Virginia Community College System**

**Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University**

**May 21, 2013**

**May 21, 2013**