

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

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) for Students

1. What is the Joint Admissions Agreement (JAA)?

The Joint Admissions Agreement (JAA) allows you, as a CCRI student, to enroll in the JAA and be admitted conditionally to RIC or URI. By enrolling in the JAA and successfully completing all of the program requirements including a JAA Transition Plan, and earning a 2.4 Grade Point Average (GPA), you will earn 60 credits that will be applied toward the bachelor's degree in a specified program. The JAA is a curriculum document, not a financial document; you must speak to the financial aid office at RIC or URI to get information on tuition, eligibility for in-state tuition, and financial aid. Although students may transfer among the public institutions in a variety of ways, the purpose of the JAA is to facilitate the transition from the associate's degree at CCRI to the bachelor's degree at either RIC or URI.

2. What are the benefits of enrolling under the JAA?

If you enroll in the JAA with the intent to transfer to RIC or URI and complete an associate's degree at CCRI in one of the designated transition plan programs, you will:

- Earn 60 credits that will be applied toward your baccalaureate degree program at RIC or URI.
- Gain the benefits of advisement from CCRI and from RIC or URI while you are a student at CCRI.
- Register for courses at the same time as other students at RIC or URI who have the same number of credits.
- Not be required to pay the admission application fee at URI or RIC.
- Receive invitations to a special orientation and other events on the URI or RIC campus.
- Gain eligibility for the Joint Admissions Award for Academic Achievement if your grade point average (GPA) is 3.0 or higher when you graduate from CCRI.

3. Who can participate?

CCRI students are eligible to sign up for the JAA if the following criteria are met:

- You plan to transfer to RIC or URI.
- You declare General Studies as your major at CCRI.
- You know the major you want at RIC or URI and there is a valid Transition Plan for that major. Go to RI Transfers (www.ribghe.org/ritransfers.htm) and click on JAA Transition Plans for the most current list of majors.

- Please note that residency requirements and tuition rates are established by CCRI, RIC, and URI, and you should discuss these matters with a financial aid advisor.
- To be eligible you must sign the JAA application before earning 30 college-level credits (including credits earned while in high school from dual enrollment, college enrichment, IB, or AP, from CLEP, or military training).
- 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.

4. How can I get information about the JAA?

- Once you attend CCRI, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the JAA at orientation and at JAA information sessions.
- Contact the CCRI JAA Coordinator by sending email to jaa@ccri.edu or by calling 825-2384.
- Information on the JAA is also available at the Office of Enrollment Services, Advising and Counseling Center, and the *RI Transfers* Web page (www.ribghe.org/ritransfers.htm).

5. What if I have questions about JAA?

- Ask general questions about JAA by sending email to the CCRI JAA Coordinator at jaa@ccri.edu or by calling 825-2384.
- Contact the Advising and Counseling Center at any Community College of Rhode Island campus. Call to make an appointment to speak with an advisor at the CCRI campus you attend: in Lincoln, call 401-333-7160; in Newport, call 401-851-1625; in Providence, call 401-455-6063; and in Warwick, call 401 825-2301.
- Contact the RIC JAA advisor, by calling 401-456-8083 or by sending an email to jaa@ric.edu and the URI JAA advisors, by calling 401-874-4076 or 401-874-4810 or by sending an email to jaa@etal.uri.edu.

6. What steps do I take to participate?

- Make an appointment to discuss JAA and other transfer options by contacting the Advising and Counseling Center at the CCRI campus you attend: in Lincoln, call 401-333-7160; in Newport, call 401-851-1625; in Providence, call 401-455-6063; and in Warwick, call 401 825-2301.
- Advisors have the JAA applications and you can fill out an application when you have your advising meeting. Complete the JAA application form and return it to the CCRI Office of Enrollment Services. Students who enroll under the agreement will receive a letter of acceptance to confirm enrollment.

- Sign the last page of the Student Guide and return it to the Advising and Counseling Center.
- Obtain and keep all of the JAA documents and information including: a copy of your Transition Plan, the Student Guide, and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). This information is accessible online at RI Transfers (www.ribghe.org/ritransfer.htm).
- Follow the requirements of the JAA to ensure the maximum number of credits will be applied toward the bachelor's degree when you transfer.

