

State College - Community College Joint Admissions Agreement

Joint Admissions Agreement Between the Massachusetts Community College and the Massachusetts State Colleges

Recognizing the importance of a strong coordinated system of higher education to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to the students within the Commonwealth, the nine Massachusetts State Colleges ("State Colleges") and fifteen Massachusetts Community Colleges ("Community Colleges") hereby enter into a Joint Admissions Agreement. The Joint Admissions Agreement seeks, consistent with individual missions, policies and regulations of the participating institutions, to:

- Strengthen the academic and student support partnership between the Massachusetts State Colleges and the Massachusetts Community Colleges.
- Facilitate student access to further public higher education in the Commonwealth.
- Provide barrier-free movement from the associate degree to the baccalaureate degree for students enrolled in public higher education within the Commonwealth.
- Enhance the benefits of the Commonwealth Transfer Compact as well as existing articulation agreements.

In order to achieve these goals, the following Agreement is entered into by the fifteen Massachusetts Community Colleges and the nine State Colleges.

I. Guarantees and Conditions of Joint Admissions

The Joint Admissions program, which shall be implemented beginning with the Fall Term of 1997, is intended to facilitate the transfer of eligible participating students from Massachusetts Community Colleges to the State Colleges upon completion of their associate degree programs and satisfaction of other applicable conditions required under the Joint Admissions program. Students who enroll as freshmen at Massachusetts Community Colleges in a designated transfer program, as well as certain other students identified through this Agreement, are eligible to participate in the Joint Admissions program.

Most students will indicate their desire to participate in the Joint Admissions program at the time that they are applying to the Community College of their choice. Students may also sign up for the Joint Admissions program until the time that they have amassed thirty semester credits towards graduation from the Community College. Those students identified as eligible to participate under the Joint Admissions program are conditionally accepted by the State College of their choice.

In order to satisfy the conditions of admission into the designated State College, participating students must earn a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average (based on a 4.0 scale) and an associate degree in a designated transfer program. Students

selecting Massachusetts College of Art as their designated State College for the Joint Admissions program must also present an art portfolio.

Students who satisfy the requirements of the Joint Admissions program will receive the following guarantees:

- A. Joint Admissions students are guaranteed admission to the State Colleges, and individual school or department, provided they complete a comparable designated transfer program at a Massachusetts Community College and meet the requirements of the Joint Admissions program.
- B. Joint Admissions students are treated without disadvantage at the State Colleges with respect to access to specific majors, registration of courses, applicability of "D" grades, assignment to Junior status, and degree program requirements. Students who wish to be admitted to a major that requires specific courses or grades must meet those requirements.

Although a goal of the Joint Admissions program is to maximize the transfer of credits through appropriate advising and identification of designated transfer programs, participation in the Joint Admissions program does not guarantee, in and of itself, that all course credits earned at a participating Community College will be accepted for transfer by the State Colleges. However, students who satisfy the requirements of the Joint Admissions program and the Commonwealth Transfer Compact will additionally receive the following guarantee:

- Students fulfilling the requirements of both the Joint Admission program and the Commonwealth Transfer Compact are guaranteed the benefits of junior standing and a minimum of 60 transfer credits, including "D" grades if the receiving institution allows those grades to count toward fulfillment of graduation requirements for native students, applied to their degree requirements at the State College. If a student enrolls in a comparable State College degree program and does not subsequently change her/his program, she/he will be required to complete no more than 68 additional credits toward the baccalaureate degree requirements, unless the combination of unfulfilled general education requirements, if any, and the unfulfilled requirements of the student's major at the State College total more than 68 credits.

Further, Joint Admissions students may receive certain guarantees concerning the transfer of credits if they participate in and satisfy the requirements of certain articulation agreements that provide independent course credit guarantees.