



MARYMOUNT
UNIVERSITY

AND

NOVA | Northern Virginia
Community College

Guaranteed Transfer Partnership Agreement Between Marymount University 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 **Marymount University (MU)**. The agreement stipulates the criteria under which **NOVA** graduates are guaranteed admission to **MU** and describes curricular benefits that exceed those outlined in the existing Guaranteed Admission Agreement, dated 10/11/11, between **NOVA** and **MU**. The agreement further articulates terms that ensure all courses transcribed by **NOVA** and described in a **NOVA-MU** Curriculum Pathway transfer fully to meet degree requirements in a baccalaureate program at **MU**.

NOVA students who do not meet the terms of this agreement may still apply and will be considered for transfer admission to **MU**, but admission is not guaranteed. Guaranteed admission may be not available to students with felony convictions or patterned disruptive behavior. Guaranteed admission is to **MU**, and does not imply admission to a particular **MU** program. **MU** will maintain a list of programs with additional admission policies that can be accessed through the **MU** admissions website.

Acceptance and Application of Credits

1. **NOVA** and **MU** will agree upon specific curricular pathways that include courses that apply fully to meeting lower division Liberal Arts Core requirements in all **MU** baccalaureate programs as well as to any specific **MU** baccalaureate degree requirements defined in the curricular pathway.
2. Graduates of AA and AS programs, whose curricular pathways are appended to and form part of this agreement, have the opportunity to complete all **MU** lower-division Liberal Arts Core (LAC) requirements while at **NOVA**, with the exception of TRS 100. By completing the curricular pathway, all lower-level Liberal Arts Core requirements will be met. Each appended curricular pathway has been reviewed by **MU's** LAC director to ensure that this is the case. Any future changes to the curricular pathways will be subject to review by the department chair/program director(s) and the LAC director. Such graduates who transfer in at least 60 credits are admitted to both academic and social junior status at **MU**. **NOVA** graduates who transfer in fewer than 60 credits to **MU** will be admitted to both academic and social sophomore status at **MU**.
3. Graduates of other **NOVA** degree programs (e.g., AFA and AAS programs), whose curricular pathways are appended to this agreement, may be required to take additional Liberal Arts Core courses or additional courses within their major at **MU**. Thus, graduates of such programs may need to complete more than 120 credits to complete the bachelor's degree at **MU**. Notwithstanding, assigned courses taken in programs in the appended curricular pathways transfer fully to meet degree requirements (i.e., not simply as elective credit) at **MU**. Each appended curricular pathway has been reviewed by **MU's** LAC director to ensure that this is the case. Any future changes to the curricular pathways will be subject to review by the department chair/program director(s) and the LAC director.

4. **NOVA** graduates who transfer at least 60 credits to **MU** will be waived from the DSC 201 university requirement. **NOVA** graduates who transfer fewer than 60 credits to **MU** will be required to take DSC 201.
5. **NOVA** students may elect to satisfy additional **MU** Liberal Arts Core requirements before transferring to **MU**, and should choose relevant courses by referring to the **MU** transfer student web page. **NOVA** students may also elect to satisfy additional **MU** Liberal Arts Core requirements before transferring to **MU** by taking those courses at **MU** through the Consortium, pending availability of cross-registration.
6. **MU** counts a maximum of 64 credit hours from a two-year institution (including **NOVA**) toward graduation. If a **NOVA** graduate also has coursework from a four-year institution, then no more than a total of 84 credit hours will be accepted at **MU**.
7. 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 **MU**.
8. **MU** will accept up to 30 credits for prior learning such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge and CLEP as listed on the **MU** website for the year in which a student seeks admission. These 30 credits are counted toward the maximum of 84 transfer credits for an **MU** degree. An official score report from the issuing organization (such as the College Board) must be submitted. **MU** will also evaluate courses/credits earned at other institutions. An official transcript from the original issuing institution must be submitted for review.
9. No distinction will be made by **MU** 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 housing purposes.
10. **MU** will maintain course equivalency information on its transfer student web page. Courses will be reviewed for accuracy every three years. Each institution will alert the other to proposed changes in course equivalency and program requirements at least one year before such changes are implemented.
11. No fewer than 36 credits must be earned at **MU** to be eligible for graduation. Credits transferred from study abroad programs, with the exception of credits earned through **MU**-sponsored programs, will not be counted toward **MU**'s 36-credit minimum residency requirement. No fewer than 60 credits must be earned at **MU** to be eligible for graduation honors.