7. When should I apply for the JAA?

You can apply for the JAA once you have enrolled at CCRI and before you have earned 30 credits. In order to guarantee that you will receive 60 credits applicable to the bachelor's degree, you must complete the requirements of the JAA and one of the Transition Plans. The earlier that you sign up, the greater the likelihood that you will not accumulate excess credit not applicable to the bachelor's degree. However, the associates' degree must be completed within five years from the date that you sign the application. If you are undecided on attending RIC or URI, or what Transition Plan you want to follow, or you are taking developmental courses or attending part-time, you should discuss with your advisor when to sign up for JAA.

8. What are the requirements to maintain eligibility for the Joint Admissions Agreement?

- Meet with a CCRI **and** a URI or RIC advisor **every semester** to choose courses that fulfill the requirements for the JAA Transition Plan at CCRI. Attending JAA Days is a convenient way to meet with your RIC or URI advisor. 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. For the RIC JAA advisor, call 401-456-8083 or send an email to jaa@ric.edu. For the URI JAA advisors, call 401-874-4076 or 401-874-4810 or send an email to jaa@etal.uri.edu.
- You must earn an associate's degree by completing one of the specified JAA Transition Plans within five years of officially enrolling in the JAA.
- You must graduate from CCRI with a grade point average (GPA) of 2.4 or higher to gain admission into RIC or URI.
- You must submit an official CCRI transcript, the Intent to Enroll form, and an enrollment deposit to URI or RIC by the published deadline.
- You must meet all academic and non-academic requirements for enrollment at the baccalaureate institution.

9. How do I know which programs are included in the JAA?

The most current listing of the JAA Transition Plans can be found on the *RI Transfers* Web site (www.ribghe.org/ritransfers.htm) and in the online edition of the Transfer Guide for Students (www.ribghe.org/transferguide.htm).

10. What if I want to participate in the JAA, but I haven't decided on my intended major?

If you are thinking about different areas that interest you and have not decided on a major, then you are not yet ready to sign up for the JAA. But remember that you are eligible to sign up for JAA before you earn 30 credits. Ask your advisors at CCRI for specific recommendations on which general education courses to take while you are deciding. By beginning with your general education requirements, you can sample a variety of subject areas and have time to consider which subjects you would enjoy learning more about. You can talk to the career counselor at CCRI about aptitude and interest testing that may give you direction in choosing a major. With the help of the advisors, you can choose courses that interest you, and these courses can become the basis of a major or a minor when you go to URI or RIC. When you decide on your major, ask your advisor if a Transition Plan exists for that major.

11. If I need to take developmental courses before beginning college-level courses, when should I sign up for the JAA?

Complete the developmental course requirements first and then decide on a JAA Transition Plan before signing up for the JAA. Remember you can earn up to 30 credits of college-level courses before you have to sign up for the JAA.

12. What if I decide to change from one JAA Transition Plan to another while at CCRI or change majors once I transition to RIC or URI?

If you change from one JAA Transition Plan to another at CCRI or change majors once you transition to RIC or URI, the courses that you took under the first plan would be evaluated to see if they could be applied to requirements in the new major, to general education requirements, or to elective credit within the degree program. It is likely that you will need to take additional courses to meet the requirements of the new Transition Plan and major. Remember, however, that to maintain your eligibility under the JAA and receive the benefits of this program, you would have to choose another major that has a JAA Transition Plan.

13. What if I don't know whether I want to attend URI or RIC to complete the bachelor's degree?

Because the JAA Transition Plans and the general education programs are specific to RIC or to URI, you need to decide on your major and where you plan to attend for the bachelor's degree before signing up for the JAA. Since you are eligible to apply for JAA before earning 30 credits, you should speak to your advisor at CCRI about taking general education courses that would be applicable to either RIC or URI while you consider where you want to transfer. Remember, the earlier that you decide on your Transition Plan and on attending RIC or URI, the greater the chance of completing your bachelor's degree without excess credits and possibly additional costs.

