

RESEARCH BRIEF

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Majors at GMU, VCU, and JMU of Transfer Students with NOVA Degrees: 2014-15

This Research Brief examines the NOVA degrees of transfer students and their subsequent majors at NOVA’s top three transfer institutions – George Mason University (GMU), Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), and James Madison University (JMU) – in 2014-15.

Transfer Students at GMU, VCU, and JMU with NOVA Degrees: 2014-15

- Of the 3,234 students who transferred out of NOVA with a degree, 66 percent transferred to GMU, VCU, or JMU.
- Of the 1,815 students who transferred to GMU with a NOVA degree, 12 percent majored in Applied Information Technology (215 students), followed by Accounting (144 students).
- Of the 219 students who transferred to VCU with a NOVA degree, 19 percent (41 students) majored in Business Foundations while 16 percent (34 students) majored in Biology.
- Of the 108 students who transferred to JMU with a NOVA degree, 13 percent (14 students) majored in Accounting and 9 percent (10 students) majored in Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies.

Figure 1. Breakdown of Transfer Students with Degrees: 2014-15

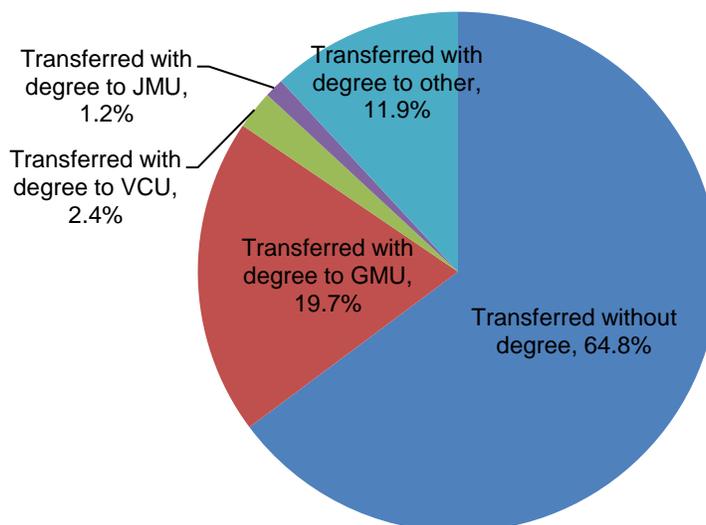


Table 1. Majors at GMU, VCU, and JMU of NOVA Graduates: 2014-15

GMU Major	#
(Blank)	1
Accounting	144
Anthropology	3
Applied Computer Science	5
Applied Information Technology	215
Applied Science	1
Art And Visual Technology	31
Art History	3
Athletic Training	4
Bioengineering	2
Biology	86
Chemistry	20
Civil And Infrastructure Engr	10
Communication	34
Community Health	40
Computer Engineering	5
Computer Game Design	2
Computer Science	39
Conf Analysis Resolution	12
Contract Course Only	1
Creative Writing	4
Criminology Law And Society	113
Curriculum And Instruction	1
Cyber Security Engineering	1
Earth Science	8
Economics	17
Electrical Engineering	24
English	30
Environmental Science	6
Environmental Sustain Studie	3
Film And Video Studies	12
Finance	63
Foreign Languages	14
Forensic Science	8
Geography	3
Global Affairs	45
Government Intl Politics	25
Guest Matriculant	3
Health Administration	56
Health Fitness Rec Resrcs	19
Health Systems Management	1
History	22
Human Devl & Family Science	3
Individualized Study	20
Information Systems Ops Mgmt	46
Information Technology	1
Integrative Studies	69
Intl Commerce And Policy	1
Kinesiology	5
Management	63
Marketing	31

GMU Major	#
Mathematics	18
Mechanical Engineering	8
Medical Lab. Science	10
Medical Technology	1
Music	8
Neuroscience	6
Nursing	95
Philosophy	1
Physical Education	4
Physics	4
Psychology	101
Public Administration	9
Religious Studies	1
Russian Eurasian Studies	2
Social Work	22
Sociology	23
Systems Engineering	5
Theatre	1
Tourism & Events Mgt	11
Undeclared	110
Total	1,815

