

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

**SECTION I: PURPOSE**

George Mason University (Mason) will guarantee admission to Virginia Community College System (VCCS) students according to the terms of this Agreement. The purpose of this Agreement is to facilitate and communicate a clear pathway for admission to VCCS students who intend to graduate with a VCCS transfer degree and transfer directly to Mason to earn their baccalaureate degree. VCCS Associate of Arts (A.A.) or Associate of Science (A.S.) or Associate of Arts and Sciences (A.A.&S.) degrees are the only applicable transfer degrees considered for this Agreement. Only those students who meet all of the terms of this Agreement will be offered GAA admission. Students who present strong academic records but do not meet the terms of this Agreement may be considered for regular transfer admission.

**SECTION II: ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

GAA students must:

1. Graduate from a VCCS college with an A.A., A.S., or A.A.&S.
2. Apply online for Mason admission by the required GAA deadline: March 1 for fall admission or October 1 for spring admission. Submit the *GAA Letter of Intent* included in the transfer application.
3. Apply for graduation from the VCCS college by the published college deadline. Fall admission applicants must graduate in May. Spring admission applicants must graduate in August or December. Summer graduates will not be considered for fall GAA admission.
4. Present a 2.85 or higher cumulative grade point average (CGPA) upon application to Mason **and** upon VCCS graduation. Mason utilizes the CGPA as indicated on the official VCCS transcript. Applicants are required to submit two official VCCS transcripts. The first transcript must be received in the Office of Admissions no later than March 10 for fall admission or October 10 for spring admission. The final transcript reflecting the degree conferral date must be received by the Office of Admissions no later than the last day of the first semester of enrollment.
5. Earn a minimum of 30 transferable credits (see #3 below) from a VCCS college with grades of A, B or C in every course. These courses must be applicable to the A.A., A.S. or A.A.& S. degree program. If a course is repeated, the higher grade will be considered.

Courses transferred to a VCCS college or credit awarded for exams do not count toward the fulfillment of the 30 hour requirement.

6. Demonstrate proficiency in college-level writing and mathematics by presenting coursework that will fulfill Mason's English composition and quantitative reasoning Mason Core requirements. These courses must be completed prior to application to Mason. This may be accomplished by:
  - Completing VCCS ENG 111 and ENG 112 or 125 and one of the following VCCS math courses: MTH 151, 152, 170, 173, 180, 181, 182, 240, 241, 270, 271, 272, 273, 286 or 287. Each course must be completed at the VCCS college with a grade of A, B or C. These VCCS courses will apply toward the 30 hour requirement.

Students who choose not to complete this requirement at a VCCS college may alternatively satisfy this requirement in the following ways:

- Submitting official Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) transcripts to the Office of Admissions no later than March 10 for fall admission or October 10 for spring admission. Exam transcripts must reflect the following minimum scores:
    - a. AP English Language & Composition or AP English Literature & Composition (4 or 5) or IB English A: Language HL or IB English A: Language and Literature HL (5, 6 or 7) to meet the equivalent to VCCS ENG 111.
    - b. AP Calculus AB (4 or 5) or AP Calculus BC (4 or 5) or IB Mathematics HL (5, 6 or 7) or IB Mathematics SL (6 or 7) to meet the quantitative reasoning core requirement.
  - Consistent with Mason transfer policy, the Admissions Committee will consider transferable courses from other regionally accredited U.S. colleges or universities to satisfy the GAA English composition and mathematics requirement. Each course must be earned with a grade of A, B or C and the credit hours awarded must correspond to the applicable Mason course. If Mason's course is four semester hours, the transfer course must match. Applicants who select this option to satisfy the English and/or Math requirement must provide the transcript(s) to the Office of Admissions no later than March 10 for fall admission or October 10 for spring admission. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** *The Admissions Committee makes the sole determination of the applicability of English Composition and mathematics courses used to satisfy this admission requirement. Courses presented must be equivalent to Mason's ENGH 101 and/or MATH 106, 108, 110, 113, 115, 125 or STAT 250. Applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize Mason's Transfer Equivalency database to research any potential equivalencies before application. Applicants may also contact a Mason transfer counselor to inquire about the applicability of any potential English/Math transfer courses.*
7. If all coursework for the transfer degree was not completed at a VCCS college, a 2.85 GPA is required on all prior college coursework attempted in the five years prior to

application to Mason. Coursework completed prior to that time will not be calculated into the GPA and will not impact admission under the terms of this agreement.

### **SECTION III: EXCLUSIONS TO THE GUARANTEED ADMISSION AGREEMENT.**

1. The Admissions Committee 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 or to those who have been convicted of a felony.
2. The Admissions Committee reserves the right to deny admission or the benefits of this Agreement to any student who presents other factors in their personal or academic background that the University deems inappropriate or harmful as determined by the Admissions Committee or the Office of the Dean of Students. Inappropriate student interaction and conduct are examples of these behaviors.
3. GAA admission is only offered to students pursuing a first bachelor's degree. Students who wish to pursue a second bachelor's degree at Mason will be considered for regular transfer admission only.
4. GAA admission is only offered to students who graduate from a VCCS college and transfer directly to Mason. Students who attend other institutions after the VCCS may be considered for regular transfer admission.
5. High school students who have earned an associate degree concurrent with high school graduation are not eligible for admission under the terms of this Agreement. Such students are considered freshman applicants with transfer credit. If admitted, no distinction will be made by Mason regarding college courses applicable to the transfer associate degree that are completed through dual enrollment. Those students completing transfer associate degrees will be awarded a waiver for lower-level Mason Core, upon receipt of the final transcript demonstrating completion of GAA requirements.

