

## **The Joint Admissions Agreement (JAA) among R.I.'s State Colleges and University:**

### **THE STUDENT GUIDE**

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Rhode Island College (RIC), the University of Rhode Island (URI), the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) and the Office of Higher Education (RIOHE) have developed the Joint Admissions Agreement (JAA) to improve the transition of students from CCRI to either RIC or URI. This guide introduces the JAA, describes the advantages of participating, and explains how to maximize benefits from the program. Accompanying this guide are answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and additional sources of information. Please note that program requirements may change; students should request the most current copies of the Student Guide and the FAQs which will be revised as needed. Current copies of these documents are available at RI Transfers ([www.ribghe.org/ritransfers.htm](http://www.ribghe.org/ritransfers.htm)). Students who want to participate in this program sign a JAA application form. By signing the JAA application, students indicate that they have read and accept the expectations for students in the Student Guide and agree to the requirements of the program.

### **Description of the Joint Admissions Agreement (JAA)**

The JAA will assist you if you are a first-time college student and your intention is to begin a college education at CCRI then complete your bachelor's degree at RIC or URI.

*The JAA will make the transition from CCRI to RIC or URI more efficient.*

You can be guaranteed admission to RIC or URI by enrolling in the JAA, earning a 2.4 Grade Point Average (GPA), and completing courses listed in a JAA Transition Plan. In addition, by following the plan and through meeting regularly with an advisor regarding matters such as specific program requirements, a total of no less than 60 credits (32 credits of general education requirements plus the remaining credits applied toward the major or electives) will be accepted at RIC or URI and count towards baccalaureate graduation.

#### *Deciding to enroll in the JAA*

If you enter CCRI with an interest in a particular associate's degree, you should speak with an advisor about whether or not a JAA Transition Plan from CCRI to URI and/or RIC exists for that degree program. However, if you do not know yet whether to enroll in the JAA because you haven't decided on your major or on an associate's degree plan to follow, an advisor can help you by suggesting courses that are identified as general education in the Transition Plans. You must remember, though, that until you enroll under the JAA and begin to receive regular advisement through the JAA, the institutions cannot guarantee that all courses taken at CCRI will be accepted and applied toward the bachelor's degree. Although enrollment in the JAA is available before you have earned 30 credits, enrolling early in the JAA is the best guarantee of complete coverage under this agreement.

JAA is a program for first-time college students. Students who earned college credits while enrolled at a regionally accredited postsecondary institution, other than CCRI, are not eligible. However, students who earned college credits while in high school (through dual enrollment, college enrichment, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate programs), and credits earned through CLEP or military training, if less than 30 total credits would be eligible to apply to JAA. Students who attended a postsecondary institution not accredited by a regional accrediting agency and who did not receive transfer credit would be eligible to apply for JAA.

## **Benefits of the JAA**

### *Save time and money*

- The primary benefits of the JAA are the potential savings of time and money through a more efficient transitioning to baccalaureate study. Degree programs typically consist of three types of credit: general education requirements, electives, and program/major requirements. Bachelor's degrees require approximately 120 credits, about a third of which must be earned in a specified general education program. Students enrolled in the JAA are guaranteed that at least 32 credits earned at CCRI will count toward general education credit at RIC or URI. Students who transfer large numbers of elective credits often must take more than the required number of credits to meet baccalaureate graduation requirements. However, under the JAA, a portion of your credits are guaranteed to apply to the major at RIC or URI rather than as elective credits. If you follow the JAA Transition Plan and receive ongoing advisement, you are guaranteed that a total of 60 credits earned at CCRI (including credits applicable to the general education program, major, and transferable electives) will count toward the bachelor's degree at RIC or URI.
- Students enrolling through the JAA do not pay the application fee for RIC or URI.
- Through the Joint Admissions Award for Academic Achievement (JA-AAA) students are eligible for a tuition reduction when they enroll at RIC or URI if they are active participants in the JAA, earn an associate's degree from CCRI, and graduate with at least a 3.0 grade point average (GPA). The amount of the tuition reduction for the first year at URI or RIC depends on the students' CCRI GPA upon graduation. Speak to an advisor or financial aid advisor at the senior institution for more information.

### *Easy-to-follow JAA Transition Plans*

- The JAA Transition Plans are laid out clearly so that students, faculty, and advisors can all see precisely the requirements and options that lead to an associate's degree and, then on to a bachelor's degree.

### *Same access as continuing RIC or URI students to courses and majors*

- When you transition to the baccalaureate institution as a JAA student, you will have the same access, rights, and responsibilities in regard to enrolling in specific majors and access to courses as do students who began their studies at RIC or URI. For example, if

you pay your enrollment deposit by the published deadline, you will be able to pre-register for courses at RIC or URI at the same time as continuing students rather than at a later date when transfer students register. Since students who pre-register early have access to the fullest range of course selections, this feature of the JAA is especially valuable for you.

