




# Take Charge of Your Transfer Success



Preparing for transfer and working toward your bachelor’s degree starts on Day 1 of your community college journey. Research shows it’s important to:



Make and follow your education plan



Know what college costs and get financial support

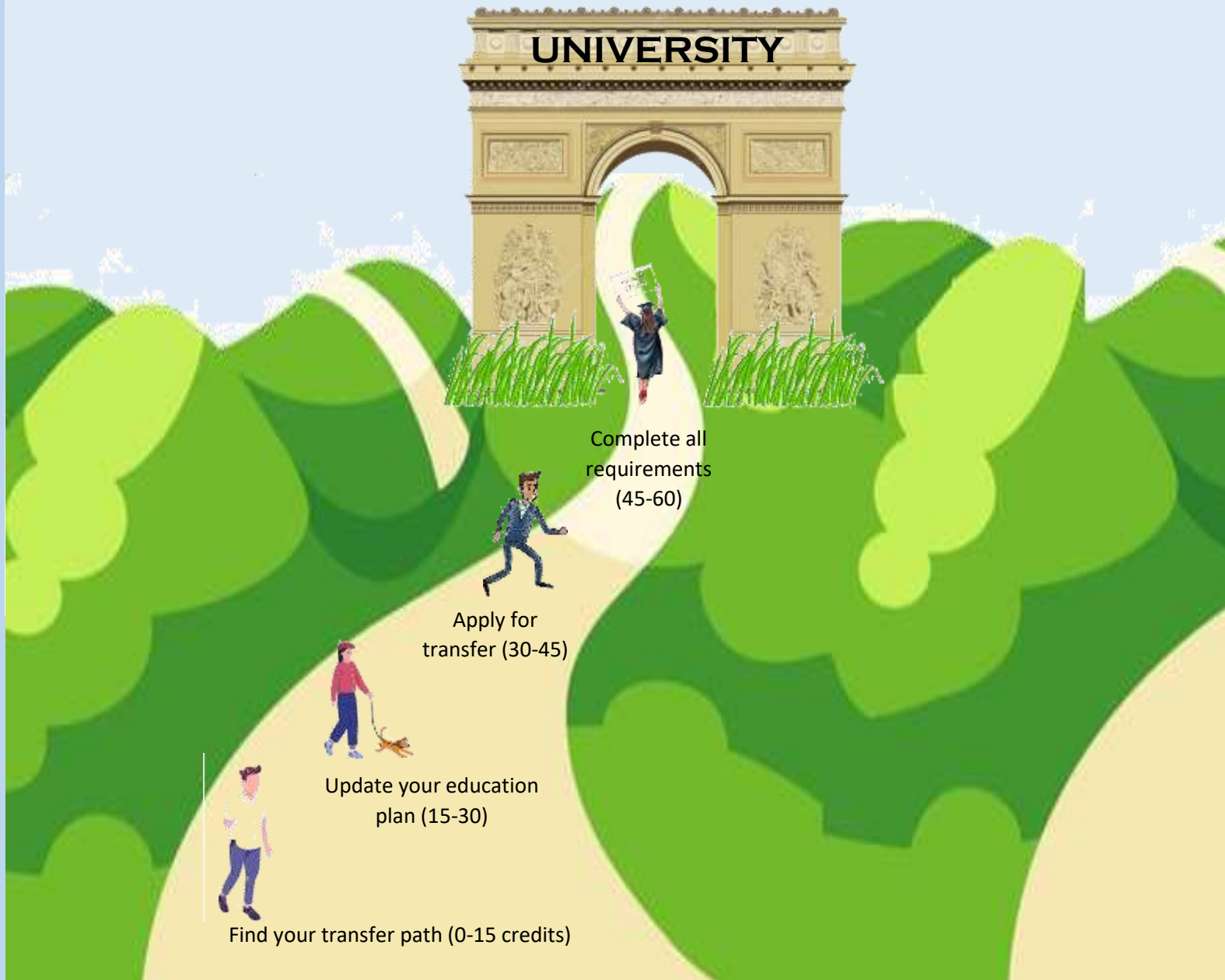


Balance your school and personal responsibilities



Find your campus community

Successful transfer students and community college experts suggest steps you can take to make it “through the gate” to university. Keep reading for a checklist of some “to dos” to get you started at each stage of your community college journey, from finding your transfer path (0-15 units), to updating your educational plans (15-30 units), to applying for transfer (30-45 units), to completing all requirements (45-60+ units).



# Find Your Transfer Path Checklist (0-15 Credits)



## Follow Your Degree Plan

- Meet with your advisor to create a degree plan based on the career or major of your interest.
- If you're unsure about what you want to study, explore [Career Coach](#) and the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#). You may also speak with your advisor who can help direct you.
- Enroll in **EDUC 1100, Learning Framework**. It is our college success class and meets a CORE requirement for graduation.
- Learn what the average salaries for different occupations using the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#).
- Start at the [Vernon College Homepage](#) and review the three options listed: "Take Courses for Transfer", "Start Your Career", and "Need Help Deciding?".
- Look at the list of [CORE requirements](#) for transfer degrees.
- Use social platforms like Discord, Reddit, and Facebook to source transfer information and ideas.
- Visit Vernon College's [Transfer Center web page](#) for important transfer information.