### **SECTION IV: ADMISSION TO A MASON MAJOR**

GAA applicants are required to select a specific major in the application process. The Guaranteed Admission Agreement offers admission to the University but does not guarantee admission to a specific major. Certain degree programs within the College of Education and Human Development, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the School of Management, the School of Nursing, and the Volgenau School of Engineering have additional requirements for admission. Specific pre-requisite courses, higher minimum grades, and a higher grade point average may be required. Applicants are responsible for understanding the requirements for admission to their intended competitive admission major. Applicants who meet minimum GAA requirements and do not meet the additional requirements for their competitive admission major, may be admitted as Undeclared majors or deferred to the next semester with a requirement for supplemental coursework, at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

## **SECTION V: ACCEPTANCE AND APPLICATION OF TRANSFER CREDIT**

1. Students who complete a VCCS transfer degree (A.A., A.S. or A.A &S.) and who meet all other requirements of this Agreement will be considered to have met all lower division Mason Core requirements. All students must complete ENGL 302 and a synthesis course in their major at Mason to satisfy upper division university Mason Core requirements.
  - Mason degrees, majors, and academic colleges or schools may have additional lower division requirements that are not covered by this Agreement.
2. Students completing a VCCS transfer degree who meet all requirements of this Agreement will be awarded a minimum of 60 hours of transfer credit. The 60 hours is inclusive of any direct equivalencies and any elective credit. At Mason, students who have earned 60 credit hours are considered to have “junior standing” at the university. A maximum of 90 transfer credit hours, with no more than 75 credit hours from a community college, may apply to a bachelor’s degree at Mason. Credit earned as a dual-enrolled high school student will be considered within these limits.
3. VCCS courses designated 100-299 with grades A, B or C will be considered for transfer credit. Grades for transferred courses do not enter into the computation of GPA at Mason.
4. Credit awarded by the VCCS for AP, CLEP, IB, or any other sources based on work not completed at a VCCS college, including credit by internal exams will be reevaluated by Mason. Credit is not guaranteed for these sources, and will be reviewed for credit consistency with Mason standards. VCCS applicants who meet minimum score requirements for AP, CLEP or IB credit at Mason are required to provide the Office of Admissions an official transcript from the testing agency at time of application.
5. Mason will maintain an online transfer equivalency database allowing students to view course equivalencies. Wherever possible, this information will be maintained with the most recent VCCS information compared to the most recent Mason course offerings. Course equivalency does not in any way guarantee that courses will meet degree-specific requirements.
6. Students transferring from the VCCS will be required to complete a minimum of 45 semester hours of upper division coursework to be eligible for the Mason degree.
7. A minimum of 30 hours of coursework must be completed at Mason to meet the residency requirement for graduation.
8. Where courses are equivalent as defined in the Mason transfer equivalency database 100/200 level VCCS courses may be used to fulfill certain 300/400 level course requirements of a degree at Mason, but students must still meet the requirement for 45 upper-division (300/400 level) course credits. These transfer courses are designated with an L to indicate lower-level status. Example: VCCS PSY 215 = MASON PSYC L325

9. In order to meet all Mason degree requirements, students covered by this Agreement may need to attain more than the typical 120 hours required for a Mason undergraduate degree.
10. Upon request, GAA students may utilize the Mason catalog degree requirements in effect for the two years prior to the student's most recent admission into Mason following the award of the VCCS transfer degree. All degree components, including the major and minor, must be listed in the Mason University Catalog for a single catalog year.
11. Admitted GAA students receive a transfer credit evaluation from the Office of Admissions. The final transfer credit evaluation is released after receipt of the final VCCS transcript reflecting the conferral date of the transfer degree. **The benefits of this Agreement, including junior standing and the waiver of all lower-division Mason Core requirements are indicated on the transfer credit evaluation and are contingent upon receipt of the final VCCS transcript. It is the student's responsibility to provide a final degree transcript to the Office of Admissions no later than the last day of the first semester of enrollment. GAA students are responsible for meeting with their Mason academic advisor to understand the applicability of transfer credit toward their declared degree program. Transfer credit evaluations are considered final and will not be adjusted after the first academic year of enrollment.** The Office of Admissions is responsible for all transfer admission decisions and the award of lower-level Mason Core waivers.

## **SECTION VI: TERMS OF AGREEMENT**

1. Mason and the VCCS agree to review this Agreement every three years. Each institution will designate an individual to serve as liaison for the purpose of monitoring this Agreement.
2. Mason will provide tracking data on performance of GAA students at Mason, including credits presented and accepted in transfer, Mason courses attempted and completed, cumulative GPA, major, graduation date from Mason, and comparisons with native students. The specific data elements and the timing of the report will be determined by Institutional Research staffs from the VCCS and Mason and provided by July 1 of each year.
3. This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding of the Parties with respect to the subject matter herein and supersedes all prior oral or written Agreements with respect to the subject matter herein. This Agreement may be amended, as needed, for specific program articulation without affecting the currency of the master Agreement. All course-by-course transfer guides and transfer credit equivalency databases may be amended as needed.
4. This master Agreement will go into effect for those VCCS students entering Mason fall 2014 and supersedes all previous Guaranteed Admission Agreements developed between

a VCCS college and Mason. The Agreement will remain in effect until terminated by either party upon written notice to other party of an intention to terminate. Such notice will be effective only if given 120 days prior to the intended date of termination. In the event that this Agreement is terminated, the terms of the Agreement contained herein will remain in effect for the maximum of 2 years.

**APPROVED**

Dr. Angel Cabrera  
President  
George Mason University  
December 2, 2013

Dr. Glenn DuBois  
Chancellor  
Virginia Community College System  
November 26, 2013