

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL
EFFECTIVENESS & STUDENT SUCCESS

SPOTLIGHT

CHARTING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH DATA & RESEARCH

TRANSFERS: ACHIEVING A 4-YEAR DEGREE



How much
money can
STUDENTS
SAVE
AT NOVA?



Where do
students
TRANSFER
MOST OFTEN?



Where can
students ask
FOR ADVICE
ABOUT
TRANSFERRING?

FEBRUARY 2018
VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2


NOVA
Northern Virginia
Community College

TRANSFER STUDENTS AT NOVA


NATIONWIDE NUMBERS



7 MILLION
community college students nationwide.¹




8 IN 10
community college students intend to earn a bachelor's degree.²



64%
of students who earned an associate degree subsequently enrolled in a four-year institution within six years.⁵

Tuition and fees at community colleges average only

36%
of the average tuition and fee bill at four-year public colleges.³



49%
of all bachelor's degree graduates attended a community college in the last 10 years.⁴



OVER 40%
of transfers earned a bachelor's degree within six years.⁵

WHY NOVA

NOVA graduates are surveyed each year about their college experience. Many recent graduates highlight the benefits of attending NOVA before transferring to a four-year institution.⁶

"I wasn't ready to attend a four-year university when I graduated high school. NOVA helped me prepare for that and made me feel ready when I transferred."

"I was able to achieve a good education with transferable credits to a four-year university."

"I was able to fulfill a lot of requirements and prerequisites that were then transferred."

"I saved a lot of money, and my general education credits were waived when I transferred."



¹ (2017). Retrieved from National Center for Education Statistics website: <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=372>

² Jenkins, Davis, & Fink, John. (2015). *What We Know About Transfer*. Columbia University, Teachers College, Community College Research Center.

³ Handel, Stephen J., Williams, Ronald A. (2012). *The Promise of the Transfer Pathway: Opportunity and Challenge for Community College Students Seeking the Baccalaureate Degree*. College Board Advocacy & Policy Center.

⁴ (2017). *Snapshot Report: Contribution of Two-Year Institutions to Bachelor's Completions at Four-Year Institutions*. National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.

⁵ (2017). *The Role of Community Colleges in Postsecondary Success: Community Colleges Outcomes Report*. National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.

⁶ (2016, 2017). Comments received via the NOVA Graduate Survey. NOVA Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success.

⁷ (2017). 2015–16 NOVA Transfers. NOVA Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success.

⁸ (2017). Retrieved from Virginia Education Wizard website: <https://www.vawizard.org/wizard/financing-college>

⁹ Retrieved from State Council of Higher Education for Virginia website: http://research.schev.edu/apps/info/CC_Feedback.Northern-Virginia-Community-College.aspx

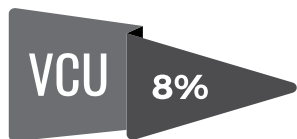
¹⁰ (2016). *Transfer Trends and Patterns Series: Report 2*. NOVA Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success.

BEYOND NOVA

The largest percentage of NOVA transfer students choose to enroll in a public, four-year university in the commonwealth, including:⁷



George Mason University



Virginia Commonwealth University



James Madison University

GUARANTEED ADMISSIONS

NOVA partners with over 50 colleges and universities to offer Guaranteed Admission Agreements (GAAs) to students who meet the pre-determined requirements. Students interested in pursuing a GAA should meet with a transfer counselor at NOVA to discuss options and requirements.

Each institution has unique requirements to qualify for a GAA, but most include:



☐ Earn a C or better in degree-plan courses



☐ Maintain the minimum GPA required by the college where you wish to transfer



☐ Submit a letter of intent



☐ Earn an A.A. or A.S. degree from NOVA

ONLINE RESOURCES

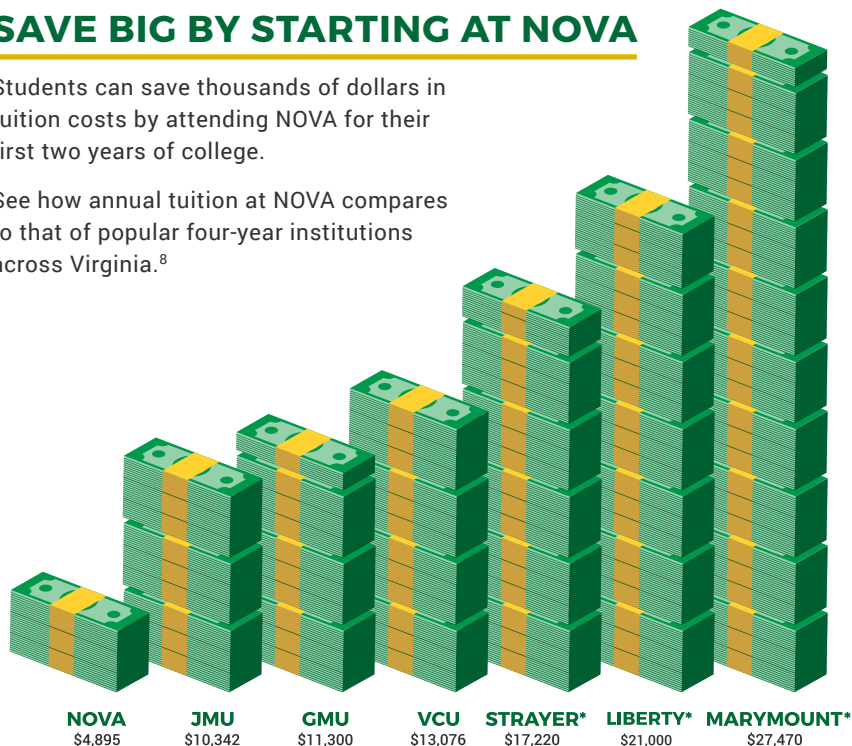
Learn more about GAAs at: <http://www.nvcc.edu/gaa>