VCU Major	#
Accounting	3
Art Education	1
Art Foundation	2
Bioinformatics	1
Biology	34
Business	6
Business Foundation	41
Chemistry	3
Cinema	2
Clinical Laboratory Sciences	1
Clinical Radiation Sciences	1
Communication Arts	1
Computer Science	1
Criminal Justice	8
Degree Holder Graduate	1
Dental Hygiene	1
English	3
Environmental Studies	2
Fashion	1
Financial Technology	2
Forensic Science	1
History	2
Hlth Phys Ed Exercise Sci	11
HomeInd Sec Emerg Prep.	2
Information Systems	1
International Studies	6
Kinetic Imaging	1
Lib Studies – Early Elem Ed	9

VCU Major	#
Marketing	2
Mass Communications	12
Mathematical Sciences	1
Mechanical Engineering	3
Non Degree Holder	2
Nursing	3
Painting And Printmaking	1
Physics	2
Political Science	5
Psychology	23
Science	6
Social Work Lower Div	3
Sociology	7
Undeclared Engineering	1
Total	219

JMU Major	#
Accounting	14
Anthropology	1
Art History	1
Biology	2
Biophysical Chemistry	1
Biotechnology	2
Comm Sciences & Disorders	1
Communication Studies	1
Communication Studies	2
Computer Info Systems	3
Computer Science	4
Engineering	4
English	5
Finance	8
Geographic Science	2
Graphic Design	1
Health Sciences	1
Hospitality Management	2
Integrated Sci & Tech	1
Intelligence Analysis	2
Interdisc Liberal Studies	10
International Affairs	1
International Business	2
Justice Studies	1
Management	6
Marketing	6
Media Arts And Design (BA)	3
Media Arts And Design (BS)	2
Nursing	7
Political Science	1
Psychology	1
Psychology	5
Social Work -	1
Sociology	2
Sport & Rec Management	1
Studio Art	1
Total	108

Majors of Transfer Students with A.A. Degrees: 2014-15

- Among the 169 students who transferred to GMU with A.A. degrees from NOVA (Table 1), the most popular major was Global Affairs (26 students) followed by Psychology (19 students).
- Among A.A. degree students who transferred to VCU (Table 2), the most common major was Mass Communications (6 students) followed by International Studies (4 students).
- At JMU (Table 3), students with A.A. degrees from NOVA most commonly majored in English (4 students) or Media Arts and Design (3 students).

Table 2. GMU Major and NOVA Degree of Graduates who Transferred to GMU in 2014-15: A.A. Degrees

GMU Major	A.A. Degree			
	Fine Arts	Liberal Arts	Music	Total
Anthropology		2		2
Applied Information Technology		2		2
Art And Visual Technology	7	1		8
Art History		1		1
Biology		5		5
Communication		15		15
Community Health		2		2
Conf Analysis Resolution		3		3
Creative Writing		3		3
Criminology Law And Society		9		9
Curriculum And Instruction		1		1
Earth Science	1			1
Economics		4		4
English		12		12
Environmental Sustain Studies		1		1
Film And Video Studies		5		5
Finance		1		1
Foreign Languages		12		12
Geography		1		1
Global Affairs		26		26
Government Intl Politics		5		5
Health Fitness Rec Resources		1		1
History		3		3
Individualized Study		1		1
Information Systems Ops Mgmt		1		1
Integrative Studies		8	1	9
Marketing		1		1
Music			1	1
Nursing		1		1
Psychology	1	18		19
Russian Eurasian Studies		2		2
Sociology		3		3
Theatre		1		1
Tourism And Events Management		1		1
Undeclared		5	1	6
Total	9	157	3	169

**Table 3. VCU Major and NOVA Degree of Graduates who Transferred to VCU in 2014-15:
A.A. Degrees**

VCU Major	A.A. Degree		
	Fine Arts	Liberal Arts	Total
Art Education	1		1
Art Foundation	1		1
Business Foundation		1	1
Cinema	1		1
Communication Arts	1		1
English		1	1
Fashion		1	1
International Studies		4	4
Lib Studies For Early Elem Ed		1	1
Mass Communications	1	5	6
Non Degree Holder		1	1
Psychology		1	1
Science		2	2
Total	5	17	22

