



**Richard Bland College**  
of WILLIAM & MARY

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY & RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE HONORS TRANSFER PROGRAM**

**THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**, dated as of [DATE], between **VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY** ("VSU" or the "UNIVERSITY"), an educational institution, public body and instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Virginia, located at 1 Hayden Drive, Virginia State University, Virginia 23806, and **RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE** ("RBC" or "College") a public two-year college and instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Virginia located at 11301 Johnson Road, Prince George, Virginia 23805, hereby enter into an agreement to implement an Honors Transfer Program effective in Summer 2020

WHEREAS, Virginia State University, the nation's first publically funded historically black land-grant institution, seeks to formalize a relationship with **Richard Bland College** in support of its mission of higher education and in support of establishing an honors transfer program between the party institutions; and

WHEREAS, the goal is to have graduates of Richard Bland College with an Associate Degree and 12 credit hours of Honors courses or "RBC Honors Distinction" listed on their diploma may transfer directly into the Virginia State University (VSU) Honors College as Track II Honors Scholars, due to a special arrangement between the two institutions.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual commitments and benefits herein contained, and other good and valuable consideration, the parties agree as follows:

#### **A. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADMISSION INTO THE VSU HONORS COLLEGE AS A TRACK II HONORS SCHOLAR, RBC STUDENTS MUST:**

- a. Complete an Associate of Arts (AA) or a transfer-oriented Associate of Science (AS) degree at
- b. Earn "RBC Honors Distinction" based on 12 credits of honors courses completed with a GPA of 3.50 or better.
- c. Present a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50 (4.0 scale) upon application to VSU and upon graduation from RBC.

1. If a student has attended multiple institutions, they must have earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50 on a 4.0 scale at RBC and all previous institutions.
2. All work attempted at RBC and any other institution(s) attended will be included in the GPA considered by VSU. The only exception is that, in compliance with VSU policy, a student is allowed to repeat up to two different courses where the initial grade earned will not be included in the grade point average calculation. A student who has repeated more than two courses is not eligible to apply to VSU through the Guaranteed Admission Agreement but is eligible to apply through the traditional transfer admissions process.
- d. Eligible transfer students must provide transcripts from all institutions attended.
- e. VSU will evaluate credit granted by Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Cambridge International examinations for possible credit; such credit will be granted only if examination scores meet established VSU criteria in place at the time the student enrolls. VSU does not evaluate, or grant credit for, College Level Examination Program (CLEP) examinations.
- f. Be admitted to VSU
- g. Meet with the academic advisor of the VSU Honors College.

**B. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE FOLLOWING:**

1. VSU Honors will recognize 12 honors credits completed in RBC Honors and apply them as 12 credits of electives in honors courses at VSU.
2. RBC transfer candidates in Honors Track II must complete 12 additional credits at VSU, including 6 credits of Honors seminars and a 6-credit Honors capstone project. These courses are described on the VSU Honors College website (<https://www.VSU.edu/honors>).
3. If any of the requirements imposed on VSU Honors Track II students are modified subsequent to the signing of this MOU, RBC transfer students will be held to the revised requirements. Any RBC transfer student accepted into the VSU Honors Program under this agreement shall be bound by the requirements in effect at the time of acceptance.
4. This MOU shall commence on July 1, 2020, with the intent to admit the first students in August 2020 or as soon thereafter as administratively possible.
5. Students who did not complete the RBC Honors curriculum may still be admitted to VSU Honors on a case-by-case basis.

**C. BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE:**

1. RBC transfer students who are admitted to VSU Track II Honors will be eligible for the following:
  - a. graduation as Honors Scholars,

- b. Honors distinction on students' transcript,
  - c. participation in all VSU Honors activities, events, organizations,
  - d. residence in upper-class housing (as available under VSU Office of Residence Life transfer housing contract),
  - e. priority registration,
  - f. extended library checkout periods, and
  - g. access to the Honors computer lab and lounge in Hillcrest House.
- D. **NOTICE OF CHANGE OR TERMINATION:** Either institution may withdraw from this MOU by notifying the other no less than one academic year before the intended date of termination. No further admissions shall be made under this MOU after such notice is given, but students already admitted to VSU will be allowed to transfer into the VSU Honors College.
- E. **ENFORCEABILITY:** The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement or any covenant in it shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision or covenant in it and the invalid provision or covenant shall be deemed to be severed.
- F. **MODIFICATION OF AGREEMENT.** This Agreement may be supplemented, amended, or modified only by the mutual agreement of the parties. No supplement, amendment, or modification of this Agreement shall be binding unless it is in writing and signed by all parties.
- G. **ACCOUNTABILITY:** By May 2021, representatives from both institutions will meet and write a joint status report, including recommendations for the future of the Honors Transfer Degree Program.
- H. **NOTICES:** Wherever in this Agreement it shall be required or permitted that notice be given or served by either party to or on the other, the notice shall be in writing and shall be delivered personally to the party to whom it is given or sent by prepaid, registered mail, addressed as follows:

Mary Gurnick  
Acting Director of Academics  
Richard Bland College  
11301 Johnson Road  
Prince George, VA 23805  
804-862-6253  
[mgurnick@rbc.edu](mailto:mgurnick@rbc.edu) |

Kawachi Clemons, Ph.D.  
Assistant Vice President Academic and Student Affairs  
Virginia State University  
1 Hayden Drive  
Virginia State University, VA 23806  
804-524-3063  
[kclemons@vsu.edu](mailto:kclemons@vsu.edu)


Each such notice shall be deemed proper after three (3) business days after mailing in the case of mail and two hours after the time of transmission in the case of facsimile or email transmission. This address and/or facsimile numbers or email addresses may be changed from time to time by either party by notice as above provided.

- I. **INTERPRETATION:** This Agreement constitutes all of the agreements between the parties pertaining to the subject matter of it and supersedes all prior agreements, undertakings, negotiations and discussions, whether oral or written, of the parties to it and there are no warranties, representations or other agreements between the parties to it in connection with the subject-matter of it except as specifically set forth or referred to in this Agreement. No waiver of any other provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed or shall constitute a continuing waiver unless expressly provided.

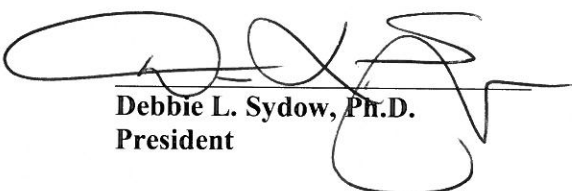
Headings are not to be considered part of this Agreement, and are included solely for convenience of reference and are not intended to be full or accurate descriptions of the contents of any section. In this Agreement, words importing the singular number include the plural and vice versa, words importing the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter genders; and words importing persons include individuals, and proprietors, corporations, partnerships, trusts and unincorporated associations.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have each caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be executed in their respective names and certify that each has the authority to execute this Agreement.

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

  
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**Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D.**  
**President**

**RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE**

  
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**Debbie L. Sydow, Ph.D.**  
**President**