

## Guaranteed Admission Agreement

### Saint Leo University And The Virginia Community College System

In accordance with the Virginia *State Policy on Transfer*, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and Saint Leo University (SLU) recognize the need and importance of facilitating the transfer of students from one institution to the other as they pursue their educational goals.

Recognizing that many students engage in education as a life-long learning process, the VCCS and SLU enter into this agreement to provide a transfer track to a baccalaureate degree.

#### **Definitions**

“Transfer-oriented associate degrees” refers to VCCS associate of arts, associate of arts and sciences, and associate of science degrees. This includes VCCS General Studies associate degrees that have been approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) as transfer degrees according to the State Committee on Transfer guidelines (see website at <http://www.schev.edu/Students/GeneralStudiesWebText.pdf>).

“GAA student” refers to a student who graduates from a transfer-oriented associate degree program at a Virginia community college with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher on a four-point scale and intends to transfer to SLU.

“Transferable credits” refers to courses applicable to the transfer-oriented associate degree.

#### **Academic Admission Agreement**

1. SLU guarantees admission to those GAA students who:
  - a. have completed a transfer-oriented associate degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher as shown on the VCCS transcript,
  - b. have completed a minimum of 15 credits at a VCCS institution,
  - c. meet the base security access guidelines in place at the military installations.
2. Acceptance in some degree programs at SLU is competitive; thus guaranteed admission into SLU does not imply admission to these programs without further acceptance by the program or department offering the program. GAA students will be considered on the same basis as native students for admission to competitive programs.
3. SLU will guarantee the acceptance of up to 64 transferable credits earned from a two-year institution and grant the student junior standing. No distinction will be made by SLU regarding college courses applicable to the eligible associate degree that are taken through dual enrollment, earned through military coursework completed under a Servicemembers’ Opportunity College (SOC) agreement, or transferred from a regionally accredited college or university. Completion of the associate degree through dual enrollment will not preclude the student from eligibility under this agreement. Credit for knowledge and skills gained through experiential learning or other non-collegiate instruction, Advance Placement, Cambridge, CLEP, or DANTES testing programs will be accepted according to SLU policies in effect at the time of admission to SLU.

4. Completion of a transfer-oriented associate degree will guarantee completion of the general education component of SLU's undergraduate curriculum, if the student has completed the following courses as part of their transfer-oriented associate degree. If these courses have not been completed as part of the associate degree, then they must be taken at SLU.
  - ENG 111, College Composition I
  - ENG 112, College Composition II
  - MTH 152, Mathematics for Liberal Arts II or MTH 158 or higher
  - CSC 110, Introduction to Computing or ITE 115, Introduction of Computer Applications
  - One religion class

Specific departmental requirements or prerequisites may be needed for the major.

5. SLU will not accept transfer credit with grades lower than "C" for the following courses:

<b>SLU Course</b>	<b>VCCS Course Equivalent</b>
ENG 121, Academic Writing I	ENG 111, College Composition I
ENG 122, Academic Writing II	ENG 112, College Composition II
MAT 131, College Mathematics	MTH 152, Mathematics for Liberal Arts II or MTH 158 or higher
COM 140, Basic Computer Skills	CSC 110, Introduction to Computing or ITE 115, Introduction of Computer Applications

For all other courses, with the exceptions of ACC 211, Principles of Accounting I (SLU equivalency is ACC 201, Principles of Accounting I) for accounting majors and BUS 200, Principles of Management (SLU equivalency MGT 301, Principles of Management) for business majors, SLU will accept grades of D or higher.

6. SLU cannot guarantee that students will be able to complete all requirements for graduation within the 120-credit minimum required for graduation. SLU will inform the student in writing at the time of admission at SLU if there are additional course requirements.
7. In order to graduate from SLU, a GAA student must complete a minimum of 30 semester hours with SLU and 15 semester hours in the major with SLU, a total of 120 semester hours with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and a GPA of 2.0 or higher in the major.
8. GAA students will enter under the catalog year of admission to SLU and have seven (7) years to complete their bachelor's degree under that catalog.
9. Admission under this agreement is contingent upon receipt of a final official transcript documenting degree completion.