View GAAs from partner schools at: <http://www.nvcc.edu/apps/1/transfersearch/gaasearch.aspx>

SAVE BIG BY STARTING AT NOVA

Students can save thousands of dollars in tuition costs by attending NOVA for their first two years of college.

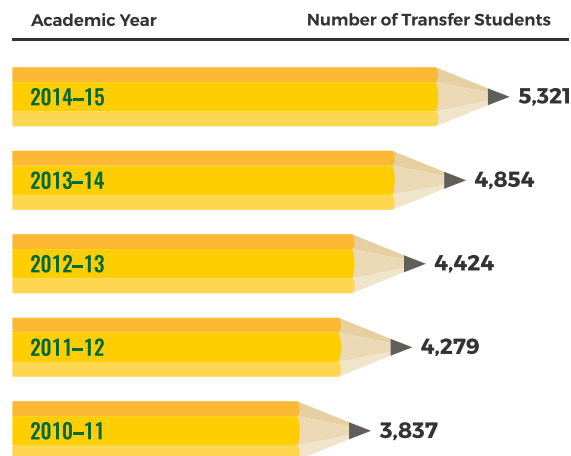
See how annual tuition at NOVA compares to that of popular four-year institutions across Virginia.⁸



*=Private college or university

NOVA TRANSFERS

Thousands of NOVA students transfer to a four-year institution in Virginia every year. That number has been steadily increasing, thanks in part to NOVA's commitment to supporting students who wish to pursue this path.⁹



POPULAR TRANSFER DEGREES

At NOVA's most popular transfer school, George Mason University, many students pursue the following degrees:¹⁰



Applied Information Technology



Accounting



Criminology, Law & Society



Psychology



Nursing

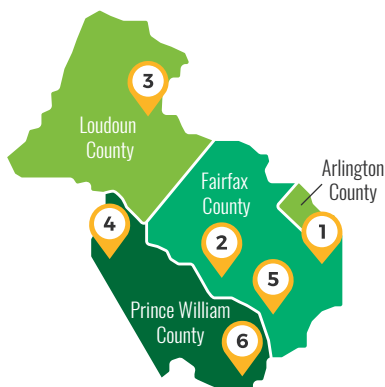
LEARN MORE

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF

NOVA counselors and advisors are available on each campus to help students navigate the transfer process. Counselors and advisors can help students to choose a program of study, explore four-year institutions, and understand the requirements for Guaranteed Admissions Agreements. Additionally, counselors and advisors can help students with course selection and direct students to valuable support services such as tutoring and career advice. Students are encouraged to meet regularly with an advisor throughout their time at NOVA, especially as their academic and/or career plans evolve.

ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES

Counselors are available to help NOVA students navigate their coursework and the transfer process. Hours vary for each campus; visit www.nvcc.edu/advising for details.



- ① **Alexandria:** AA194 (ALCounseling@nvcc.edu)
- ② **Annandale:** CA105 (ANCounseling@nvcc.edu)
- ③ **Loudoun:** LR253 (LOCounseling@nvcc.edu)
- ④ **Manassas:** MH110 (MACouns@nvcc.edu)
- ⑤ **MEC Springfield:** HE202 (MECounselor@nvcc.edu)
- ⑥ **Woodbridge:** WC202 (WOCounseling@nvcc.edu)

SUGGESTED TRANSFER TIMELINE



4 SEMESTERS BEFORE TRANSFERRING

- ☐ Meet with a transfer counselor or advisor to discuss academic programs and majors
- ☐ Browse the Guaranteed Admissions Agreement website to learn more about partner schools and their requirements
- ☐ Familiarize yourself with the general education requirements at the schools where you might want to transfer and take these courses as early as possible



3 SEMESTERS BEFORE TRANSFERRING

- ☐ Continue to meet with your counselor or advisor to stay on track towards graduation
- ☐ Decide on your preferred schools and plan campus visits
- ☐ Stay updated on general education requirements and deadlines for preferred schools
- ☐ Complete a GAA letter of intent, if required



2 SEMESTERS BEFORE TRANSFERRING

- ☐ Submit your admissions application(s) to your preferred school(s)
- ☐ Apply for scholarships, financial aid, and housing (Be sure to look into the [Virginia Two-Year College Transfer Grant](#))
- ☐ Continue enrolling in courses required to transfer



1 SEMESTER BEFORE TRANSFERRING

- ☐ Complete all required coursework in your program or major
- ☐ Apply for graduation
- ☐ Check your MyNOVA account to verify there are no outstanding holds to prevent you from graduating

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