**Table 4. JMU Major and NOVA Degree of Graduates who Transferred to JMU in 2014-15:
A.A. Degrees**

JMU Major	A.A. Degree			
	Fine Arts	Liberal Arts	Music	Total
Art History		1		1
Biology		1		1
Communication Studies		1		1
Computer Science		1		1
English		4		4
Graphic Design	1			1
Interdiscipline Liberal Studies			1	1
International Affairs		1		1
Media Arts And Design		3		3
Psychology (BA)		1		1
Psychology (BS)		1		1
Sociology		1		1
Studio Art	1			1
Total	2	15	1	18

Majors of Transfer Students with A.S. Degrees: 2014-15

- Of the 1,527 students who transferred to GMU with an A.S. degree, 516 (34 percent) had a degree in General Studies (Table 4).
- The most common major for A.S. degree students at GMU was Applied Information Technology (209 students), followed by Accounting (138 students).
- Among VCU transfers, 46 students earned an A.S. degree in Social Sciences at NOVA (Table 5).
- The most common majors for VCU transfers with A.S. degrees were Business Foundations (33 students) and Biology (31 students).
- Of the 87 students who transferred to JMU with an A.S. degree, 41 earned their A.S. in Business Administration (Table 6).
- The most popular major for A.S. degree students who transferred to JMU was Accounting (14 students).

Table 4. GMU Major and NOVA Degree of Graduates who Transferred to GMU in 2014-15: A.S. Degrees

GMU Major	A.S. Degree							Total
	Bus. Adm	Com Sci.	Eng- neer	Gen. Stud	Info Tech	Sci- ence	Soc. Sci.	
Accounting	130		1	7				138
Anthropology				1				1
Applied Computer Science		4		1				5
Applied Information Technology	14	3	1	29	158	2	2	209
Art And Visual Technology				19			1	20
Art History							1	1
Athletic Training				2			1	3
Bioengineering		1		1				2
Biology				20		50	2	72
Chemistry	1			4		15		20
Civil And Infrastructure Engr			8					8
Communication				12			3	15
Community Health				23		2	9	34
Computer Engineering			4			1		5
Computer Game Design				2				2
Computer Science		32	2		3	2		39
Conf Analysis Resolution	1			6			1	8
Creative Writing				1				1
Criminology Law And Society	1			77		1	18	97
Cyber Security Engineering		1						1
Earth Science				2		5		7
Economics	5			5			3	13
Electrical Engineering	1		19	1		2		23
English				13			5	18
Environmental Science				3		3		6

GMU Major	A.S. Degree							
	Bus. Adm	Com Sci.	Eng- neer	Gen. Stud	Info Tech	Sci- ence	Soc. Sci.	Total
Environmental Sustain Studie				1			1	2
Film And Video Studies				7				7
Finance	50		1	3				54
Foreign Languages				1			1	2
Forensic Science				4		2	1	7
Geography				1			1	2
Global Affairs				8			7	15
Government Intl Politics	1			5			12	18
Guest Matriculant					1		1	2
Health Administration	3			38		5	9	55
Health Fitness Rec Resrcs	1			14			2	17
History				6	1		11	18
Human Dev & Family Science				2			1	3
Individualized Study	1		1	5				7
Information Systems Ops Mgmt	39			4		1	1	45
Information Technology					1			1
Integrative Studies	1			16			36	53
Intl Commerce And Policy						1		1
Kinesiology				2		2	1	5
Management	57			2				59
Marketing	24			3			2	29
Mathematics	2	1		3	1	11		18
Mechanical Engineering			7					7
Medical Laboratory Science				9				9
Medical Technology						1		1
Music			1	1			1	3
Neuroscience				1		5		6
Nursing				72		6	6	84
Philosophy				1				1
Physical Education				2			1	3
Physics		1		1		1		3
Psychology	1			18		2	55	76
Public Administration				4			5	9
Religious Studies				1				1
Social Work				15		2	5	22
Sociology				7			13	20
Systems Engineering	1		3	1				5
Tourism & Events Mgt	2			7				9
Undeclared	55	8	10	22	1	1	3	100
Total	391	51	58	516	166	123	222	1,527

