

Guaranteed Transfer Partnership Agreement Between University of Mary Washington and Northern Virginia Community College

Purpose

This agreement lays the foundation for a partnership designed to facilitate the seamless transfer of Northern Virginia Community College (**NOVA**) graduates to the University of Mary Washington (**UMW**). The agreement stipulates the criteria under which **NOVA** graduates are guaranteed admission to **UMW** and describes curricular benefits that exceed those outlined in the existing Guaranteed Admissions Agreement, dated August 28, 2012, (attached) between **NOVA** and **UMW**. The agreement further articulates terms that ensure all courses transcribed by **NOVA** and described in a **NOVA-UMW** Curriculum Pathway transfer fully to meet degree requirements in a baccalaureate program at **UMW**.

Acceptance and Application of Credits

1. **NOVA** and **UMW** will agree upon specific Curricular Pathways that include courses that apply fully to meeting lower division general education requirements (but may not meet Intermediate Language, Speaking Intensive, Writing Intensive and Experiential Learning requirements) in all **UMW** baccalaureate programs as well as to any specific **UMW** baccalaureate degree requirements defined in the Curriculum Pathway. Depending upon specific course selection, students may be able to meet the Intermediate Language, Speaking Intensive and Writing Intensive course requirements at **NOVA**.
2. Graduates of AA and AS programs whose agreed-upon Curricular Pathways (based on **NOVA** Informed Pathway templates) are appended to this agreement are considered to have met all **UMW** lower-division general education requirements (but may not meet Intermediate Language, Speaking Intensive, Writing Intensive and Experiential Learning requirements). Such students are admitted to both academic and social junior status at **UMW**.
3. Graduates of other **NOVA** degree programs (e.g., AFA and AAS programs) in an agreed-upon Curriculum Pathway may be required to take additional general education courses or additional courses within their major at **UMW**. Thus, graduates of such programs may need to complete more than 120 credits to complete the bachelor's degree at **UMW**. Notwithstanding, assigned courses taken in these programs transfer fully to meet degree requirements (i.e., not simply as elective credit) at **UMW**. Appended Curriculum Pathways (based on **NOVA** Informed Pathway templates) for such programs are considered part of this agreement.
4. Only coursework in which grades of C or higher have been earned at **NOVA** may be applied toward the requirements of the partner program at **UMW**.
5. **UMW** will accept credit for prior learning such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge and CLEP as listed on the **UMW** website for the year in which a student seeks admission. **UMW** also will evaluate courses/credits earned at other institutions.
6. No distinction will be made by **UMW** regarding college courses applicable to the transfer-oriented associate degrees that are taken through dual enrollment arrangements with high schools. Students who complete a **NOVA** associate degree while still in high school will be considered as first-year students for purposes of application and housing and must complete the **UMW** General Education program's First-Year Seminar requirement.
7. **UMW** will maintain course equivalency information in its online Transfer Guide which shall be reviewed and updated annually following the completion of the curriculum change process. It will alert **NOVA** to proposed changes in course equivalency at least one year before such changes are implemented.

8. No fewer than 30 semester hours must be earned at **UMW** to be eligible for graduation. Fifteen of the last 21 hours of credit required for the degree must be earned at **UMW**. In addition, students must take at least one-half of the major program at **UMW** (as defined by the department), earning a grade-point average of 2.00 in the courses.

