

**GUARANTEED ADMISSION AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
AND  
THOMAS NELSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**PURPOSE**

George Mason University (Mason) is pleased to guarantee admission to Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC) students according to the terms of this agreement which is intended to support the State Policy on Transfer. A further purpose of this agreement is to improve the coordination between Mason and TNCC of transfer policies, and acceptance of equivalent courses, and to enable enhanced advising at both institutions. TNCC 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.

**ELEMENTS OF THE AGREEMENT**

- Mason accepts applications from students who wish to transfer directly from TNCC to Mason to pursue a bachelor's degree. Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA) transfer applications are considered for students who earn the Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree and who apply for fall or spring admission. The guarantee of admission to Mason does not imply admission to a particular Mason degree program or admission to a particular semester.
- Students are strongly encouraged to graduate in May and apply for fall admission to Mason; students who apply for spring admission will be considered on a space available basis. Mason reserves the right to defer admission for students who meet the minimum criteria for guaranteed admission to the next semester.

**Responsibilities of GAA Applicants**

- 1) Submit the MASON-TNCC online GAA Letter of Intent to enroll upon the completion of 45 credits.
- 2) Meet with a TNCC counselor or faculty advisor prior to the completion of 45 credits towards their degree program to insure degree progress and completion.
- 3) Apply for TNCC AA or AS degree graduation by the published TNCC deadline.
- 4) Upon admission to Mason, submit the required enrollment deposit by July 1 for fall admission or December 1 for spring admission.

### **Admission Requirements**

TNCC students who graduate with an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree as indicated on an official TNCC transcript and meet all of the following criteria will be guaranteed admission to Mason:

- 1) Apply by the March 1 (fall admission) or October 1 (spring admission) priority Mason transfer application deadline, declaring an intended undergraduate major. GAA applicants may not apply as undeclared majors.
- 2) Earn a minimum cumulative TNCC GPA of 2.75 at the time of application and have a minimum cumulative TNCC GPA of 2.75 upon graduation. The minimum cumulative TNCC GPA increases to 2.85 effective fall 2012 and to 3.0 effective fall 2013. Mason utilizes the cumulative GPA as indicated on official TNCC transcripts.
- 3) Earn a minimum of 30 transferable credit hours at TNCC. These 30 hours must include ENG 111 and ENG 112 and a mathematics course used to satisfy our quantitative reasoning requirement. TNCC students may choose MTH 151, 152, 173, 174, 180, 240 or 270. The ENG and MTH courses must be earned with grades of C or better in each course and be completed prior to the last semester at TNCC.
  - a) If all coursework for the AA or AS degree was not completed at TNCC, a 2.75 minimum cumulative GPA is required on all prior college coursework attempted in the five years prior to application to Mason. This minimum overall GPA increases to 2.85 effective fall 2012 and 3.0 effective fall 2013.

### **Exclusions to the Guaranteed Admission Agreement.**

- Mason reserves the right to deny admission or the benefits of this agreement to students who have been suspended or dismissed from any college or university or to those who have been convicted of a felony. Mason may also deny admission or the benefits of this agreement to any applicant who presents other factors in their personal or academic background that the University deems inappropriate, as determined by the Transfer Admission Committee.
- Students transferring from TNCC who seek admission to specific Mason programs must meet the same prerequisites, GPA, application deadlines, and other admission criteria as for other transfer or native students applying to those programs. **NOTE: Certain degree programs within the College of Education and Human Development, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the School of Management, the School of Nursing, and the Volgenau School of Engineering have additional requirements for admission. Meeting the minimum terms of this agreement does not guarantee admission to those degree programs. Specific prerequisite courses, higher minimum grades, and a higher GPA may be required.**

Based upon space limitations in the transfer class, the Transfer Admission Committee may opt to defer admission to the next semester and/or offer admission as an undeclared major to the University without admission directly to the intended major. Admission decisions are communicated by letter and indicate a student's admitted major and residency status.