14. What if there are additional admission requirements or a waiting list to enter a specific program at RIC or URI?

You must meet the requirements for admission into specific majors that are established for all students. These requirements could include preparing a portfolio of work, earning a GPA higher than 2.4 (the minimum to transition under the JAA), or another requirement. Under the JAA, if you wish to enter a program that is full, you are considered to be on the waiting list from the date you sign the agreement. You should contact the RIC or URI JAA advisor upon first enrolling in the JAA to determine if there are additional program or degree requirements.

15. What if I enroll under the Joint Admissions Agreement and decide to transfer to a college or university other than RIC or URI?

The JAA Transition Plans include many general education courses which may transfer to another college or university. However, each institution decides on the acceptance of credit. To ensure that credits will transfer, after selecting an institution for transfer speak to an admissions advisor at that institution as soon as possible.

16. Does my financial aid automatically continue when I transition to RIC or URI?

No, you still need to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. To determine what financial aid is available and receive answers to questions regarding tuition, make an appointment with a financial aid advisor at RIC or URI as soon as possible. Please be sure that you submit the FAFSA form by the deadline for transfer students.

17. Will my tuition change when I transition from CCRI to RIC or URI?

Yes, your tuition will change. The CCRI tuition rate, residency rules (eligibility for in-state tuition), and financial aid award do not carry over to URI or RIC. Each higher education institution establishes the rate of tuition, the availability of financial aid, and the policy on who qualifies for in-state tuition. It is important for you to consult with a financial aid officer at RIC or URI about questions in regard to tuition.

18. Do I have to enroll under the Joint Admissions Agreement if I want to complete a bachelor's degree at RIC or URI?

You can transfer to RIC or URI without being enrolled in JAA. If you don't enroll under the Joint Admissions Agreement, you would follow the regular procedures established by URI or RIC in accordance with the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education (RIBGHE) policy for transfer student admission. Make an appointment with an advisor in Advising and Counseling to discuss your transfer options. You can see how specific courses or programs transfer by looking at the current Transfer Guide for Students (www.ribghe.org/transferguide.htm).

19. If I am enrolled in the JAA and decide to transition to RIC or URI before earning the associate's degree at CCRI, what happens?

To earn all of the benefits available from enrollment under the JAA, you are required to complete the associate's degree and a JAA Transition Plan. However if you transfer before earning an associate's degree, all of the courses that you successfully completed at CCRI will be evaluated for transfer into your degree program at RIC or URI.

20. As a JAA student, can I use services available to students at RIC or URI while I am a student at CCRI?

As a JAA student you would be able to access some services at RIC or at URI at the discretion of the institutions. For example, access to the university or college library is available to all Rhode Island residents. Eligibility to live in campus residences and participate in campus health care while enrolled at CCRI are not included in the JAA agreement. If you are interested in accessing other services at RIC or URI, contact the JAA advisor at that institution for a list of the services that are available to JAA students. JAA students will be charged fees for all services that also require the payment of fees by RIC or URI students.

21. Can I participate in the JAA if I have earned credit from another college, AP, CLEP, military training, college courses in high school, or another source?

You can participate in JAA if you have earned credits from dual enrollment, college courses taken in high school, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, CLEP or military training as long as you sign the JAA application before you have earned a total of 30 credits. However, if you have earned credit at another accredited college, even if you do not plan to transfer the credit, you are not eligible for JAA.

22. Are there any special financial aid benefits for JAA students who graduate with a CCRI GPA of 3.0 or higher?

Yes! Academically successful CCRI students who are enrolled in the JAA are entitled to a tuition reduction (tuition only, not fees) through the Joint Admissions Award for Academic Achievement (JA-AAA) when they enroll at RIC or URI. To qualify for the JA-AAA, students must complete JAA and institutional requirements, 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:

- A CCRI GPA of 3.0 results in a 10% reduction
- A CCRI GPA of 3.25 results in a 20% reduction
- A CCRI GPA of 3.5 or above results in a 30% reduction

Students who earn and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA while at RIC or URI can renew the tuition reduction for a second or third year. If the GPA earned at RIC or URI is 3.0, but not as high as at CCRI, the amount of the tuition waiver may be reduced according to the criteria outlined above. Consult an advisor or financial aid officer at the senior institution for more information.