

Planning on Pursuing a Bachelor's Degree?



Pathways to Success

Florida's higher education system is designed to allow students to successfully pursue a bachelor's degree by first attending a community college and then transferring to a 4-year institution. This approach to earning a 4-year degree is commonly referred to as the **2+2 system**. The state of Florida guarantees that students who complete an AA degree at a community college have the opportunity to enroll in and earn a bachelor's degree at a state university.



Florida policies that help to ease student transfer

The state of Florida established in law a Statewide Articulation Agreement in 1971 and has since adopted a number of additional policies to assist students in smoothly transitioning between community colleges and 4-year colleges and universities. It is important that students who wish to pursue a bachelor's degree through the 2+2 option be aware of these policies as well as their rights as transfer students. Proper planning on the part of the student will ensure that the bachelor's degree is earned in a timely and efficient manner.

Statewide Course Numbering System

The Statewide Course Numbering System facilitates the transfer of students among Florida's postsecondary institutions. Courses that have similar academic content and are taught by faculty with comparable faculty credentials are given the same prefix and number, and are considered to be equivalent courses. By Florida law, an institution accepting a transfer student from another participating institution must award credit for equivalent courses. Credits awarded must satisfy the requirements of the receiving institution as though the student had taken the courses at the receiving institution.

Excluded from this guaranteed transfer are:

- + college preparatory and career and technical preparatory courses;
- + applied courses in the performing arts (dance, interior design, music, studio art, theater);
- + clinical courses in health related areas;
- + skill courses in Criminal Justice;
- + graduate courses;
- + courses with the last three digits ranging from 900 – 999; and,
- + courses not offered at the receiving institution.

General Education Core Requirements

Each state institution has a 36-hour general education program that is uniquely designed to introduce college and university students to the fundamental knowledge, skills, and values that are essential to the study of academic disciplines.

The specific courses that make up the 36-hour general education block vary from one institution to another. **If a student completes the 36-hour general education block** at any community college or state university, it will be accepted in total by any other public institution in Florida and no further courses will be required to meet the general education component.

However, if a student **transfers prior to completing the 36-hour general education requirement**, the student may be required to take additional courses to meet the general education requirement at the receiving college or university.

Therefore, if you must transfer prior to receiving the AA degree, it is strongly recommended that you complete the 36-hour general education block prior to transferring so that you will not have to take additional courses.

Common Prerequisites

Most institutions offering bachelor's degree programs require that specific coursework be completed prior to admission into the program. The amount of coursework varies depending on the program of study. These additional courses are referred to as Common Prerequisites and can be found online at <http://www.facts.org> (under the "advising manuals" tab).

When you decide upon your major, it is important to find out what the prerequisite courses for your program are and plan to complete them as a part of your AA degree. This will prevent you from having to take additional courses to meet the common prerequisites when you get to the 4-year college or university.

"Florida has been a leader in enacting policies that can help you to plan your college coursework and avoid taking excess hours that may delay graduation. Make your college hours count; if you are considering enrolling in a community college, take advantage of the "2+2" program and start along your pathway to success."

—John L. Winn, Commissioner of Education

additional options for pursuing a bachelor's degree in florida

Bachelor's Degrees from Florida's Community Colleges

Florida offers some unique opportunities for earning a bachelor's degree at a community college campus. In most cases, these bachelor's degrees are offered through partnerships with the state universities or an accredited private college or university. The coursework may be offered through traditional classroom instruction at the community college or through distance learning options such as online courses. Go to www.distancelearn.org for more information.

In addition to these partnerships, several community colleges offer their own bachelor's degrees in selected program areas for which there is a high need for employees (i.e., teaching, nursing, and information technology).

You can find information on all the current bachelor's degree programs offered at Florida community colleges by accessing *Community College Bachelor's Degree Programs* at: http://www.fldoe.org/cc/students/bach_degree.asp.

Transfer Agreement with the Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida

Florida's community colleges have a transfer agreement with many of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF). This allows AA degree graduates to transfer into a private college or university with the guarantee that you will enter as a junior, receive at least 60 credit hours toward your bachelor's degree, and receive recognition for the general education core that you have taken at the community college.

