



**Your Student's College
Experience Starts Soon.**

VALENCIA**COLLEGE**

Start Right

At Valencia College, we know a strong start is essential to a great college experience. That's why we've designed a New Student Experience to help your student start their college journey with confidence.

- ✓ New Student Orientation to make personal connections with Valencia College students, staff and faculty.
- ✓ Required attendance so your student can start learning the first day of class.
- ✓ Grade of C or better required in key classes.



Choosing a Degree

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS

The freshman and sophomore year of a bachelor's degree program, the A.A. will prepare your student to pursue a bachelor's degree, either at Valencia College, by transferring with guaranteed admission* to one of Florida's 12 public universities or by transferring to another public or private university. The A.A. degree can be completed in as little as two years (full-time) or four years (part-time).

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

This degree program will provide your student with the knowledge and skills to go directly into the workforce. A Student Success Coach can also provide guidance on how they can earn a bachelor's degree program at Valencia College or another Florida state college if your student decides to earn a bachelor's degree in the future.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE/BACHELOR OF APPLIED SCIENCE

The B.S. and B.A.S. degrees will prepare your student to enter a specialized field. These degrees can be completed in as little as four years (full-time) or longer if your student attends part-time.

Champion Your Student

- 1 Empower your student to become independent.
- 2 Help your student set aside time to read, study and do homework - two hours for every one hour in class.
- 3 Help your student pay attention to deadlines-they're important.
- 4 Provide support and encouragement when assignments get tough, often during the middle of the semester and exam time.
- 5 College promotes personal growth. Your student will encounter new ideas and gain new skills and grow as a result. Ask your student what he or she is learning.

*Consistent with university policy.



Student Success Coaching

Students often need support learning how to navigate college. Valencia College Success Coaches help students select the right academic pathway, explore career options, and develop a plan to get there.

And they are here to help your student—not just find the right path, but also develop the skills they need to get to their destination.

- [Degree Pathways](#)
- [Degree Audit](#)
- [Student Success Guide – Associate in Arts](#)
- [Student Success Guide – Associate in Science](#)



valenciacollege.edu/advising



MyVC is the student and staff Engagement Hub for Valencia College

- Your student can:
 - Access email, courses and academic support.
- Manage tasks and calendars.
- Keep updated on announcements and alerts relevant to you, search staff, peers, systems, groups, posts, resources and more.
- Connect with departments, services, organizations and peers stay focused on your most important to -dos.
- View personalized resources and content.

[VC email](#) is the official and primary method of communication between Valencia College and your student.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

- Federal law protects student educational information. Only students have access to their education record.
- Students who want their parents to have access must sign the Student Consent to Release form, which must be specific about content and length of time.
- A FERPA waiver does not allow a parent to conduct business on behalf of the student.

valenciacollege.edu/FERPA

Important Dates

- 1 Proof of Florida Residency Deadline
- 2 Fee Payment Deadline
- 3 First Day of Class
- 4 Drop/Refund Deadline
- 5 Course Withdrawal Deadline



Insider's Guide

The Inside Scoop on College Lingo

A.A. DEGREE

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE

You don't have to be interested in a career in arts to earn an Associate in Arts degree—it's all about getting a general (or liberal arts) foundation that will prepare students for a bachelor's degree.

This transfer-track degree is designed to prepare students for transfer to bachelor's degree programs at Valencia College or upper division colleges and universities.

A.S. DEGREE

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE

This degree program will provide your student with the knowledge and skills to go directly into the workforce. A student success coach can provide guidance on how students who are also interested in a bachelor's degree can transfer to a bachelor's degree program at Valencia College or a Florida state university.

ARTICULATION

The process by which one college matches its courses for requirements to course work completed at another college.

COLLEGE CATALOG

An annual Online publication with of important information for your student, the Catalog includes programs of study, course descriptions, policies, graduation requirements, and student rights and responsibilities.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students who go to class succeed. That's why Valencia College requires attendance. Students are expected to attend their classes. Each professor has a specific policy about attendance. Make sure your student reads the course syllabus to learn more.

valenciacollege.edu/catalog

DROP

Sometimes students change their minds or clarify their career goals and need to make a change to their schedule. Students can drop a course during a specific time period and still receive a refund. Make sure your student pays attention to the deadline.

WITHDRAW

Students sometimes need to withdraw from a course after it has started (and after the Drop Deadline). Students who withdraw don't get a refund. A grade of "W" is earned and will appear on the student's transcript. See the catalog or encourage your student to talk to a student success coach for specific details.



GORDON RULE

It's all about writing and arithmetic. The Gordon Rule is an academic guideline that ensures all students in Florida satisfactorily complete courses in writing and mathematics. Students must receive a grade of "C" or higher in Gordon Rule courses.

