

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Virginia Community College System
Associate of Applied Science Degree: Early Childhood Education
AND
James Madison University
Bachelor of Individualized Study Degree with a Concentration in
Early Childhood Education

I. Introduction

Virginia's classrooms are experiencing a severe shortage of highly qualified teachers. In response to this crisis and to create an accessible professional pathway for individuals to earn teaching credentials, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) has developed an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Early Childhood Education (ECED) with a common curriculum, and seeks to create a system-wide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between the VCCS and James Madison University (JMU) to facilitate the transfer of course credits and smooth the transition of students earning an A.A.S. degree in ECED at the VCCS into the Bachelor of Individualized Study (B.I.S.) degree program with a Concentration in Early Childhood Education (ECED) at JMU.

The VCCS A.A.S. degree in ECED, introduced in the 2018-2019 academic year, provides a common teacher education associate degree curriculum to prepare students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities in a seamless manner. A student earning the JMU B.I.S. degree with ECED Concentration will earn 126-129 credit hours.

This MOU is with the VCCS as a whole and not with individual campuses within the System. Therefore, an A.A.S. degree in ECED earned at any VCCS location is included under this agreement.

II. Student Eligibility and Admission Requirements

- A. To qualify for admittance into the JMU Bachelor of Individualized Study (BIS) degree program with a Concentration in Early Childhood Education (ECED), a student must:
1. Complete the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Early Childhood Education (ECED) as outlined in the VCCS/JMU Bachelor of Individualized Study (BIS) in Early Childhood Education Concentration Curriculum Outline and Advising Guide.
 - a. The VCCS A.A.S. degree in ECED common curriculum implemented in the 2018-2019 academic year articulates into the JMU BIS degree program with a Concentration in ECED.
 - i. Students beginning pursuit of the VCCS A.A.S. degree in ECED on or after August 1, 2018 are eligible for admission to the JMU BIS degree program with a Concentration in ECED.
 - ii. Students who began pursuit of, or who completed the requirements of, an A.A.S. degree in ECED prior to August 1, 2018 may be eligible for admission to the JMU BIS degree program with a Concentration in ECED. JMU will make this determination consistent with state law in relevant areas.

2. Present a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.500 on a 4.000 scale upon application to JMU and upon graduation from the VCCS. If a student has attended multiple institutions, he/she must have earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.500 on a 4.000 scale at the VCCS institution and all previous institutions.
 3. Earn no grade lower than a "C" in any course at the VCCS institution, or any previous institution, that has not been repeated and the grade replaced at the time of application.
 4. Earn passing scores on the Praxis Core Math and the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA).
 5. Gain admittance to JMU through the B.I.S. program admission process.
 - a. To be eligible for the JMU Adult Degree Program, a student must be 22 years or older.
 - b. Complete the JMU BIS Admission process outlined on the JMU Adult Degree Program website. The deadlines for applications are: December 1 (for Spring), April 1 (for Summer), and August 1 (for Fall).
 6. Apply to, and gain admission into, JMU Teacher Education.
- B. This MOU articulates the admittance pathway for a VCCS student earning an A.A.S. degree in ECED into the JMU BIS degree program with a Concentration in ECED **only**. This agreement is not a pathway into other JMU degree programs.
1. This MOU does **not** guarantee admission to JMU; additionally, a student earning an A.A.S. degree from the VCCS is **not** eligible for admission to JMU under a Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA).
 2. A student following this MOU will be considered for admission to JMU on an individual basis.
- C. JMU will evaluate credit granted by Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge International examinations, and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) examinations for possible credit; such credit will be granted only if examination scores meet established JMU criteria in place at the time the student completed the examination.
- D. A student who follows the curriculum outlined in the VCCS/JMU Bachelor of Individualized Study (BIS) in Early Childhood Education Concentration Curriculum Outline and Advising Guide will qualify to meet graduation requirements for the JMU Bachelor of Individualized Study (BIS) degree program with a Concentration in Early Childhood Education (ECED). In particular, students must meet the following requirements:
1. The student must meet/confer with the designated VCCS transfer counselor or faculty advisor while enrolled at the VCCS institution.
 2. The student must earn a minimum of 126 credit hours to graduate with a JMU Bachelor of Individualized Study (BIS) degree with a Concentration in Early Childhood Education (ECED). The student must earn a minimum of 60 credit hours at a four-year institution and a minimum of 30 credit hours at JMU.
 3. To earn a JMU Bachelor of Individualized Study (BIS) degree with a Concentration in Early Childhood Education (ECED), the student must complete a minimum of 40 General Education credit hours.
 4. The student must remain in good standing with JMU Teacher Education.
 5. The student must meet grade point average and progression standard requirements.