Most of the 28 ICUF institutions have recognized this agreement (Go to www.facts.org and click on the "advising manuals" tab to view specifics about the ICUF agreement). For further information visit <http://www.icuf.org>.

Associate in Science to Bachelor's Degree Programs

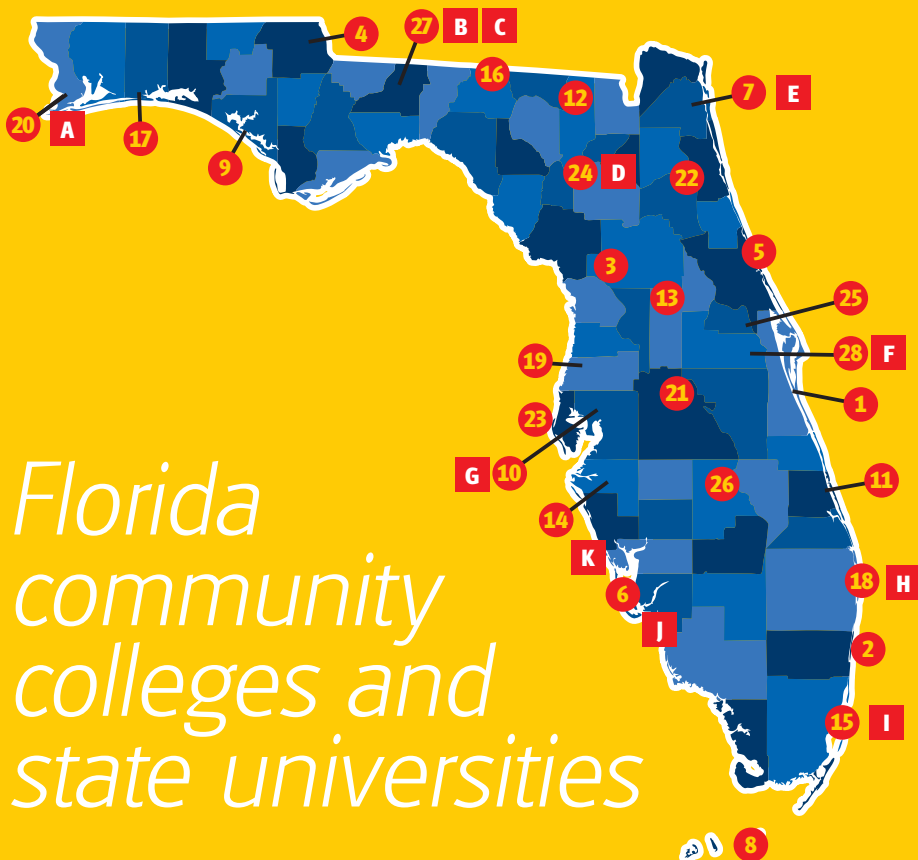
The Associate in Science (AS) degree is the two-year career education degree offered by Florida's community colleges to prepare you for direct entry into the workforce. If you choose to continue your education beyond the AS degree, some programs offer transfer options into a bachelor's degree program. You can find more detail on these options in the *Statewide Articulation Manual* at: <http://www.facts.org> (under the "advising manuals" tab).

* It is important to remember that if you are planning to immediately pursue a bachelor's degree after completing an associate degree, an AA will provide you with the best option for transfer. See your academic advisor to discuss your options.



get involved!

The best way to make a smooth transition when transferring to a new institution is to get involved with academic and student activities. Contact the student activities association at your new college or university for information!