**Table 5. VCU Major and NOVA Degree of Graduates who Transferred to VCU in 2014-15:
A.S. Degrees**

VCU Major	A.S. Degree							
	Bus. Adm.	Com. Sci.	Engi- neer.	Gen. Stud.	Info Tech	Sci- ence	Soc. Sci.	Total
Accounting	3							3
Art Foundation				1				1
Bioinformatics						1		1
Biology				7		21	3	31
Business	6							6
Business Foundations	24			6	1		2	33
Chemistry						3		3
Clinical Laboratory Sciences						1		1
Clinical Radiation Sciences				1				1
Computer Science		1						1
Criminal Justice				4			3	7
Dental Hygiene							1	1
English							1	1
Environmental Studies				1		1		2
Financial Technology	1					1		2
Forensic Science						1		1
History							1	1
Health Phys Ed Exercise Sci				6		4	1	11
HomeInd Sec Emerg Prepared				1			1	2
Information Systems	1							1
International Studies	1						1	2
Lib Studies For Early Elem Ed				2			5	7
Marketing	2							2
Mass Communications	1			2			2	5
Mathematical Sciences	1							1
Mechanical Engineering			2					2
Nursing				2				2
Physics			2					2
Political Science							3	3
Psychology				4			16	20
Science				1		3		4
Social Work Lower Div				3				3
Sociology				1			6	7
Undeclared Engineering			1					1
Total	40	1	5	42	1	36	46	171

**Table 6. JMU Major and NOVA Degree of Graduates who Transferred to JMU in 2014-15:
A.S. Degrees**

JMU Major	A.S. Degree							Total
	Business Admin	Comp. Science	Engineer.	General Studies	Info Tech	Science	Social Sciences	
Accounting	14							14
Anthropology							1	1
Biology						1		1
Biophysical Chemistry						1		1
Biotechnology						2		2
Comm Sciences & Disorders							1	1
Communication Studies							2	2
Computer Info Systems	1				2			3
Computer Science		3						3
Engineering			3					3
English							1	1
Finance	8							8
Geographic Science	1						1	2
Health Sciences				1				1
Hospitality Management	2							2
Integrated Sci & Tech							1	1
Intelligence Analysis	1						1	2
Interdisc Liberal Studies				1			8	9
International Business	2							2
Justice Studies							1	1
Management	5						1	6
Marketing	6							6
Media Arts And Design				1			1	2
Nursing				2		2	1	5
Political Science							1	1
Psychology							4	4
Social Work							1	1
Sociology							1	1
Sport & Rec Management	1							1
Total	41	3	3	5	2	6	27	87

Majors of Transfer Students with A.A.A. Degrees: 2014-15

- A.A.A. degrees were the least common among transfer students with NOVA degrees. Only four students who transferred to GMU and 2 students who transferred to VCU held A.A.A. degrees (Table 7).
- No JMU transfers held A.A.A. degrees.

Table 7. GMU and VCU Majors and NOVA Degrees of Graduates who Transferred to GMU or VCU in 2014-15: A.A.A. Degrees

Major	A.A.A. Degree		
	Music	Fine Arts	Total
GMU			
Music	4		4
VCU			
Business Foundations		1	1
Painting and Printmaking		1	1

Majors of Transfer Students with A.A.S. Degrees: 2014-15

- Individualized Study (12 students) and Nursing (10 students) were the most popular majors for NOVA students with A.A.S. degrees who transferred to GMU (Table 8).
- Early Childhood Development was the most common A.A.S. degree for GMU transfers (12 students).
- Only six students with A.A.S. degrees transferred to VCU, and only two with A.A.S. degrees transferred to JMU (Tables 9 and 10).

