Guaranteed Transfer Partnership Agreement
between
Radford 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 Radford University (RU). The agreement stipulates the criteria under which NOVA graduates are guaranteed admission to RU and describes curricular benefits that exceed those outlined in the existing Guaranteed Admissions Agreement, dated December 2013, between VCCS and RU. The agreement further articulates terms that ensure all courses transcripted by NOVA and described in a NOVA-RU Curriculum Pathway transfer fully to meet degree requirements in a baccalaureate program at RU.

Acceptance and Application of Credits

1. NOVA and RU will agree upon specific Curricular Pathways that include courses that apply fully to meeting lower division general education requirements in all RU baccalaureate programs as well as to any specific RU baccalaureate degree requirements defined in the Curriculum Pathway.

2. Graduates of AA AND AS programs whose agreed-upon Curricular Pathways (based on NOVA Informed Pathway templates) are appended to and form part of this agreement are considered to have met all RU lower-division general education requirements. Such students are admitted to both academic and social junior status at RU.

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 RU. Thus, graduates of such programs may need to complete more than 120 credits to complete the bachelor’s degree at RU. Notwithstanding, assigned courses taken in these programs transfer fully to meet degree requirements (i.e., not as simply as elective credit) at RU. 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 RU.

5. RU will accept credit for prior learning such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge, and CLEP as transcripted by NOVA and as listed on the RU website for the year in which a student seeks admission. RU also will evaluate courses/credits earned at other institutions.

6. No distinction will be made by RU 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.

7. RU will maintain course equivalency information in its online Transfer Guide. It will alert NOVA to proposed changes in course equivalency at least one year before such changes are implemented.
8. No fewer than 45 semester hours must be earned at RU to be eligible for graduation. Thirty of the last 39 hours of credit required for the degree must be completed in residency. In addition, 50 percent of the semester hours required for a major or minor (as defined by the department) must be taken at RU and no more than six (6) credit hours of independent Study coursework can be used toward graduation requirements.

Admissions Practices

1. RU 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 RU 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 RU 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 RU (see GAA attached for conditions).

4. RU 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 with a curriculum GPA of 3.5 or higher will be offered admission to the RU Honors program and will have credits applied toward the RU Honors curriculum. Specific details of the articulation of the two Honors programs are provided in the separate Honors pathway.

6. NOVA graduates admitted under this agreement will be considered juniors for purposes of scholarship eligibility, housing, and priority registration.

7. To be eligible for admission to RU, students must meet the current requirements for legal status and any other non-academic requirements stated in the RU catalog.

8. RU 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 3.0 cumulative GPA. Each award will be for $2,000 (academic year) and is renewable for one additional year with a 3.0 GPA at RU. 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.

Maintenance of the Partnership

1. The agreement, articulated curriculum pathways, and relevant transfer course equivalencies will be reviewed biennially by RU and NOVA. Each institution will designate an individual to monitor this agreement and to coordinate meetings designed to maintain interinstitutional 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 RU 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. **RU** 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 **RU** its intended improvements.

4. **NOVA** agrees to promote **RU** as a Guaranteed Transfer Partner.

5. **NOVA** agrees to provide space (e.g., in a campus advising center) for an **RU** representative. In addition, **RU** will be invited to attend **NOVA** transfer fairs.

6. **NOVA** and **RU** agree to collaborate on a reverse transfer protocol enabling **NOVA** transfers to **RU** who do not complete a bachelor’s degree to be awarded an Associates degree from **NOVA** if they satisfactorily complete the appropriate coursework.

7. **RU** 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-RU** senior to host **NOVA** Night at Radford to help welcome new **NOVA** transfers to **RU** and promote the support of a cohort.

9. **NOVA** will sponsor a Fall bus trip to **RU** for **NOVA** students with greater than 30 college credits and potentially qualifying GPAs who indicate an interest in transferring to **RU**.

**Amendments and Term of Effect**

The Curriculum Pathway in effect at the time a student first enrolls at **NOVA** will be honored by **RU** if the student completes an AA or AS degree and successfully transfers to **RU** within 4 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 2 years.

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Dr. Brian O. Hemphill, President  
Radford University  
Aug 28, 2017  

Dr. Scott Kalls, President  
Northern Virginia Community College  
28 Apr 2017
GUARANTEED ADMISSION AGREEMENT

VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
and
RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Radford University (RU) and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) recognize the need to facilitate the transfer of students from Virginia’s community colleges to RU as they pursue their educational goals.

In an effort to ease the transfer process and to promote the closer coordination of academic courses, programs and degrees offered by our institutions, the VCCS and RU do hereby enter into the following Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA).

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 2.800 or higher on a four-point scale, who has earned a grade of “C” or higher in each course applicable to the transfer-oriented associate degree, and who intends to transfer to RU.

