

GUARANTEED ADMISSION AGREEMENT
Between Western Governors University
and
Virginia Community College System
For the RN to BSN Nursing Program

Western Governors University (WGU) and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), recognizing the need to facilitate the admission of transfer students from Virginia's community colleges to WGU as they pursue a bachelor's degree in Nursing, resolve to adopt a Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA). VCCS students who do not meet the terms described herein may still apply and will be considered for admission, although admission is not guaranteed.

Section I: General Admission Requirements and Eligibility

To be guaranteed admission under this GAA, a VCCS student must graduate with an associate's degree in nursing, have an active RN license and meet the WGU admission requirements outlined below. These students are referred to as "GAA students." To be admitted under the terms of this agreement, GAA students must:

1. Satisfactorily complete the "WGU Readiness Assessment". This is a short online assessment taken after a student applies to the program. This assessment helps determine readiness for collegiate-level study in an online environment that relies heavily upon writing ability. The results are used to evaluate collegiate academic readiness.
2. Complete an intake interview (phone) with a WGU enrollment counselor.
3. Submit official transcripts for all academic work completed. These must be received by WGU no later than the 10th of the month prior to the anticipated program start date.
4. Earn a VCCS associate of applied science (AAS) in nursing.
5. WGU will require no additional prerequisites as a condition of enrollment and qualified VCCS graduates can enroll monthly.
6. Provide evidence of a current, unencumbered U.S. license to practice as a Registered Nurse (RN).
7. Provide evidence of current employment in a position that requires use of nursing knowledge and expertise at the time of application and enrollment. (*WGU Nursing Student Handbook, Nov 2011 – Article 2498*. To access the WGU Nursing Student Handbook, go to:
<https://kb.wgu.edu/display/2/index.aspx?c=&cpc=&cid=&cat=&catURL=&r=0.77959144115448>
and select "Nursing Student Handbook" from the menu.)

GAA students may expect the following:

1. GAA students accepted to WGU under the terms of this agreement will be admitted with senior (fewer than three terms to complete) standing into the Bachelor of Science in nursing program.
2. GAA students will be given the same consideration as native WGU students for registration, financial aid, and any other opportunities open to native students with senior standing.

Section II: Summary of Transfer Credits

A transfer credit (one semester academic credit) is equivalent to one WGU competency unit (CU).

Option 1: VCCS AAS in Nursing

11 CU	Accepted as requirement satisfied by VCCS AAS degree completion
25 CU	Accepted as transfer by VCCS coursework*
<u>50 CU</u>	<u>Accepted as transfer by unencumbered RN license</u>
86 CU	Total minimum credits accepted for AAS degree and license

120 CU	Required for WGU BSN
<u>-86 CU</u>	<u>AAS and RN license</u>
34 CU	Remaining

*Includes completion of NUR 254 (Dimensions of Professional Nursing) with a grade of C or better. If a student has not completed NUR 254 with a grade of C or better, they must take NVT2 (Professional Roles and Values) at WGU, which is an additional 3 CUs.

Remaining CUs to be earned at WGU:

<u>WGU Course Title</u>	<u>Competency Units</u>
Elements of Effective Communication	3 CU
Nutrition for a Contemporary Society	3 CU
Applied Health Care Statistics and Analysis	3 CU
Biochemistry	3 CU
Health Assessment	3 CU
Care of the Aging Adult	3 CU
Community Health Nursing and Population Assessment	3 CU
Community Health Practicum	2 CU
Organizational Systems and Quality Leadership	3 CU
Evidence-based Practice and Applied Nursing Research	3 CU
Information Management and the Application of Technology	3 CU
Professional Portfolio and Leadership experience	2 CU
<i>Total</i>	<u>34 CU</u>

Option 2: VCCS AAS in Nursing + CST 110 (Introduction to Communication)

11 CU Accepted as requirement satisfied by VCCS AAS degree completion
28 CU Accepted as transfer by VCCS coursework*
50 CU Accepted as transfer by unencumbered RN license
89 CU Total minimum credits accepted for AAS degree and license

120 CU Required for WGU BSN
-89 CU AAS and RN license

31 CU Remaining

*Includes completion of NUR 254 (Dimensions of Professional Nursing) with a grade of C or better. If a student has not completed NUR 254 with a grade of C or better, they must take NVT2 (Professional Roles and Values) at WGU, which is an additional 3 CUs.

