TRANSFER PATH CHECKLIST

Preparing for transfer and working towards a bachelor's degree can be confusing but it doesn't have to be. Vernon College has put together a detailed checklist to help guide you along your path at VC and beyond! Research shows that it's important to:

- Make and follow your degree plan
- Balance your school and personal responsibilities
- Know what college costs and get financial support
- Find your campus community



VERNON COLLEGE
VERNON - WICHITA FALLS

TRANSFER PATH CHECKLIST 0-15 HOURS

FOLLOW YOUR DEGREE PLAN

- [ ] Meet with your Student Success Specialist (SSS) to create a degree plan based on the career or major of your interest.
- [ ] If you are unsure about what you want to study, explore Career Coach. You may also speak with your SSS who can help direct you.
- [ ] Think about taking EDUC1100, Learning Frameworks. It is our college success class and helps meet a core curriculum requirement.
- [ ] Learn what the average salaries are for occupations you are interested in.
- [ ] Start at the VC Homepage and review the options listed for your time here: "Take Courses for Transfer", "Start Your Career", and "Need Help Deciding?".
- [ ] Look at the list of Core Requirements for transfer degrees.
- [ ] Visit our Transfer Center webpage for more important transfer information.

BALANCE SCHOOL AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- [ ] Keep in mind that students are expected to spend 2 hours of study time for every 1 hour in class!
- [ ] Think about when and how many classes to take based on your home and work schedules. Determine which modality (Face-to-Face, online, hybrid) works best for you.
- [ ] Campus jobs are available! Check with Financial Aid for work study options.
- [ ] Need books? Ask your instructors about open education resources (OER). Connect with New Beginnings to see if you are eligible for available resources.

KNOW WHAT COLLEGE COSTS AND GET FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- [ ] Visit the VC Transfer Center website to find transfer scholarships with partner institutions and our top transfer schools.
- [ ]
  - Complete a Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to secure financial aid EVEN IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU QUALIFY.
- [ ] Apply for VC Scholarships, find and apply for external scholarships through scholarships.com, Fastweb, and other websites.
- [ ] Remember expenses beyond tuition such as books, food, housing, transportation, and childcare.

FIND YOUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY

- [ ] Find your "trusted people" on campus who are invested in your transfer success- an instructor, SSS, peer, or other staff member.
- [ ] Get involved in a student club to build community with other students and follow Vernon College on social media.

"SUCCESS IS FOCUSING THE FULL POWER OF ALL YOU ARE ON WHAT YOU HAVE A BURNING DESIRE TO ACHIEVE."
– WILFRED PETERSON

TRANSFER PATH CHECKLIST 15-45 HOURS

FOLLOW YOUR DEGREE PLAN

- [ ] Choose a major; keep in mind which popular programs might be hard to access and if there are options that still meet your interests and needs.
- [ ] Meet with your SSS to develop a comprehensive degree plan that fully maps out all courses required for transfer.
- [ ] Check with a faculty member in your program area for advice on course requirements needed for your major.
- [ ] Attend Vernon College's transfer fairs to learn about university options and resources to help you decide which university might be the best fit for you and your interests. Check the Transfer Center website for more information.
- [ ] Some schools have guaranteed transfer programs. Research your top university choices to see if they have this and the requirements.
- [ ] Verify which major requirements (i.e. Calculus for Engineering) you need to complete and make sure you are taking those classes.
- [ ] Find ways to "try out" your major through internships, job shadows, or mentorships, etc.

BALANCE SCHOOL AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- [ ] When looking at potential schools, think about location. If you move, how comfortable are you with the distance from home? If you stay local, can you handle transportation to and from school?
- [ ] Consider universities with online or hybrid course options, regional or extension centers close to home, and campus supports for working/caregiving students.
- [ ] Bring your family to speak with a visiting school representative when they visit on the VC campus. It's important that they understand your commitment and how they can best support you!

KNOW WHAT COLLEGE COSTS AND GET FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- [ ] Ask a Financial Aid staff member about restrictions and how to make sure you qualify for federal and state (if applicable) student aid after you transfer.
- [ ] Want to know what a specific school costs? Use CollegeSource.org to see what tuition and fees are for institutions.
- [ ] Learn about different types of financial assistance (including Pell & loans) available for colleges and universities at Federal Student Aid and My Texas Future.
- [ ] Create a financial aid plan using this guide to simplify and compare information about costs and financial aid for different schools.