Florida
community
colleges and
state universities

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

1. Brevard Community College, Cocoa
2. Broward Community College, Ft. Lauderdale
3. Central Florida Community College, Ocala
4. Chipola College, Marianna
5. Daytona Beach Community College, Daytona Beach
6. Edison College, Fort Myers
7. Florida Community College at Jacksonville, Jacksonville
8. Florida Keys Community College, Key West
9. Gulf Coast Community College, Panama City
10. Hillsborough Community College, Tampa
11. Indian River Community College, Fort Pierce
12. Lake City Community College, Lake City
13. Lake-Sumter Community College, Leesburg
14. Manatee Community College, Bradenton
15. Miami-Dade College, Miami
16. North Florida Community College, Madison
17. Okaloosa - Walton College, Niceville
18. Palm Beach Community College, Lake Worth
19. Pasco-Hernando Community College, New Port Richey
20. Pensacola Junior College, Pensacola
21. Polk Community College, Winter Haven

22. St. Johns River Community College, Palatka
23. St. Petersburg College, St. Petersburg
24. Santa Fe Community College, Gainesville
25. Seminole Community College, Sanford
26. South Florida Community College, Avon Park
27. Tallahassee Community College, Tallahassee
28. Valencia Community College, Orlando

STATE UNIVERSITIES

- A. University of West Florida, Pensacola
- B. Florida State University, Tallahassee
- C. Florida A & M University, Tallahassee
- D. University of Florida, Gainesville
- E. University of North Florida, Jacksonville
- F. University of Central Florida, Orlando
- G. University of South Florida, Tampa
- H. Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton
- I. Florida International University, Miami
- J. Florida Gulf Coast University, Ft. Myers
- K. New College of Florida, Sarasota

tips for transfer students

Students should meet with their academic advisor to discuss degree requirements and transfer options.

When applying for admission to a state university, transfer students who have not yet completed the AA degree will be evaluated on their high school transcripts as well as their college coursework. Transfer students without an AA degree and less than 60 hours must compete with all entering freshman applicants to the college or university.

It is strongly recommended that a student complete the AA degree prior to transferring. If this is not possible, students are encouraged to at least complete the 36-hour general education block at their initial institution.

Students who have entered a community college with a "CPT-eligible" certificate of completion must complete the AA degree before transferring to a 4-year institution.

Students should check with the transfer services office at the college or university to which they are transferring to obtain information relating to transfer policies, financial aid opportunities, and other available assistance.

Students wishing to receive accommodations for a disability have a responsibility to inform the disability services center at the 4-year institution. A student with a disability may be eligible for a special admission review under Section 1007.265, Florida Statutes.

A special admission review may apply if documentation can be provided that failure to meet an admission requirement is related to the disability and failure does not constitute a fundamental alteration in the nature of the program. Contact the admissions director for more information.

resources

The Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students (FACTS.org) online statewide advising system offers a variety of services for high school and college students. FACTS.org offers free access to online advising tools that help students clarify career interests, identify college degrees and programs, complete online admissions applications, and learn about general education requirements and classes that should be taken. Other valuable online resources allow students to retrieve high school and college grades and transcripts, financial aid applications and information, and assistance in transferring. Students can log on to **www.FACTS.org** to:

- + Access advising manuals including the Common Prerequisite Manual, Statewide Articulation Manual, and the ICUF Articulation Manual.
- + Request a Degree Audit, comparing a student's transcript to degree requirements at Florida colleges, identifying courses needed to complete a degree.
- + Produce a 2+2 Transfer Evaluation that compares a student's academic transcript from a community college with the requirements for selected degree programs at Florida Universities, allowing students and advisors to identify the completed courses that satisfy requirements when transferring to university degree programs.

Ready for College? Need Money?

Nelnet is awarding **\$25,000** in scholarships to Florida high school seniors. Just go online and register...it's that easy.

www.nelnet.net/collegeplanning

While online check out these other **free** tools and resources:

- Scholarship searches and giveaways
- College and university searches
- FAFSA assistance
- Financial aid options and comparisons
- Budgeting and expense calculators
- ACT and SAT test preparation tools
- College Planning Counselors

For more information

visit www.nelnet.net/collegeplanning.

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College Planning

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what if I have problems or questions related to transfer?

Prior to contacting the Department of Education, the student should pursue all available appeal options at the college level. The student should keep a copy of all correspondence and a log of all telephone contacts. If the denial is upheld at the university level and there is still a question of potential violation of the Articulation Agreement, the student may contact the Office of Articulation for assistance. The Office of Articulation, in consultation with the Articulation Coordinating Committee, will review and attempt to resolve all student transfer difficulties.

**Florida Department of Education,
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Florida Department of Education