Table 8. GMU Major and NOVA Degree of Graduates who Transferred to GMU in 2014-15: A.A.S. Degrees

GMU Major	A.A.S. Degree																				Total	
	Account- ing	Admin Justice	Architect.	Auto. Tech	Biotech	Bus. Mgmt	Comm. Desian	Dental	Hvairiene DiaMed.	Sonoad Early Ch	Em Med Dev	Serv. Engrn.	Hospitly Tech	Mamf	Info Tech	Marketg	Nursing	Paralegal	Radiology	Resp. Therany		Vet Tech
Accounting	3																					3
Applied IT															2							2
Applied Science																		1				1
Art & Visual Tech.			1				2															3
Biology					1															1	1	3
Civ. & Infrastr. Eng.												1										1
Communication								1														1
Community Health																		2				2
Conf Analysis Resol.		1																				1
Contract Course Only																	1					1
Criminology Law & Soc.		7																				7
Forensic Science											1											1

GMU Major	A.A.S. Degree																					
	Account- ing	Admin Justice	Architect.	Auto. Tech	Biotech	Bus. Mgmt	Comm. Design	Dental	Hvairane DiaMed.	Sonoo Early Ch	Dev Em Med	Serv. Engrn. Tech	Hospitly Mamt	Info Tech	Marketg	Nursing	Paralegal	Radiology	Resp. Therany Vet	Tech	Total	
Health Administration						1																1
Health Sys. Mgmt									1													1
Individualized Study	1					1				9			1									12
Integrative Studies						1				2												3
Management						1																1
Marketing															1							1
Nursing																10						10
Physical Education				1																		1
Physics				1																		1
Tour. & Events Mgmt													1									1
Undeclared		1	1							1												3
Total	4	9	2	2	1	4	2	1	1	12	1	1	2	2	1	11	1	2	1	1	61	

**Table 9. VCU Major and NOVA Degree of Graduates who Transferred to VCU in 2014-15:
A.A.S. Degrees**

VCU Major	A.A.S. Degree						Total
	Admin Justice	Auto Tech	Bus. Mgmt	Comm. Design	Emergency Med. Serv.	Nursing	
Business Foundations		1	1				2
Criminal Justice	1						1
Degree Holder Graduate					1		1
Kinetic Imaging				1			1
Nursing						1	1
Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	6

**Table 10. JMU Major and NOVA Degree of Graduates who Transferred to JMU in 2014-15:
A.A.S. Degrees**

JMU Major	A.A.S. Degree	
	Nursing	Total
Nursing	2	2

Majors of Transfer Students with Certificates: 2014-15

- Of the 53 students who transferred to GMU with a certificate, 50 earned a certificate in General Education (Table 11). These 53 students were distributed across 21 different majors at JMU, the most popular being Finance (8 students), Psychology (6 students), and Biology (6 students).
- Of the 18 students who earned a certificate before transferring to VCU, 17 were in General Education. These students were distributed across 11 different majors at VCU.
- Only one student earned a certificate at NOVA before transferring to JMU.

Table 11. GMU Major and NOVA Degree of Graduates who Transferred to GMU in 2014-15: Certificates

GMU Major	Certificate		
	Career Studies	General Education	Total
Accounting		3	3
Applied Information Technology	1	1	2
Art History		1	1
Athletic Training		1	1
Biology	1	5	6
Civil And Infrastructure Engr		1	1
Communication		3	3
Community Health		2	2
Electrical Engineering		1	1
Finance		8	8
Global Affairs		4	4
Government Intl Politics		2	2
Guest Matriculant		1	1
Health Fitness Rec Resrcs		1	1
History		1	1
Integrative Studies		4	4
Management		3	3
Mechanical Engineering		1	1
Medical Laboratory Science	1		1
Psychology		6	6
Undeclared		1	1
Total	3	50	53

Table 12. VCU Major and NOVA Degree of Graduates who Transferred to VCU in 2014-15: Certificates

VCU Major	Certificate		
	Career Studies	General Education	Total
Biology		3	3
Business Foundation		4	4
Cinema		1	1
English		1	1
History		1	1
Lib Studies For Early Elem Ed		1	1
Mass Communications		1	1
Mechanical Engineering		1	1
Non Degree Holder		1	1
Political Science	1	1	2
Psychology		2	2
Total	1	17	18

Table 13. JMU Major and NOVA Degree of Graduates who Transferred to JMU in 2014-15: Certificates

JMU Major	Certificate	
	General Education	Total
Engineering	1	1