### *Receive advising at CCRI and at RIC or URI*

- By entering into the JAA, you have the advantage of advisement from CCRI and either RIC or URI. Ongoing, regular advisement at least once a semester while you are a JAA student at CCRI will ensure that you are taking appropriate courses in the correct sequence. The advisors can also provide you with assistance regarding various other academic and career issues that students encounter. You must agree to seek regular, ongoing advisement in order to remain enrolled under the JAA. At CCRI, make an appointment at the Advising and Counseling Center at the campus you attend: in Lincoln, call 401-333-7160; in Newport, call 851-1625; in Providence, call 401-455-6063; and in Warwick, call 401- 825-2301. At RIC, call 401-456-456-8083 or send an email to [jaa@ric.edu](mailto:jaa@ric.edu). At URI, call 401-874-4076 or 401-874-4810, or send an email to [jaa@etal.uri.edu](mailto:jaa@etal.uri.edu).

## **Procedures and Deadlines**

Students who enroll in the JAA must follow a specified procedure. The checklist below should help you understand how to enroll in the JAA, maintain the agreement, and successfully complete a baccalaureate degree. You should engage in the following steps:

### *Enrolling in the JAA*

1. Once you attend CCRI, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the JAA at orientation and at JAA information sessions. Information on the JAA is also available at the Office of Enrollment Services, Advising and Counseling Centers, and the *RI Transfers* Web page ([www.ribghe.org/ritransfers.htm](http://www.ribghe.org/ritransfers.htm)).
2. Send general questions about the JAA to the CCRI JAA Coordinator by email to [jaa@ccri.edu](mailto:jaa@ccri.edu) or by calling 825-2384.
3. You are eligible to sign up for JAA once you have enrolled at CCRI and before you have earned 30 credits of college-level courses (not including developmental courses).
4. The advisors in the Advising and Counseling Centers at CCRI will discuss your transfer options including the JAA program with you. You can sign up for JAA at this advising appointment. They will assist you to select a Transition Plan, choose appropriate courses, and discuss completing a bachelor's degree through the JAA. Make an appointment at the Advising and Counseling Center on the campus you attend: in Lincoln, call 401-333-7160; in Newport, call 851-1625; in Providence, call 401-455-6063; and in Warwick, call 401- 825-2301.

5. Refer to the Transition Plans at the online RI Transfer Guide for Students ([www.ribghe.org/ritransferguide.htm](http://www.ribghe.org/ritransferguide.htm)) or at the RI Transfers Web site ([www.ribghe.org/ritransfers.htm](http://www.ribghe.org/ritransfers.htm)) for the most current versions of the plans.

### *Maintaining the Agreement*

1. As a student enrolled under the JAA, you will have access to advisors at CCRI and at URI or RIC depending on the Transition Plan you choose.
2. See an advisor from CCRI and from RIC or URI each semester to select courses for the next semester and to review any requirements that apply to a particular program, including (but not limited to) grades and prerequisites for courses.
3. To arrange an appointment with an advisor at CCRI to discuss JAA issues contact the Advising and Counseling Center at the campus you attend: in Lincoln, call 401-333-7160; in Newport, call 851-1625; in Providence, call 401-455-6063; and in Warwick, call 401- 825-2301. To contact the RIC JAA advisor, call 401-456-8083 or send an email to [jaa@ric.edu](mailto:jaa@ric.edu). At URI, call 401-874-4076 or 401-874-4810 or send an email to [jaa@etal.uri.edu](mailto:jaa@etal.uri.edu). Contact the CCRI JAA Coordinator by sending an email to [jaa@ccri.edu](mailto:jaa@ccri.edu) or by calling 825-2384.
4. Remember that you will need a 2.4 cumulative GPA to transition successfully to URI or RIC under the JAA.
5. You must complete an associate's degree in one of the specified JAA Transition Plans within five years of officially enrolling in the JAA.

### *Enrolling at RIC or URI*

1. At the beginning of the final semester at CCRI, in preparation for transitioning to RIC or URI through the JAA, make an appointment to meet with your CCRI advisor. Also, make an appointment with the advisor at RIC or URI to review your transcript to ensure all the necessary grades, prerequisite courses, and any other requirements for the particular program at the receiving institution are in place.
2. Fill out the Intent to Enroll form and return it with the enrollment deposit to the admissions office at RIC or URI. Obtain official copies of your CCRI transcript to send to the receiving institution. The CCRI transcript fee is \$2 if requested in person and \$4 if requested online at [www.gettranscript.com](http://www.gettranscript.com).
3. Become familiar with the college or university prior to enrolling. Visit the campus and take a campus tour. You will be invited to an orientation; plan to attend.
4. Fill out the FAFSA application (financial aid form) and check out any grants or scholarships that might apply ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)).