Admission Practices

1. **MU** will accept applications from graduates who wish to transfer from **NOVA** into any baccalaureate degree program, offered on ground or online. The application fee will be waived.
2. Graduates transferring from **NOVA** to specific **MU** 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 **MU** 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 **2.8** are guaranteed admission to **MU** (see GAA attached for conditions). **NOVA** students without the AA, AS or AFA degree with a **NOVA** cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 may apply to transfer to **MU**, but are not guaranteed admission.

4. **MU** will consider and average cumulative GPAs from all institutions attended. Only courses completed will be used in the calculation of a GPA average for admission purposes; however, attempts must be considered for aid purposes. Trends in academic performance will be considered.
5. **NOVA** graduates who complete the **NOVA** Honors Core Curriculum and are interested in applying to the **MU** Honors program should refer to the separate Honors Transfer Admissions Memorandum of Understanding agreement.
6. **NOVA** graduates admitted under this agreement who transfer in at least 60 credits will be considered juniors for purposes of scholarship eligibility, housing and priority registration. **NOVA** graduates admitted under this agreement who transfer in fewer than 60 credits will be considered sophomores for purposes of scholarship eligibility, housing and priority registration. Students who complete a **NOVA** associate degree while still in high school will be considered first-year students for purposes of scholarship eligibility and housing.
7. To be eligible for admission to **MU**, **NOVA** graduates must meet the current requirements for legal status and any other non-academic requirements stated in the **MU** catalog.
8. **MU** will award academic merit scholarships to at least two **NOVA** graduates each fall. Recipients are required to have an associate degree from **NOVA** and a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Each award will be for \$2,000 (academic year) and is renewable for one additional year with a 3.0 GPA at **MU**. 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 first-year students for scholarship purposes and are not eligible for this particular **NOVA** transfer award.

Maintenance of the Partnership

1. The agreement, articulated curricular pathways and relevant transfer course equivalencies will be reviewed every three years by **MU** and **NOVA**. Each institution will designate an individual to monitor this agreement and to coordinate meetings designed to maintain inter-institutional articulation. In addition, **NOVA** will identify one person to serve as the main contact for each pathway program. **MU's** department chairs/program directors and LAC director will review curriculum pathways and transfer course equivalencies for **MU**. Curriculum pathways may be amended by mutual agreement between **MU** and **NOVA** 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. **MU** 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 **MU** its intended improvements.
4. **NOVA** agrees to promote **MU** as a Guaranteed Transfer Partner on their website.
5. **NOVA** agrees to provide space (e.g., in a campus advising center) for an **MU** representative. In addition, **MU** will be invited to attend **NOVA** transfer fairs.

6. **NOVA** and **MU** agree to collaborate on a reverse transfer protocol enabling **NOVA** transfers to **MU** who do not complete a bachelor's degree to be awarded an associate degree from **NOVA** if they satisfactorily complete the appropriate coursework.
7. **MU's** LAC director and the appropriate department chair/program director will represent **MU** on 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-MU** senior to host **NOVA** Night at **MU** to help welcome new **NOVA** transfers to **MU** and promote the support of a cohort.
9. **NOVA** will sponsor a fall bus trip to **MU** for **NOVA** students with greater than 30 college credits and potentially qualifying GPAs who indicate an interest in transferring to **MU**.

Amendments and Term of Effect

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

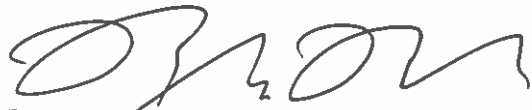
This agreement may be amended, as needed, for specific program articulation by **MU's** department chairs/program directors and LAC director in conjunction with the appropriate **NOVA** contact without affecting the currency of the master agreement. All course-by-course transfer guides may be amended as needed by **MU's** department chairs/program directors and LAC director in conjunction with the appropriate **NOVA** contact.

This master agreement will remain in effect until terminated by either party upon written notice to the 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. Matthew D. Shank
Marymount University

3/8/17
Date



Dr. Scott Ralls, President
Northern Virginia Community College

3/8/17
Date

Guaranteed Admission Agreement

*Northern Virginia Community College
and
Marymount University*

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and Marymount University (MU) recognize the need to facilitate the transfer of students from NOVA to MU as they pursue their educational goals. In addition to offering guaranteed admission to high-achieving NOVA students, MU seeks strong coordination with NOVA to provide students with clear listings of equivalent courses, program-specific advising information, and opportunities for enhanced advising. NOVA students who do not meet the terms of this agreement may still apply and will be considered for transfer admission, although admission is not guaranteed.