VCCS students who do not meet the terms described herein are encouraged to apply and may be considered for admission under the regular admission procedures of SLU.

## **Benefits**

1. *Waiver of application fee.* The SLU application fee will be waived for GAA students.
2. *Advising.* SLU advisors will be available to assist GAA students with appropriate academic advising related to the student's intended plan of study.
3. *Scholarships.* Institutional Scholarship and Grant Aid  
Scholarships are awarded by the SLU Office of Student Financial Services based on specified criteria. A Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be filed annually to receive any of Saint Leo Endowed Scholarships and Donor Scholarships. Students receiving endowed scholarships are requested to acknowledge this assistance by communicating appreciation to the donor. For more information go to:  
<http://www.saintleo.edu/resources/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/saint-leo-university-privately-funded-scholarship-opportunities.aspx>

## **Responsibilities of the VCCS**

1. Notify students of transfer opportunities to SLU under this GAA by posting links to the agreement on the VCCS Transfer Website (<http://www.vccs.edu/students/transfers/>) and the Virginia Education Wizard ([www.vawizard.org](http://www.vawizard.org)).
2. Provide academic advising services to assist VCCS GAA students in choosing courses that will best prepare them to complete the transfer-oriented associate degree.
3. Provide SLU with a summary of research findings and actions related to the VCCS transfer student performance at SLU.

## **Responsibilities of SLU**

1. Disseminate accurate information to prospective transfer students regarding the general conditions of the GAA. Those provisions include the conditions for guaranteed admission conditions of the GAA.
2. Provide academic advising services to GAA students no later than the term prior to transfer to assist these students in making a smooth transition from the community college to SLU.
3. Notify the VCCS representative when situations arise that warrant VCCS faculty and SLU faculty interaction to address advising or curricular issues.
4. Provide tracking data on performance of transfer students at SLU, including credits presented and accepted in transfer, SLU courses attempted and completed, cumulative GPA, major, graduation date from SLU, and comparisons with native students. The specific data elements of the report will be determined by Institutional Research staffs from the VCCS and SLU and provided by July 1 of each year.

## **Responsibilities of the Student**

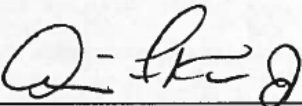
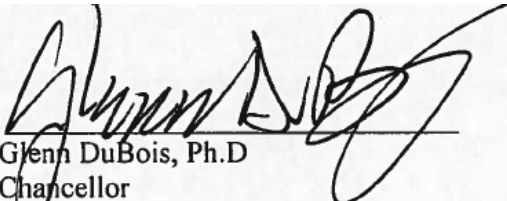
1. Know and understand the requirements for a transfer-oriented associate degree, as well as degree requirements and the specific requirements for the intended major at SLU.
2. Contact the admissions office at SLU to receive guidance in selecting the most applicable courses at the community college (1-855-318-7101).
3. Follow the SLU application and admission processes and timelines.
4. Notify the counselor/advisor at the appropriate community college if participation in the GAA is to be terminated.

**Severability and Termination**

1. *Severability.* If, for any reason, any provision of this agreement is held invalid, all other provisions of this agreement shall remain in effect. If this agreement in whole is held invalid or cannot be enforced, then to the fullest extent permitted by law, any prior agreement between the parties shall be deemed reinstated as if this agreement had not been executed.
2. *Renewal.* SLU 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.
3. *Termination.*
  - a. This agreement may be terminated by either party upon at least ninety (90) days written notice given by either party.
  - b. Termination will not be executed without a negotiated teach-out agreement for students currently enrolled at either institution during effective dates of the agreement.

**Acceptance by Parties**

The parties are committed to the concept of a long-standing agreement. This agreement may be amended when terms are added, deleted, or significantly modified. Amendments must be in writing and may take the form of letters signed by the signatories or their designees. The agreement may be reviewed at any time at the request of either party.

 _____ Arthur F. Kirk, Jr., Ed.D. President Saint Leo University	 _____ Glenn DuBois, Ph.D Chancellor Virginia Community College System
Date <u>4/24/14</u>	Date <u>4-18-14</u>