Remaining CUs to be earned at WGU:

<u>WGU Course Title</u>	<u>Competency Units</u>
Nutrition for a Contemporary Society	3 CU
Applied Health Care Statistics and Analysis	3 CU
Biochemistry	3 CU
Health Assessment	3 CU
Care of the Aging Adult	3 CU
Community Health Nursing and Population Assessment	3 CU
Community Health Practicum	2 CU
Organizational Systems and Quality Leadership	3 CU
Evidence-based Practice and Applied Nursing Research	3 CU
Information Management and the Application of Technology	3 CU
Professional Portfolio and Leadership experience	2 CU
Total	31 CU

Section III: Benefits of the GAA for VCCS Students

1. The application fee for prospective GAA students will be waived.
2. GAA students will receive a 5% tuition discount. This discount will be applied for the entirety of WGU courses leading to a baccalaureate degree in nursing.
3. GAA students can apply for the Virginia Community College Nursing Scholarships for \$1000 for their first year in the program (\$500 per term). This is a competitive scholarship that will be awarded to ten students annually and can be used in addition to the 5% tuition discount.

Section IV: Responsibilities of the VCCS

1. Disseminate accurate information to VCCS nursing program students regarding the general conditions of this agreement. Those provisions include the conditions for guaranteed admission

- to WGU. This agreement will be posted on the VCCS website as well as the Virginia Education Wizard, an online college planning site utilized by VCCS students, faculty and staff.
2. Provide academic advising services to assist VCCS students in choosing courses that will best prepare them for their nursing major at WGU. The VCCS will prepare faculty advisors and counselors to provide appropriate and accurate advising services related to students' plans to apply to WGU.
 3. Communicate with WGU representatives including the Chief Nursing Officer to discuss changes in the VCCS program, which might impact or alter this agreement.
 4. Collaborate with WGU to promote the GAA among prospective and current VCCS students.

Section V: Responsibilities of WGU

1. Provide academic advising services to GAA students during the term prior to transfer to assist these students in making a smooth transition from the community college to WGU.
2. Collaborate with the VCCS to promote the GAA among VCCS students.
3. Provide tracking data on performance of transfer students at WGU, including credits presented and accepted in transfer, WGU courses attempted and completed, cumulative GPA, major, graduation date from WGU, and comparisons with native students. The specific data elements of the report will be determined by Institutional Research staffs from the VCCS and WGU and provided by July 1 of each year.

Section VI: Responsibilities of the Student

1. Know and understand the requirements for the nursing major at WGU.
2. Follow the WGU application and admission processes and timelines.

Section VII: Review of the GAA

1. The VCCS will designate officials who will be responsible for all aspects of the GAA at the VCCS. WGU will designate individuals responsible for all aspects of the GAA at WGU.
 - a. Representing WGU will be the Associate Provost for Compliance and Accreditation, or designees.
 - b. Representing the VCCS will be the VCCS Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Research and the Director for Educational Policy, in consultation with the Articulation Subcommittee of the Academic and Student Affairs Council.
2. 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 under the provisions of the existing GAA. A revised agreement will be signed by officials at both institutions.
3. Both parties are to communicate the conditions of the GAA to their respective clientele (external and internal constituents). WGU and the VCCS will review the GAA at a minimum of every three years and make adjustments or amendments as deemed appropriate to maintain the integrity of each institution 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 provisions of the existing GAA.

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

Glen DuBois, Chancellor

Virginia Community College System

November 20, 2012

Robert Mendenhall, President

Western Governors University

November 28, 2012