#### **A. Acceptance and Application of Transfer Credit**

1. Students completing an AA or AS degree at TNCC who meet all other requirements of this agreement will be considered to have met all of Mason's lower division university general education requirements. All students must complete ENGL 302 and a synthesis course in their major at Mason to satisfy upper division university general education requirements.
  - a. Lower division requirements specific to Mason degrees, majors, and academic units/colleges are not covered by this agreement.
2. Students completing an AA or AS degree at TNCC who meet all requirements of this agreement will be awarded a minimum of 60 hours of transfer credit. The 60 hours is inclusive of any direct equivalencies and any elective credit. At Mason, students who have earned 60 credit hours are considered to have "junior standing" at the university. A maximum of 90 transfer credit hours, with no more than 75 credit hours from a community college, may apply to a bachelor's degree at Mason. Credit earned as a dual-enrolled high school student will be considered within these limits.
3. TNCC courses designated 100-299 with grades A, B or C will be considered for transfer credit. Grades for transferred courses do not enter into the computation of GPA at Mason.
4. Only courses taken at TNCC are covered by this agreement. Credit awarded by TNCC for AP, CLEP, IB, or any other sources based on work not completed at TNCC, including credit by internal exams will be reevaluated by Mason. Transfer credit is not guaranteed for these sources, and will be reviewed for credit consistency with Mason standards. Mason does not award credit for CLEP English or mathematics exams. TNCC applicants who meet minimum score requirements ([admissions.gmu.edu/exams](https://admissions.gmu.edu/exams)) for AP, CLEP or IB credit at Mason are required to provide the Office of Admissions an official transcript from the testing agency at time of application.
5. Mason will maintain an online transfer equivalency database allowing students to view course equivalencies. Wherever possible, this information will be maintained with the most recent TNCC information compared to the most recent Mason course offerings. Course equivalency does not in any way guarantee that courses will meet degree-specific requirements.

6. Students transferring from TNCC will be required to complete a minimum of 45 semester hours of upper division coursework to be eligible for the Mason degree.
7. A minimum of 30 hours of coursework must be completed at Mason to meet the residency requirement for graduation.
8. Where courses are equivalent as defined in the Mason transfer equivalency database 100/200 level TNCC courses may be used to fulfill certain 300/400 level course requirements of a degree at Mason, but students must still meet the requirement for 45 upper-division (300/400 level) course credits. These transfer courses are designated with an L to indicate lower-level status. Example: TNCC PSY 215 = MASON PSYC L325
9. In order to meet all Mason degree requirements, students covered by this agreement may need to attain more than the typical 120 hours required for a Mason undergraduate degree.
10. Two courses with essentially the same content (as determined by Mason) cannot both be counted toward the same degree.
11. Upon request, GAA transfer students may utilize the Mason catalog degree requirements in effect for the two years prior to the student's most recent admission into Mason following the award of the TNCC AA or AS degree. All degree components, including the major and minor, must be listed in the Mason University Catalog for a single catalog year.
12. Admitted GAA students receive a course-by-course transfer credit evaluation from the Office of Admissions. The final transfer credit evaluation is released after receipt of the final TNCC transcript reflecting the award date of the AA or AS degree. **The benefits of this agreement, including junior standing and the waiver of all lower-division general education requirements are indicated on the transfer credit evaluation and are contingent upon receipt of the final TNCC transcript. It is the student's responsibility to provide a final degree transcript to the Office of Admissions and to meet with their Mason academic advisor to understand the applicability of transfer credit toward their declared degree program. Transfer credit evaluations will not be modified after the first academic year of enrollment.**

#### **B. Update/Report/Relationship**

Mason and TNCC agree to meet annually to review this agreement and relevant transfer course equivalencies. Each institution will designate an individual to serve as liaison for the purpose of monitoring this agreement. Additionally, Mason and TNCC agree to share student data for the purposes of assessment, recruitment and reporting.

**C. Amendments and Term of Effect**

1. 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 databases may be amended as needed.
2. This master agreement will go into effect for those TNCC students entering Mason fall 2011, and 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.

**Approved**

**Dr. Alan G. Merten**  
**President**  
**George Mason University**  
**April 1, 2011**

**Dr. Alvin Schexneider**  
**President**  
**Thomas Nelson Community College**  
**April 5, 2011**