6. The student must satisfy remaining competency requirements, such as the Honor Code test and the MREST information literacy competency test.
7. There is no residency requirement; however, program agreements that extend beyond six years may need to be amended if university policies change that affect the original program agreements.

III. Exclusions to the Memorandum of Understanding

- A. In accordance with state and federal guidelines, some students may be ineligible to enroll at JMU based on their immigration status. The Adult Degree Program reserves the right to request supporting documentation to determine immigration status and eligibility.
- B. JMU reserves the right to deny admission or the benefits of this MOU to students who have been suspended, dismissed or expelled from any institution of higher education for academic or non-academic reasons or those who have been convicted of or pled guilty or no contest to a felony.

IV. Acceptance, Student Status, and Application of Transfer Credit

A VCCS student enrolled in an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Early Childhood Education (ECED) who meets JMU Bachelor of Individualized Study (BIS) degree program with a Concentration in Early Childhood Education (ECED) admissions requirements and completes all requirements for an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Early Childhood Education (ECED) may enroll in the JMU BIS degree program with a Concentration in ECED and may expect the following:

- A. Credits are accepted from institutions recognized by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers and accredited by a regional accrediting body. Any course not taken at the VCCS will be evaluated individually, and credit will be allowed only for equivalent college courses offered at JMU in which a grade of “C” or better has been earned. Courses are evaluated by reviewing the course content regardless of the mode of instruction.
- B. All courses accepted by JMU will be applied to the attainment of the baccalaureate degree.
- C. VCCS students admitted to the JMU Bachelor of Individualized Study (BIS) degree program with a Concentration in Early Childhood Education (ECED) 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.
- D. All provisions of this MOU are subject to change, based on revisions in Commonwealth of Virginia teacher licensure or program approval requirements, national accreditation requirements, or federal regulations.

V. Responsibilities of the Parties

- A. During the period of this MOU, JMU agrees to do the following:
 1. Provide current JMU curriculum information and information on impending and/or approved changes as appropriate to the VCCS for distribution to each VCCS chief academic officer.
 2. Make application forms, Transfer Guides, and JMU catalogs available to VCCS students through the university website.

3. Provide A.A.S. degree in ECED 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.
- B. During the period of this MOU, the VCCS agrees to do the following:
1. Publicize this MOU to students, faculty and administration.
 2. Identify and track A.A.S. degree in ECED students.
 3. Assign A.A.S. degree in ECED students to the designated VCCS transfer counselor or faculty advisor.
 4. Advise students and monitor student progress on a regular basis.
 5. Periodically generate letters regarding status, program changes, etc. to students.
 6. Review the annual reports on the status and progress A.A.S. degree in ECED holders provided by JMU.

VI. Institutional Cooperation

During the period of this MOU, the VCCS and JMU agree to do the following:

- A. Monitor the academic performance of students enrolling under this MOU, identify problems, and work cooperatively to adjust details of course sequence and content so that students can transfer without academic interruptions.
- B. Notify each other concerning any contemplated curricular changes that would affect the status of this MOU.
- C. Monitor the enforcement of the MOU. If a transfer credit challenge or appeal is made by a student, he or she must follow the appeals procedure at JMU.
- D. Annually review the MOU and curriculum plan for currency and accuracy.

VII. Eligible Curricula/Degree

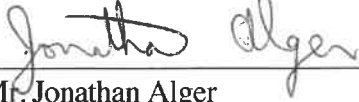
Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree in Early Childhood Education (ECED)

VIII. Term of Effect

- A. This MOU may be amended with the agreement of both institutions, as needed, without affecting the currency of the MOU.
- B. This MOU 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 MOU is terminated, the terms of the agreement contained herein will remain in effect for up to four years for students.

Agreed by the parties on the 18th day of December 2018.

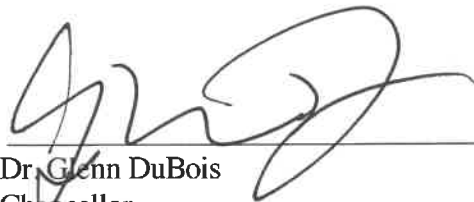
Approval Granted by:



Mr. Jonathan Alger
President
James Madison University

1-17-19

Date



Dr. Glenn DuBois
Chancellor
Virginia Community College System

1-29-19


Date



Dr. Marilou Johnson
Vice Provost for Academic Development
James Madison University

12.18.18

Date



Dr. Phillip Wishon
Dean, College of Education
James Madison University

1/16/19

Date