ACADEMIC ADMISSION AGREEMENT

GAA students will be guaranteed admission to RU and may expect the following:

1. All of the courses that are accepted by RU will be applied to the attainment of the baccalaureate degree.
2. No distinction will be made by RU regarding college courses applicable to the transfer-oriented associate degrees 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. Students entering under the terms of the GAA are transfer students and are not eligible for freshman scholarships, but may seek transfer scholarships.
   a. If a student who completes the transfer-oriented associate degree concurrent with high school graduation chooses to enter as a freshman, they will undergo a credit evaluation that will determine what courses will be accepted by Radford University. Students entering as freshman are eligible for freshman scholarships, but may not seek transfer scholarships. Students must indicate on their application if they intend to apply as a transfer student or freshman.
3. RU guarantees the acceptance of all transferable credits earned in the associate degree program and will accept the student with junior standing. However, RU cannot guarantee that the student will be able to complete all requirements for graduation with the 120-
credit minimum required for graduation at RU. Upon request, an Academic Advisor will inform him/her if there are any course requirements that would require credit hours beyond the 120 minimum needed for graduation.

4. Acceptance in some colleges and departments at RU is competitive; acceptance into RU does not imply admission to these programs without further acceptance by the college or department offering the program. Students participating in this guaranteed admission agreement should follow all special college and/or departmental application procedures and deadlines, as well as grade point requirements listed in the RU catalog for native RU students. GAA students and native RU students will be treated identically with regard to admission to competitive programs.

5. Completion of the transfer-oriented associate degree program will satisfy all general education requirements at RU. GAA students will also need to complete upper-level and all other University, college, and departmental requirements in order to obtain the baccalaureate degree from RU.

6. Advanced standing is determined by total credit hours earned. RU examines scores for the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) subject exams and College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Tests to award credits. Radford University will allow credit for scores on the CLEP subject examinations and AP Tests as outlined in the current academic catalog. AP and CLEP scores are evaluated for transfer credits in the same manner as for college transfer credits. RU will evaluate credit for International Baccalaureate, Cambridge, military service/experience and other forms of advanced standing as noted in the RU catalog. See the catalog section for Transfer Students for additional information regarding transfer credits.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**

GAA students will be treated on an equal basis with native students with regard to award and distribution of financial aid and other scholarships, campus housing, parking, selection of courses and other student services. Continuing transfer students will also be treated identically to continuing native RU students in the competition for merit scholarships funded through the Radford University Foundation, Inc.

In addition, RU will permit GAA applicants to be admitted to RU’s cultural, athletic, and entertainment activities at a cost equal to native RU students. (Students must contact the Admissions Office in advance of the events to make arrangements.)

**ELIGIBILITY:**

To be guaranteed admission to RU, student must complete the following requirements to become GAA students:

- Graduate from a transfer-oriented degree program at a Virginia community college with at least a 2.800 cumulative grade point average on a four-point scale
- Earn a grade of “C” or higher in each course applicable to the transfer-oriented associate degree
- If a course is repeated, the higher grade will be counted. This practice may be used for up to three courses
GAA students must submit an official transcript showing completion of the associate degree to the RU Admissions Office prior to official enrollment.

**NOTE:** VCCS graduates who do not meet the eligibility requirements described herein are encouraged to apply and may be considered for admission under the regular admission procedures of RU, but will not be guaranteed admission under this agreement.

Students who were previously enrolled at RU, were academically suspended, and transferred to a VCCS college to complete the transfer-oriented associate degree must receive approval from RU Registrar’s Office to participate in the GAA.

**BENEFITS OF THE GAA FOR VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS:**

GAA students enrolled full-time at RU may meet the graduation requirements listed in the *Radford University Undergraduate Catalog* in effect at the time of the student’s initial enrollment at Radford, or the individual may select to meet the requirements in any subsequent catalog published between enrollment and graduation, as long as the catalog is no more than five years old.

GAA students may contact the appropriate RU departmental or college advising center for information on meeting requirements for various RU majors.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

GAA students will:
1. Assume primary responsibility for understanding and following the requirements for the VCCS transfer-oriented associate degree, as well as degree requirements and the specific requirements for their intended major at RU, as stated in the RU *Undergraduate Catalog*. 
2. Follow all RU application for admission processes and timelines. (If a student is required to live on-campus as noted RU policy, the ability to start at RU in the Spring Term is subject to housing space availability.)
3. Meet minimum grade criteria and prerequisites for courses in specific programs at RU.

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

RU will:
1. Treat GAA students on an equal basis with native students with regard to award and distribution of financial aid and other scholarships, campus housing, parking, selection of courses and other student services.
2. Provide tracking data on performance of GAA students at RU, including credits presented and accepted in transfer, RU courses attempted and completed, cumulative GPA, major, graduation
date from RU, 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 RU and provided by July 1 of each year.

REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT:

1. The VCCS will designate officials who will be responsible for all aspects of the GAA at the VCCS. RU will designate individuals responsible for all aspects of the GAA at RU. Representing RU will be the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. Representing the VCCS will be the VCCS Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Research and the VCCS Director of Educational Policy, in consultation with the Articulation Subcommittee of the Academic and Student Affairs Council.

2. Both parties are to communicate the conditions of this agreement to their respective clientele (external and internal constituents). RU and the VCCS will review this agreement every three years and make adjustments or amendments as deemed appropriate to maintain the integrity of all institutions as well as for the improvement of the transfer process and student articulation. Such changes will not adversely affect students already enrolled and covered under the provision of the existing GAA.

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

Approval granted by:

Glenn DuBois, Chancellor
Virginia Community College System

Date 11/19/13

Penelope W. Kyle, President
Radford University

Date 12/17/2013