Requirements for Guaranteed Admission

Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA) transfer applications are considered for students who earn the Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree. The GAA applies to the AS in General Studies as well as for individual majors; all students are encouraged to consider graduation requirements at Marymount University when choosing their NOVA courses. The GAA additionally applies to the AAS degrees in Interior Design and in Health Information Management.

GAA applicants must meet the following requirements:

- complete the appropriate degree listed above prior to transfer
- earn the most recent 30 academic credits at NOVA
- present a minimum NOVA cumulative 2.75 GPA

Guaranteed Admission is not available to students with felony convictions or inappropriate personal or academic background. The GAA is for admission to the University, and does not imply admission to a particular MU program. MU will maintain a list of programs with additional admission policies that can be accessed through the MU Transfer Web page www.marymount.edu/admissions/transfer.

Benefits and Limitations of Guaranteed Admission

The benefits of the GAA program to NOVA students in addition to the guaranteed admission benefit include:

- Documents with clear information about course equivalences, core requirements, and degree-specific advising will be kept up-to-date on the MU Transfer Student Web page.
- Marymount University is pleased to offer program-specific individual advising to GAA applicants. To receive this benefit, GAA students are encouraged to apply up to 12 months prior to their intended start date. During the period following application, MU will provide the GAA applicant with advising opportunities.
- MU offers a number of scholarship opportunities that are targeted to transfer applicants. Please see the Transfer Student Web page for a complete listing of all scholarship opportunities.

GAA students must adhere to the MU admission and deposit deadlines in order to meet the conditions of this agreement. In addition, GAA students should be aware of the following policies regarding transfer credits and class standing upon transfer:

- NOVA courses designated 100-299 with grades of A, B, or C will be considered for transfer credit.
- MU counts a maximum of 64 credit hours from a two-year institution (including NOVA) towards graduation. If the applicant also has coursework from a four-year institution, then no more than a total of 84 credit hours will be accepted at MU.

- In evaluating a student's AP, IB, or CLEP credits, MU will follow the policy available on the MU Registrar's Web page (www.marymount.edu/academics/registrar).
- No distinction will be made regarding college courses taken through dual enrollment arrangements with high schools.
- For the bachelor's degree, MU has a residency requirement of a minimum of 36 hours completed at MU.
- Enrolling GAA students with at least 60 transferring credits will have junior status and may choose the MU catalog for the year entered or the catalog for the junior class.

The MU Transfer Student Web page contains details about course-by-course equivalencies, program-specific advising sheets, and suggestions for meeting MU's Liberal Arts Core requirements while completing NOVA degree work.

Specifically, to satisfy MU Core requirements:

1. NOVA students must complete ENG 112 College Composition II, not ENG 125 Introduction to Literature, to meet the MU Written Communication requirement.
2. NOVA students must meet the 9-hour social science requirement through coursework in two disciplines including a course that has a prerequisite within its discipline. NOVA courses which satisfy the MU social science requirement are listed on the MU Transfer Student Web page.
3. NOVA students must satisfy the 6-hour humanities requirement with one English Literature course and one History course. NOVA courses which satisfy the MU Introductory Literature and History requirements are listed on the MU Transfer Student Web page.

Upon fulfilling the NOVA AA or AS core with the stipulations above, the student will have completed all lower-level MU Liberal Arts Core requirements with the exception of two required lower-level courses in Philosophy and Theology. NOVA students may elect to satisfy additional MU Liberal Arts Core requirements before transferring to MU, and should choose relevant courses by referring to the MU Transfer Student Web page. Additionally, GAA students should be aware that some MU programs have specific requirements for class choices within the Liberal Arts Core and should refer to program-specific advising sheets. In particular, Interior Design and Health Information Management AAS students should refer to the MU program-specific advising sheet for information about meeting MU core requirements while at NOVA.

Review and Maintenance of the GAA

NOVA and MU agree to designate officials who will be responsible for all aspects of the NOVA-MU GAA. NOVA and MU will review relevant course equivalencies and transfer information annually. Additionally, NOVA and MU agree to share student data for the purposes of assessment, recruitment, and reporting. 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 documents may be amended as needed. Such changes will not adversely affect students already enrolled and covered under the provisions of the existing GAA.

This master Guaranteed Admission Agreement supersedes any program-specific admission agreement between NOVA and MU. This agreement will go into effect upon its signing, and will remain in effect until terminated by either party upon written notice. In the event that this agreement is terminated, the terms of the agreement will remain in effect for two years.