Admission Practices

1. **UMW** will accept applications from students who wish to transfer from **NOVA** into any baccalaureate degree program, offered on ground or online. The application fee will be waived.
2. Students transferring from **NOVA** to specific **UMW** programs at the junior level must meet the same prerequisites, grade-point average (GPA) and other admission criteria as other native or transfer students applying for entry to **UMW** programs.
3. **NOVA** students who graduate with an Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS) or Associate of Fine Arts (AFA) degree and have a **NOVA** cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 are guaranteed admission to **UMW** (see GAA attached for conditions).
4. For students meeting **NOVA's** residency requirement to be awarded an associate degree, **UMW** will review the **NOVA** transcript with the provided **NOVA** cumulative GPA for admission and scholarship purposes. **UMW** will not consider grades of D or F that have been replaced in the admission process. Course attempts must be considered for aid purposes. Official transcripts from all colleges are required to complete the application for admission.
5. **NOVA** graduates who complete the **NOVA** Honors Core Curriculum with a curriculum GPA of 3.5 or higher will be offered admission to the **UMW** Honors program and will have credits applied toward the **UMW** Honors curriculum. Specific details of the articulation of the two Honors programs are provided in the separate Honors pathway.
6. **UMW** will establish priority filing dates and **NOVA** graduates admitted under this agreement will be considered juniors for purposes of scholarship eligibility, housing and preregistration (which requires completion of admission and preregistration advising prior to the time juniors are eligible to register for classes, as set forth on the calendar established by the Office of the Registrar).
7. To be eligible for admission to **UMW**, students must meet all application requirements outlined in the **UMW** catalog and international students must meet the additional requirements set forth in the **UMW** catalog.
8. **UMW** will award academic merit scholarships to at least two **NOVA** students each fall. Recipients are required to have an associate degree from **NOVA** and a 3.25 cumulative GPA. Each award will be for \$2,000 (academic year) and is renewable for one additional year with a 3.25 GPA at **UMW**. A scholarship application is not required. **NOVA** transfer students will be considered based on their application for admission. Additional scholarships will be awarded as long as funds are available. Students who complete a **NOVA** associate degree while still in high school will be considered as freshmen for scholarship purposes and are not eligible for this particular **NOVA** transfer award.
9. **UMW** agrees to render an admissions decision within two weeks of the student completing an application for admission with the accompanying signed Guaranteed Admission Agreement.

Maintenance of the Partnership

1. The agreement, articulated curriculum pathways and relevant transfer course equivalencies will be reviewed biennially by **UMW** and **NOVA**. Each institution will designate an individual to monitor this agreement and to coordinate meetings designed to maintain inter-institutional articulation. In addition, each institution will identify one person to serve as the main contact for each pathway program. Curriculum Pathways may be amended by mutual agreement between **NOVA** and **UMW** without need to restate this entire Guaranteed Partnership Agreement. Curriculum Pathways amendments become effective not sooner than one year after mutual agreement to revise the Curriculum Pathway is reached.

2. An inter-institutional leadership team will be appointed to plan joint initiatives and to review transfer success.
3. **UMW** agrees to provide **NOVA** reports of enrolled **NOVA** transfer students, their majors and academic performance when 10 or more are enrolled in any given year. **NOVA** agrees to use the transfer data to improve student preparation for transfer and to report to **UMW** its intended improvements.
4. **NOVA** agrees to promote **UMW** as a Guaranteed Transfer Partner in the same manner as other four-year partners on the web, on campus and in advising centers.
5. **NOVA** agrees to provide space (e.g., in a campus advising center at Annandale and/or Woodbridge) for a **UMW** representative. In addition, **UMW** will be invited to attend **NOVA** transfer fairs.
6. **NOVA** and **UMW** agree to collaborate on a reverse transfer protocol enabling **NOVA** transfers to **UMW** who do not complete an associate degree to be awarded an associate degree from **NOVA** if they satisfactorily complete the appropriate coursework.
7. **UMW** will supply a representative to a **NOVA** program advisory committee for each program in which a pathway is developed. **NOVA** will host program advisory committee meetings annually. Both institutions agree to encourage faculty to collaborate frequently.
8. **NOVA** will contract with a **NOVA-UMW** senior to host **NOVA** Night at **UMW** to help welcome new **NOVA** transfers to **UMW** and promote the support of a cohort.
9. **NOVA** will sponsor a fall bus trip to **UMW** for **NOVA** students with greater than 30 college credits and potentially qualifying GPAs who indicate an interest in transferring to **UMW**.
10. **NOVA** agrees to permit **UMW** to schedule visits two times per month per campus to connect with prospective students and counselors/advisors.