PREREQUISITE

(also shortened to "pre-req")

A course that must be completed successfully before registering for the next course in the sequence.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

(also called "SAP")

Completing 67% of enrolled courses with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0. Students must also complete their 60-credit degree within 90 credit hours. Understanding these requirements is crucial for students who receive Financial Aid. Students must meet these standards to continue to be eligible for the Financial Aid funds.

Navigating College

Many students find college intimidating at first. That's why we've designed support centers across all our campuses(see links below).

ACADEMIC PLANNING

- Choose classes and prepare for transfer
- [Advising](#)
- [Associate in Arts: Advising Guide](#)
- [Associate in Science: General Advising Guide](#)
- [Degree Pathways](#)

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- [Library](#)
- Buy textbooks
- [Valencia College Campus Store](#) (online or on- campus)
- [Learning Support Services](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#) (Office of Students with Disabilities)

CAREER EXPLORATION AND PLANNING

- [Explore possible careers](#)
- [Learn about available internships](#)

MONEY MATTERS

- Pay fees
- [Business Office or MyVC](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [First Stop](#)

AND THERE'S MORE

- [Student ID Card Safety and Security](#)
- [FirstStop Labs](#)

Learning Support

When things get challenging, remind your student that Valencia College has learning centers staffed with individuals whose goal is to help them be academically successful and remember all these services* are free to students!

- **LEARNING SUPPORT (TUTORING) CENTER:** Highly trained tutors help students break down course concepts and learn academic success strategies for most courses offered by Valencia College.
- **COMMUNICATION & WRITING SUPPORT:** Students receive assistance with any level of reading and writing from skilled tutors. Resources for speech courses, English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses, and PERT Review for Reading and Writing are also available.
- **MATH & SCIENCE SUPPORT:** Tutors who have successfully completed lower and upper-level courses in the subject area are available for course support and Math PERT Review.
- **LinkedIn LEARNING:** More than 15,000 video tutorials and courses are accessible to students on any computer or mobile device with their Valencia College credentials.
- **TESTING & ASSESSMENT CENTER:** Students are supported here with placement testing, accommodated testing, and make-up tests for face-to-face and mixed-mode courses if approved by their instructor.

* Please note services vary by campus, so we encourage you to follow up with an onsite location to learn more about what is available.



Safety and Security

Your student's safety is important to us and we have an array of services that help promote an environment that is as crime-free as possible.

- Security Personnel Patrol Campus
- VC Safety app
- Campus Escort Program
- Student Conduct Standards

valenciacollege.edu/security



On the Path Toward a Bachelor's Degree

At Valencia, we know your student is going somewhere. Our Associate in Arts degree opens the door to a bachelor's degree at universities across the nation. Valencia College also offers bachelor's degrees in Business and Organizational Leadership, Computing Technology and Software Development, Public Safety Administration, Cardiopulmonary Sciences, Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology, Nursing and Radiological and Imaging Sciences.

DirectConnect to UCF

Valencia College is nationally recognized for our DirectConnect partnership with the University of Central Florida—where Valencia College graduates are guaranteed admission.*

- ✓ Guaranteed admission to a bachelor's degree program at UCF
- ✓ Preferential admission to select bachelor's degree programs at UCF
 - Joint advising from UCF and Valencia College help ensure a smooth transition
- ✓ Take UCF courses at UCF Downtown, the campus that UCF shares with Valencia College
- ✓ UCF staff available on-site at Valencia College East, West and Osceola campuses help with advising, admissions, financial aid, and academic support



*Consistent with university policy.

Top 10 Reasons Valencia College is the Smart Place to Start

- 1 Small Classes
- 2 Student-Centered Faculty Focus on Learning
- 3 DirectConnect to UCF®
- 4 Learning Support
- 5 7 Convenient Locations
- 6 Free Parking
- 7
- 8 Lowest Cost in Central Florida
- 9 Valencia College won First Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence
- 10 Day, Evening and Weekend Classes, In Person and Online



Your Student is Accepted to Valencia College. Now What?

Your student should:

- ✓ Attend an On-Campus or Virtual Orientation
- ✓ Pay Fees
- ✓ Get a Valencia Student ID
- ✓ Get Parking Decal
- ✓ Buy Textbooks

Conversations to Have with Your Student before Orientation

1. **Discuss financial aid and funding for college.** Remind your student to check MyVC email frequently to know the most current status in the financial aid process.
2. **Discuss your student's obligations to the rest of the family.** Are they expected to pick up siblings from school? Will you need to take over some child care responsibilities? Will help with elderly family members need to change?
3. **Discuss your student's work schedule and the number of classes they want to take.** Remember, for every one hour in class, students need to spend two hours outside of class studying. Is the schedule realistic for the demands to be met at work and at school? What can you do to make sure your student has the time to study?
4. **Discuss proof of residency.** The College does not know if your student is a Florida resident without proper paperwork (usually provided by parents or legal guardian). Be sure to check the Valencia College Admissions page for more information.