

**PRE-TEACHER EDUCATION ADMISSION AGREEMENT**  
**Early/Primary Education, Elementary Education, Middle Education,**  
**and Special Education**  
**Virginia Community College System**  
**AND**  
**James Madison University**

Virginia's classrooms are experiencing a severe shortage of highly qualified teachers. In response to this crisis 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 Admission Agreement (PTEAA), between the VCCS and James Madison University (JMU) 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/primary education, elementary education, middle education, or selected areas of special education at JMU.

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 of the Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies (IDLS) core at JMU.

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

**ADMISSION AGREEMENT**

**I. Academic**

The PTEAA student who successfully completes a recognized transfer associate degree and the stipulated PTEC courses at a Virginia community college is guaranteed admission to JMU and, by meeting all of the requirements for full admission to the teacher education program at JMU, may declare the IDLS major and 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 for a recognized transfer associate degree and meeting the grade requirement of C, will meet general education and selected lower division core requirements at JMU. They may also apply toward elective credit or curriculum area courses for a baccalaureate degree leading to licensure and endorsement in early/primary education (preK-3, preK-6), middle education (6-8), or identified selected areas of special education. **(Note that the preK-6, Middle School, and Special Education endorsements also require completion of a master's degree for licensure. It is anticipated that the preK-3 program will become a five-year dual endorsement program for early childhood (pre-K-3) and special education (birth-age 5) requiring a master's degree for licensure for students entering JMU as freshmen in August, 2008. If implemented, this requirement will become effective for students transferring to JMU as juniors**

**in August, 2010. Please contact JMU for updated information on this change.)**

- B. that JMU will accept a student completing the PTEC and receiving a recognized transfer associate degree from a Virginia community college as a junior at JMU. However, this will not eliminate the need for a course-by-course analysis of the student's transcript for elective courses and any remaining lower- and upper-division courses the student must take in order to meet all other university, college, and departmental requirements for a baccalaureate degree from JMU. Thus the transfer student 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.
- C. that JMU will evaluate credit granted by exam (such as Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate examinations) for possible credit; such credit will be granted only if examination scores meet JMU's established criteria. JMU does not evaluate, or grant credit for, the College Level Examination Program.
- D. that in addition to successful completion of the PTEC courses, students must pass the state-prescribed assessment for entry into a Virginia approved teacher preparation program (currently Praxis I or satisfactory SAT or ACT scores as a substitute) as part of their acceptance to the teacher education program at JMU.
- E. that acceptance to, and continuation in, the teacher education program at JMU is dependent upon following all special professional education and/or departmental application procedures and deadlines, as well as meeting all teacher education admission and grade point average requirements listed in the JMU catalog for native students.
- F. that transfer students may not be allowed to start professional education courses in an oversubscribed program until space is available. In this situation, they will be treated on an equal basis with native students, e.g., submission of the declaration of major/minor will determine the semester when they can begin taking education courses. This declaration is usually completed during transfer orientation. As with native students, transfer students may be placed on a waiting list for that program, if appropriate.
- 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 JMU will be treated on an equal basis with native students with regard to registration after matriculation and to the awarding and distribution of financial aid. PTEAA students transferring from the VCCS to JMU will be treated on an equal basis with native juniors with regard to housing.

## **PROCEDURAL AGREEMENT**

### **I. 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 Intent* to follow the recommended course sequence.
- D. The VCCS counselor will provide a copy of the *Letter of Intent* to the Director of the Education Support Center at JMU.
- E. A student may not initiate changes in the program of study.
- F. A student must obtain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA, complete 61-63 semester hours of transfer coursework with a grade of "C" or higher in each course, complete all requirements for an associate degree, and pass the state-prescribed assessment for entry into a Virginia approved teacher preparation program (currently Praxis I or satisfactory SAT or ACT scores as a substitute). The minimum 3.0 GPA is required on all college work attempted in the last five years unless students have earned 60% of credit from the community college where the associate degree will be awarded.

#### ***Eligibility to participate in the PTEAA:***

- 1. Any VCCS students are eligible who complete requirements for a recognized transfer associate degree following the stipulated PTEC courses and applying for transfer to JMU within four years of signing the PTEAA *Letter of Intent* and 18 months after 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 are eligible who have not signed the PTEAA *Letter of Intent* but who began the community college PTEC curriculum within the last five years and also meet all requirements of the VCCS/JMU agreement.

#### ***Major benefits of 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.

2. VCCS's course of study is pre-approved as long as the five-year degree completion date is not exceeded.
3. VCCS students will be considered on an equal basis with native students with regard to registration after matriculation and to the awarding and distribution of financial aid. PTEAA students transferring from the VCCS to JMU will be treated on an equal basis with native juniors with regard to housing.
4. VCCS students may participate in applicable transfer registration periods at JMU.
5. VCCS students are provided with a seamless transition to JMU's teacher education program.

***Responsibilities of the Student:***

1. Contact a community college counselor to select the PTEC option.
2. Complete and sign a *PTEAA Letter of Intent* and submit to CC counselor or faculty advisor.
3. Meet minimum grade criteria and prerequisites for courses in the intended teacher education program at JMU as documented in the attached PTEC document.
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 JMU application for JMU admission to the JMU admission office and request that all previously attended colleges/universities submit an official transcript to JMU.
7. Become familiar with information contained in the *JMU Catalog*, accessible on the JMU website ([www.jmu.edu](http://www.jmu.edu)), and meet all academic requirements and application deadlines for the selected teacher education program.

***Responsibilities of the VCCS Institution:***

1. Identify and track participating PTEAA students.
2. 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 a 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 Intent* 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 Intent* to the Education Support Center at JMU.
4. Advise students and monitor student progress on a regular basis.

***Responsibilities of JMU:***

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 JMU campus.
2. Provide current JMU 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 JMU catalogs available to VCCS students through the university website.
4. Provide VCCS with annual reports on the status and progress of PTEAA students accepted into JMU'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 and other mechanisms used to communicate with transfer students.
6. Generate letters to students upon PTEAA acceptance and send them letters regarding status, program changes, etc. as appropriate.

***Responsibilities of Both Participating Institutions -- JMU 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 JMU.
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:**

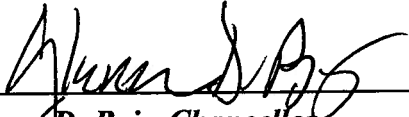
**I. Eligible Curricula/Degree**

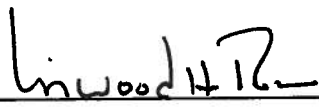
Pre-Teacher Education Curriculum/Recognized Transfer Associate Degree

**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 JMU upon completing the associate degree.

**Approval Granted by:**

  
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*Glenn DuBois, Chancellor*  
*Virginia Community College System*  
  
4/9/08  
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Date

  
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*Linwood H. Rose, President,*  
*James Madison University*  
  
4/25/08  
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Date