Amendments and Term of Effect

The Curriculum Pathway in effect at the time a student first enrolls at **NOVA** will be honored by **UMW** if the student completes an AA or AS degree and successfully transfers to **UMW** within four years of that first enrollment at **NOVA**.

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 may be amended as needed.

This master 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 180 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 two years.



Dr. Troy D. Palno, President
University of Mary Washington



Date



Dr. Scott Bails, President
Northern Virginia Community College



Date

GUARANTEED ADMISSION AGREEMENT

VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM AND UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON

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

UMW is highly supportive of the goal of enrolling VCCS transfer students, and provides several means for gaining admission in addition to the GAA. VCCS students who do not meet all the terms of this GAA may nonetheless be highly competitive applicants, and are encouraged to apply through the regular transfer admissions process. In addition, UMW has specific guaranteed admission agreements in effect with a number of individual community colleges for admission into certain degree programs. The terms for these specific agreements with particular community colleges are different from the terms of the GAA.

In an effort to ease the transfer process, the VCCS and UMW provide the following guaranteed admission agreement.

Definitions

“Transfer 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. It also includes agreements not specifically recognized by SCHEV, but which UMW has agreed to accept such as General Studies degrees from individual VCCS institutions.

“GAA student” refers to a student who graduates from a transfer degree program at a Virginia community college with a cumulative VCCS grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a four-point scale and who intends to transfer to UMW.

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

Academic Admission Agreement

GAA students are guaranteed admission to UMW and may expect the following:

1. UMW will guarantee the acceptance of all credits earned from the transfer associate degree program, and any additional approved transfer credits, not to exceed 90 credits. No distinction will be made by UMW regarding college courses applicable to the transfer associate degree that are taken through dual enrollment arrangements with high schools. Completion of the associate degree through dual enrollment will not preclude the student from eligibility under this agreement. In addition, credit for courses completed through International Baccalaureate,

Advanced Placement, Cambridge, CLEP, and Armed Services experience will be accepted according to stated policies for acceptance of credit, which can be found in the UMW catalog for the year the GAA student enters UMW.

2. Courses will be accepted regardless of delivery method (i.e.: online).
3. Completion of the transfer degree program will guarantee completion of the lower-level UMW general education component of the undergraduate curriculum.

For UMW degree programs with a language requirement, the GAA student must complete the language requirement unless language courses equivalent to any UMW 201 language course were taken as a part of the transfer associate degree or the student completed Level IV in high school.

GAA students must also complete the following additional General Education requirements:

- Digital Intensive requirement (1 across-the-curriculum course)
- Diverse and Global Perspectives (1 across-the-curriculum course)
- After Mary Washington requirement (1 course or experience focused on career and professional development)
- Beyond the Classroom (1 course or applied learning experience outside the classroom)

Students may satisfy these requirements as part of the transfer associate degree. Satisfaction of these requirements will be determined at time of admission and students should consult with their admission's counselor if they have questions. To learn more about these requirements and the General Education course lists, refer to the General Education requirements in the UMW Catalog. Students will still be considered admissible under this agreement if the stipulated requirements (listed above) have not been completed prior to transfer. If the requirements have not been satisfied at a VCCS college, the student will be required to complete them through work following transfer to UMW.

4. UMW cannot guarantee that students will be able to complete all requirements for graduation within the 120-credit minimum required for graduation. UMW will inform the student at the time of enrollment if there are additional course requirements beyond the 120 minimum semester hours needed for graduation. Such courses will be specified in writing.
5. Acceptance in some degree programs at UMW is competitive (business, education); thus guaranteed admission into UMW does not imply admission to these programs without further acceptance by the program or department offering the program.