FIND YOUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY

- [ ] Continue to participate in clubs, and events that provide transfer information.
- [ ] Regularly connect with your "trusted people" on campus about their own college journey- including mistakes they made, lessons they learned, and advice they'd give you about transferring.
- [ ] Connect with your SSS and faculty in your program and ask about major specific advice, including additional opportunities on-campus and in the community to explore your program.

TRANSFER PATH CHECKLIST
45-60 HOURS

FOLLOW YOUR DEGREE PLAN

- [ ] Complete all courses mapped out on your Degree Plan for transfer in your major for your school of choice.
- [ ] If you are still deciding between schools, visit College Navigator to compare up to three different schools at once to finalize your transfer choice. Check the VC Transfer website for information.
- [ ] Continue to pay attention to your GPA. If you are not doing well in class, meet with your instructor or SSS right away.
- [ ] Meet with your SSS to make sure you have completed all requirements.
- [ ] Walk through acceptance and/or denial letters with your advisor or SSS.
- [ ] Determine the specific steps you need to take when you accept admission to a school. Make a plan for meeting all deadlines, submitting all forms, and information required for admission and enrollment.
- [ ] Ask school representatives whom to contact with questions or concerns in the period between accepting and enrolling.

BALANCE SCHOOL AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- [ ] Consider which schools best meet your needs and unique life circumstances (i.e. transportation, financial supports, childcare).

KNOW WHAT COLLEGE COSTS AND GET FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- [ ] Update your financial plan.
- [ ] Ask your advisor/SSS to walk through your award letters so you can understand what they mean and what to do next.
- [ ] Ask school representatives:
  - [ ] What on-campus and off-campus resources are available to help students with food, housing, childcare, technology, transportation, mental health, and healthcare.
  - [ ] What on-campus employment opportunities exist that can help you meet your basic needs and support you in enrolling full-time.

FIND YOUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY

- [ ] Ask school representatives how to connect with alumni from your community college who transferred and get tips for how to make a successful transition.
- [ ] Inquire about and sign up for orientation, summer bridge programs, and/or special opportunities and events at your school that are designed to support and connect transfer students.

"TODAY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE YESTERDAY'S IMPOSSIBILITIES."
– ROBERT H. SCHULLER

THINGS TO DO NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE IN YOUR TRANSFER JOURNEY...

STAY CONNECTED AND INFORMED

- Log into your VC student platforms:
  - Email
  - Canvas
  - MyVC
- Follow Vernon College and schools of interest on social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.).
- Regularly check VC's Transfer Center website for important information, transfer scholarships, and school representative visits.

IF YOU GET OFF THE PATH, IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO GET BACK ON!

Do you have 60+ hours but are unsure of your transfer plans?
Did you leave Vernon College before completing your transfer requirements?

You have worked hard! Setup an appointment with a Student Success Specialist for a graduation check. Ask them to help you determine what Core (general education) and major preparation requirements you still need to complete and when you will be ready to apply to a four-year school. Establish a plan for getting back on a path toward your bachelor's degree!

"YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO SET ANOTHER GOAL OR TO DREAM A NEW DREAM."
– C.S. LEWIS

GET HELP!

Many people encounter challenges during their educational journey. Help is available! If you're struggling in school, personal life, or having difficulty meeting all of your responsibilities:

- Come to the Office of Student Success and speak with a SSS. Someone is always available during our office hours.
- Email your instructors and go to their office hours for one-on-one assistance and/or tutoring.
- Visit the Tutoring Center, use NetTutor (available on Canvas) and/or form a study group.
- If you have a problem you don't know how to solve, ask your advisor, SSS, or trusted staff member.
- If dealing with anxiety, stress or other mental health challenges, visit the Mental Health Resources website.
- If you have problems accessing MyVC, Canvas, or Email, submit the appropriate help ticket before you login.
- Talk with your advisor, SSS or other support staff about how to address family or work issues that are making school difficult.
- Ask your "trusted people" about on-campus and community resources to help with food insecurity, housing, childcare, technology, transportation, clothing and/or other emergency aid and emergency events.