

PRE-TEACHER EDUCATION ADMISSION AGREEMENT

Early/Elementary Education (NK-6)

Virginia Community College System

AND

Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia's classrooms need for highly qualified teachers. In response to this need and to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) offers this **Pre-Teacher Education Curriculum (PTEC)** and seeks to create a system-wide articulation agreement, known as the **Pre-Teacher Education Curriculum (PTEC)** between the VCCS and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in the area of an arts and sciences core leading to a transferable associate degree (AA&S, AA or AS) that will facilitate entry into a teacher education program in early/elementary education, NK-6.

The PTEC provides a common teacher education associate degree curriculum that can be used by any of Virginia's 23 community colleges to prepare students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities in a seamless manner. The PTEC course sequence will meet General Education requirements and closely parallel the first two years leading to the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree with a Liberal Studies for Early/Elementary Education (LSEE) major.

This agreement does not affect any current or future agreements VCU has developed or may develop with individual or regional community college groups.

ADMISSION AGREEMENT

I. Academic

The Pre-Teacher Education Admission Agreement (PTEAA) student who successfully completes a transfer degree, the stipulated PTEC courses at a Virginia community college and all specified requirements below is guaranteed admission to VCU and by meeting all of the requirements for full admission to the teacher education program at VCU, may apply for admission to teacher education. He/she may expect the following:

- A. that all of the PTEC courses and credits successfully completed at the community college, and meeting the grade requirement of 2.0 will apply toward general education courses that satisfy requirements in the liberal studies in the Early/Elementary (NK-6) program or elective credit for the extended five-year teacher preparation programs in Early/Elementary Education (NK-6). **To qualify for admission to the teacher preparation programs, students must have a 2.8 cumulative grade point average.** The program culminates in the awarding of both the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies with a Liberal Studies for Elementary Education major and the Master of Teaching degrees upon completion of the extended five-year teacher preparation program. This program leads to licensure in the Commonwealth of Virginia in Early/Elementary Education (NK-6).
- B. that VCU awards equivalency credits for College Level Examination Placement, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate exams upon receipt of appropriate documentation (see the *VCU Bulletin* for details: <http://www.vcu.edu/>).

- C. That VCU will accept all the credits earned with a "C" or better from the associate degree program from a Virginia community college and, therefore, can accept the student as a junior at VCU. However, the student may still have to take additional lower-level major and teacher education courses not available at the community college and thus may not be able to complete all requirements for the baccalaureate degree with the same number of successfully completed hours and courses as a native student.
- D. That acceptance to a teacher education program at VCU is dependent upon available seats. Students participating in the PTEAA should follow all special college and/or departmental application procedures and deadlines, as well as meet the 2.8 cumulative grade point average requirement listed in the VCU Bulletin for native students for admission to the teacher preparation portion of the LSEE major. Transfer students and native VCU students will be treated identically with regard to admission to oversubscribed programs.
- E. That in addition to successful completion of the PTEC courses, students must pass the prescribed assessment for entry into a Virginia approved teacher preparation program or have appropriate test scores required for admission to the teacher preparation portion of the LSEE major at VCU. Students have six testing options for admission to teacher preparation as follows:
- 1) Completion of Praxis I with cumulative scores of (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics subtests) with a score of 532 or higher
 - 2) Completion of the SAT Verbal and Math subtests (Before April 1, 1995, a score of 1000 with at least 450 on the Verbal Test and at least 510 on the Mathematics subtest; After April 1, 1995, a score of 1100 with at least a 530 on Verbal and at least 530 on Mathematics;
 - 3) Completion of the ACT (Before April 1, 1995, a composite of 21, with math no less than 21 and English plus reading score no less than 37; After April 1, 1995, a composite score of 24, with math no less than 22 and ACT English plus reading score no less than 46.
 - 4) Completion of Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA) with a score of at least 470 and Praxis 1 Mathematics subtest with a score of at least 178;
 - 5) Completion of VCLA with a score of at least 470 and SAT Math score (Before April 1, 1995, a score of at least 510; After April 1, 1995, a score of at least 530).
 - 6) Completion of VCLA with a score of at least 470 and ACT Math score (Before April 1, 1995, a score of no less than 21; After April 1, 1995, a score of no less than 22).

Students are not required to take the Praxis I for admission to VCU but must complete one of the six options above for admission to the teacher preparation portion of the LSEE major.

- F. That successful completion of the PTEC courses with an associate degree from a Virginia community college will satisfy all general education and selected lower division core requirements at VCU. This will not eliminate the need for a course-by-course analysis of the transcript for pre-requisite courses required or elective courses recommended by VCU. Students will need to complete any remaining lower-and upper-division courses and meet all other university, college, and departmental requirements in order to obtain the baccalaureate degree from VCU.
- G. that all provisions of this agreement are subject to change, based on revisions in Commonwealth of Virginia teacher licensure or program approval requirements, national accreditation requirements, or federal regulations.

II. Student Services

PTEAA students transferring from the VCCS to VCU will be treated on an equal basis with native students with regard to award and distribution of financial aid, scholarships, campus housing, selection of courses, and parking.