Eligibility

To be guaranteed admission to UMW, students must complete the following requirements:

- Graduation from a transfer degree program at a Virginia community college,
- Cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a four-point scale with intent to transfer to UMW,
- Submit an official transcript showing completion of the associate degree to the UMW Admissions Office, and

- Earned a grade of “C” or higher in each community college course applicable to the transfer associate degree program.

Students who were previously enrolled at UMW and transferred back to a VCCS college to complete the transfer 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 general admission to UMW. UMW reserves the right to deny admission to students who have been suspended or dismissed from any institution of higher education, or to those convicted of a felony.

Benefits to Virginia Community College Students

1. UMW waives its application fee.
2. Students may contact the academic department of interest at UMW to get advice and information on meeting requirements for their intended major. Students can obtain information on UMW majors in the UMW Undergraduate Catalog and departmental contacts at the website of the Office of the Provost.
3. While UMW does not have any named scholarships designated especially for GAA students, GAA students are considered for all scholarships and other assistance for which they are eligible including the Virginia Two-Year College Transfer Grant. GAA students interested in receiving scholarships or financial aid at UMW must complete the FAFSA form by the application deadline established by UMW, Office of Financial Aid, for need-based aid. GAA students are not required to complete UMW Institutional Scholarship Information Form their first year in order to be considered for institutional scholarships.

Responsibilities

GAA students will:

1. Follow all UMW application processes and all special departmental/program application procedures, deadlines, and grade point average requirements. Priority filing deadlines are March 1 for fall transfer admission, and October 15 for spring transfer admission.
2. Have declared the intent to transfer to UMW by completing the “GAA Student Letter of Intent form” available at the Office of Admissions website after a minimum of 15 credits towards the transfer associate degree is completed at the community college and before applying for graduation from the community college.

The community college will:

1. Advise students regarding courses needed to complete the transfer associate degree.
2. Make available information about UMW and the GAA to prospective GAA students enrolled in transfer associate degree programs.

UMW will:

1. Consider GAA students who enroll at UMW on the same basis as students who entered UMW as first-year students for admission to competitive programs, registration, financial aid,

scholarships, student housing, parking, and any other opportunities open to students with junior standing.

2. Provide tracking data on performance of transfer students at UMW, including credits presented and accepted in transfer, UMW courses attempted and completed, cumulative GPA, major, graduation date from UMW, and comparisons with students who did not enter UMW under the terms of this agreement. The specific data elements of the report will be determined by Institutional Research staffs from the VCCS and UMW and provided by July 1 of each year.

Review of the Agreement

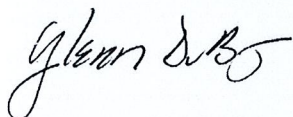
The VCCS will designate officials who will be responsible for all aspects of the GAA at the VCCS. UMW will designate individuals responsible for all aspects of the GAA at UMW. Representing UMW will be the, or designee. Representing the VCCS will be the VCCS Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Workforce Programs, in consultation with the Guaranteed Admission Review Committee of the Academic and Student Affairs Council.

UMW and the VCCS will review the GAA as deemed appropriate to maintain its integrity and for the improvement of the transfer process.

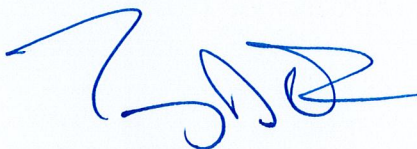
Any changes, additions, or deletions to this agreement shall be made only after consultation with an agreement among officials at both institutions. Changes will not adversely affect students already enrolled and covered under the provisions of the existing GAA.

This GAA will remain in effect until terminated by either party upon written notice to the other party of an intention to terminate. Such notice shall be effective only if given 180 days prior to the intended date of termination. Students who entered under the GAA may take advantage of its terms for two years after termination becomes effective.

The above provisions are mutually agreed to and shall go into effect when signed by the appropriate institutional representatives. They shall remain in force until superseded by official action by either institution.



Glenn DuBois, Chancellor
Virginia Community College System



Troy D. Paino, President
University of Mary Washington

03/30/2021
Date

4/01/2021
Date