## Balance Your 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 responsibilities; check out night, online, and hybrid options.
- Every college hires student... find out about on-campus jobs and/or work study options through the Financial Aid Office.
- Need books? Ask your professors about open education resources (OER) or ask your peers

about links to free online books; also connect with New Beginnings to see if you are eligible for available resources.



## Know What College Costs and Get Financial Support

- Visit the Vernon College [Transfer Center webpage](#) to find transfer scholarships with partner institutions and our [top transfer universities](#).
- Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) to secure financial aid EVEN IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU QUALIFY.
- Apply for [Vernon College Scholarships](#), find and apply for external scholarships through [Scholarships.com](#), [Fastweb](#) or other scholarship [search engines](#).
- 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, student success specialist, coach, advisor, peer mentor, or other staff member.
- Get involved in a student club to build community with other students and follow Vernon College on social media.

# Find Your Transfer Path Checklist (15-30 Credits)



## Follow Your Degree Plan

- Choose a major; keep in mind which popular programs might be hard to access and if there are less “impacted” options that still meet your needs and interests.
- Meet with your Student Success Specialist or advisor to develop a comprehensive degree plan that fully maps out all courses required to transfer.
- Check with a faculty member in your program area for advice on course requirements needed for your major and use [College Navigator](#) to research different universities.
- Attend the annual transfer fair to learn about different university options and resources to help you decide which university might be the best fit for you and your interests. Check the [Transfer Center webpage](#) for more information.
- Some universities have a guaranteed transfer program. 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’re taking those classes.
- Find ways to “try out” your major through internships, visit a career center or advisor to get information about classes with projects or other hands-on opportunities, job shadows, mentorships, etc.



## Balance Your School and Personal Responsibilities

- When identifying potential universities, think about location. If you move, how comfortable are you with the distance from home? If you stay home, how will you handle transportation and traffic to and from the university?
- Consider universities with online or hybrid course options, regional or extension centers close to home, and campus supports for working and/or caregiving students.
- Bring your family to speak with a visiting university representative when they visit on the

Vernon College 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 financial aid restrictions and how to make sure you qualify for federal and state (if applicable) student aid after you transfer.
- Interested in what a specific university costs? Use [CollegeSource.org](#) to see what tuition and fees are for institutions.
- Learn about different types of financial assistance (including Pell and loans) available for colleges and universities at [Federal student Aid](#) and [College for all Texans](#).
- [Create a financial aid plan](#) using this guide to simplify and compare information about costs and financial aid for different colleges and universities.



## Find Your Campus Community

- Continue participating in clubs, extracurricular activities, and events that provide transfer information.
- Regularly connect with your “trusted people” on campus about their own higher education journey – including mistakes they made, lessons they learned, and advice they’d give you about your transfer journey.
- Connect with faculty in your program and ask about major specific advice, including additional opportunities on-campus and in the community to explore your program and prepare for upper-division coursework.
- Check the Transfer Center webpage often for important information, partnerships, and representative visits. Meet with the Student Success Specialist that is responsible for transfer at Vernon College and visit with representatives when they are on campus.

# Find Your Transfer Path Checklist (45-60 Credits)



## Follow Your Degree Plan

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



Ask your advisor/Student Success Specialist to walk through your financial aid award letters so you can understand what they mean and what to do next.



Ask university 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 university 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 program and/or special opportunities and events at your university designated to support and connect transfer students.



## Balance Your School and Personal Responsibilities

- Consider which universities best meet your needs and unique life circumstances (i.e. transportation, financial supports, child care).



## Know What College Costs and Get Financial Support



Update your financial plan.

# What to Do No Matter Where You Are in Your Transfer Journey...

## Stay Connected and Informed:

- Log into your campus email and Canvas to check it regularly.
- Follow Vernon College and universities of interest on social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.).
- Regularly check Vernon College's [Transfer Center webpage](#) for important information, transfer scholarships, and university representative visits.

## If you get off the path, it's never too late to get back on!

*Have 60+ credits but are unsure of your transfer plans?*

*Left your Vernon College before completing your transfer requirements?*

You've worked hard! Set up 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 the university. Establish a plan for getting back on the path toward your bachelor's degree!

## Get Help:

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

- Come to the Student Success Center and speak with a [Student Success Specialist](#). 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 Peer Mentor, advisor, [Student Success Specialist](#) or a trusted staff member.
- If dealing with anxiety, stress or other mental health challenges' visit [the Mental Health Resources webpage](#).
- If you have problems accessing MyVC, Canvas or campus email, submit the appropriate support form found on [MyVC](#) before you log in.
- Talk with your advisor/[Student Success Specialist](#) 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.