PROCEDURAL AGREEMENT

1. Academic Admission

- A. A student who wants to participate in the PTEAA must inform his/her counselor at a Virginia community college.
- B. The VCCS counselor must provide the student with a copy of the PTEAA, the PTEC, and other related information.
- C. The student will review the PTEAA and the developed program of study and will sign a *PTEAA Letter of Interest* to follow the recommended course sequence.
- D. A student may not initiate changes in the program of study.
- E. A student must have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA for admission to the Early/Elementary program. The student must complete 61-63 semester hours of transfer coursework with a grade of "C" or higher in each course and complete all requirements for an associate degree. For admission to the program, students must meet all admission requirements.

Eligibility to participate in the PTEAA:

1. Any VCCS students are eligible who complete requirements for a transfer degree following the stipulated PTEC courses and applying for transfer to VCU within four years of signing the PTEAA *Letter of Interest* and within 18 months of completing an approved transfer oriented associate degree. However, students must still meet any new university requirements or new approved program requirements developed because of changes in Virginia teacher licensure requirements, or state, national, or federal requirements and standards.
2. Students who have not signed the PTEAA *Letter of Interest* but who began the community college PTEC curriculum within the last five years and meet the requirements of the VCCS VCU agreement.

Major benefits to the PTEAA for VCCS students:

1. VCCS students may select a catalog for degree requirements on the same basis as native students. This means that students may select the catalog in effect at the time of enrollment in the PTEAA and may continue with this catalog for up to five academic years. As with native students, this policy will not apply if there is an enrollment gap of one year or more at any time.
2. VCCS's course of study is pre-approved provided that students' complete requirements for the transfer oriented associate degree within four years of signing the PTEAA *Letter of Intent* and matriculate to VCU within 18 months of completing the transfer oriented associate degree.
3. VCCS students' will be considered identical to native students with regard to the award and distribution of financial aid and other scholarships, access to campus housing, selection of courses, and access to parking.
4. VCCS students may participate in applicable early-registration periods at VCU.
5. VCCS students and native VCU students will be treated identically regarding admission to teacher education programs at VCU.
6. VCCS students are provided with a seamless transition to VCU's teacher education program.

Responsibilities of the Student:

1. Contact the community college counselor to select the PTEC option.
2. Complete and sign a PTEAA *Letter of Interest* and submit to community college counselor or faculty advisor. Eligible transfer students must provide a transcript from other institutions.

3. Meet minimum grade criteria and prerequisites for courses in the intended teacher education program at VCU.
4. Discuss any changes, other than in program content, with the community college transfer counselor, who will make changes as appropriate.
5. Notify the community college transfer counselor if participation in the PTEAA is to be terminated.
6. Submit the VCU/PTEAA Letter of Interest with the VCU application for admission and request that all previously attended colleges/universities submit an official transcript to VCU.
7. Become familiar with information contained in the VCU Bulletin, accessible on the VCU website (www.vcu.edu) and meet all academic requirements and application deadlines for the teacher education program.
8. Become familiar with the School of Education's guidelines for admission to the teacher preparation program (www.soe/vcu.edu/departments/tl).

Responsibilities of the VCCS Institution:

1. Identify and track participating PTEAA students.
2. Develop a mechanism to assign PTEAA students to the designated VCCS transfer counselor or faculty advisor.
3. Periodically generate letters regarding status, program changes, etc. to students.
4. Offer complete curriculum of PTEC courses and guarantee that those courses are applicable to the PTEAA program of study.

Responsibilities of the VCCS Transfer Counselor:

1. Distribute PTEC information and the PTEAA *Letter of Interest* forms to students.
2. Assist students in attaining the transfer degree by developing plans that best satisfy PTEC requirements.
3. Send students' Programs of Study and *Letters of Interest* to the VCU Admissions Office.
4. Advise students and monitor student progress on a regular basis.

Responsibilities of VCU:

1. Determine domicile status of Teacher Education Guaranteed Admission Agreement students in accordance with Section 23-7.4 of the Code of Virginia, the law governing eligibility for in-state tuition, upon matriculating on the VCU campus.
2. Provide current VCU curriculum information and information on impending and/or approved changes as appropriate to VCCS office for distribution to each Virginia community college chief academic officer.
3. Make application forms, Transfer Guides, and VCU bulletins available on the university website.
4. Provide VCCS with annual reports on the status and progress of PTEAA students accepted into VCU's teacher education program including comparisons with native students, for the purpose of assessing and improving the agreement
5. Provide PTEAA students with current information on transfer procedures, financial aid, registration, housing procedures, tuition and fee payments, and deadlines through the university website.
6. Generate letters to students upon PTEAA acceptance and periodically send them letters regarding status, program changes. etc.
7. If available, designate financial support including scholarships for students entering under the PTEAA.

Responsibilities of Both Participating Institutions - VCU and VCCS:

1. Monitor the enforcement of the agreement. If a transfer credit challenge or appeal is made by a student, he or she must follow the appeals procedure at VCU.
2. Provide current information to PTEAA students with regard to transfer procedures, financial aid, registration, housing procedures, tuition and fee payments, and deadlines.
3. Annually review the PTEC and the PTEAA for currency and accuracy.

Terms of Agreement:

I. Eligible Curricula/Degree

Pre-Teacher Education Curriculum Associate Degree

II. Term of Effect

- A. This agreement may be amended with the agreement of both institutions, as needed, for specific program articulation without affecting the currency of the master agreement.
- B. 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 up to four years for students who have filed a letter of intent to transfer at the date of notice to terminate. Students who have filed a letter of intent to transfer have an additional 18 months to matriculate to VCU upon completing the associate degree.