5. Be sure to fill out and submit the Intent to Enroll and financial aid forms by the published dates to ensure eligibility for the same benefits as continuing students.
6. Students must meet all academic and non-academic requirements for enrollment at the baccalaureate institution.

## **Some Policies Relevant to the JAA**

### **Interinstitutional Exchange Program**

Students who have paid full-time tuition at one of the Rhode Island public institutions of higher education can take a maximum of seven credits per semester at another public institution at no additional expense, subject to each institution's own policies. Contact an academic advisor for more information about the Interinstitutional Exchange Program. This policy of the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education allows students to take courses at CCRI, RIC, or URI and become accustomed to the campuses at which they plan to enroll.

### **The Metropolitan Tuition Policy**

RIC students whose permanent place of residence is a Massachusetts community within a 20-mile radius of Providence are eligible for in-state tuition rates plus 50%.

### **Catalog or Program Changes**

The RIC or URI catalog in effect when students enroll in the JAA will be specified in the acceptance agreement, and, in general, that catalog will govern the terms of admission and baccalaureate requirements for a degree from RIC or URI.

If the program changes substantially over five years, the senior institution may not be able to deliver the program as originally expected. In these cases, the senior institution will advise JAA students in a timely manner regarding specific program changes that may affect baccalaureate degree plans. For students who do not maintain continuous enrollment for one or more semesters at RIC or URI, the requirements for a baccalaureate degree will be governed by the catalog in place at the senior institution at the year of re-entry.

As a JAA student, you will be governed by the regulations, requirements, and procedures of CCRI until such time as you enroll at RIC or URI. At such time as you enroll at RIC or URI, you will be governed by the regulations, requirements and procedures of the senior institution. You should check the senior institution's catalog for a full description of all policies that govern enrolled students. Please note that the JAA does not alter existing financial policies; each institution establishes its own rate of tuition, residency requirements for in-state tuition, and availability of financial aid.

## **The Student's Additional Responsibilities**

Senior institutions publish academic requirements for students concerning such matters as grades that must be earned, prerequisite courses required or additional requirements for entry into specific majors. JAA students must meet the same academic requirements as continuing students. In addition to using these publications to determine all requirements, you are responsible for seeking regular, ongoing advisement from CCRI and either URI or RIC.

## Additional Information

Additional information is available to students, parents, and advisors at the following locations:

The *Transfer Guide for Students*. The guide is available online at [www.ribghe.org/transferguide.htm](http://www.ribghe.org/transferguide.htm).

*RI Transfers* at [www.ribghe.org/ritransfers.htm](http://www.ribghe.org/ritransfers.htm).

CCRI, RIC, and URI catalogs are accessible from the institutions' homepages or on the *RI Transfers* Web site.

## Glossary

**Administrative withdrawal:** A student can be administratively withdrawn from the JAA program if it is determined that information on the JAA application pertaining to the student's eligibility was omitted or was inaccurate, or if program requirements are not satisfied.

**College-level credits:** Students are eligible to sign up for JAA before earning 30 college-level credits. Developmental or remedial courses (these courses usually have course numbers that begin with 0) do not count toward the 30 credit eligibility rule.

**Effective term:** The term (semester and year) when a student's five-year clock for completing the associates' degree and Transition Plan begin. The effective date for currently enrolled CCRI students is the date when the JAA plan is signed. For students who sign the JAA application before enrolling at CCRI, the first semester of enrollment at CCRI will be considered as the effective date.

**First-time college students:** Students who are attending CCRI as their first college enrollment.

**Five-year clock:** Students have five years from the effective date to complete the associate's degree and the JAA Transition Plan. Student can have the five-year clock stopped due to medical reasons, military service, or other extraordinary reasons. Students who want to request that the five-year clock be temporarily stopped should discuss the situation with an advisor. The Director of Advising will present the information to the CCRI and RIC or URI JAA Coordinators for approval.

**Transition Plan:** The Transition Plan is the list of courses that students complete at CCRI in order to transition to RIC or URI through JAA. Each Transition Plan is specific to a particular major at RIC or URI in order to transfer and apply the credits towards the bachelor's degree. Students are expected to complete all of the courses or requirements in the JAA Transition Plan unless the RIC or URI JAA advisor approves an exception.

## Student Acknowledgement

I have read and understand *The Joint Admissions Agreement among R.I.'s Colleges and University: The Student Guide*, and the *FAQs* (Frequently Asked Questions).

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*Student's Signature*

*Student's Printed Name*

*Date*

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*CCRI Advisor's Signature*

*Advisor's Printed Name*

*Date*