

GMC Ensuring Students' Success through Articulation Agreements

By Catherine Califf-Dean

Georgia Military College (GMC) is fostering the success of their students by securing articulation agreements with four-year colleges and universities in and out of Georgia.

The articulation agreements are formal, signed agreements between GMC and other higher-learning institutions that layout the students' course of study at the two-year level to enable a seamless transition to four-year colleges.

Currently, GMC has 39 active articulation agreements and are looking to continue to increase the number of partnerships with schools. The most recent agreements signed were with Valdosta State University (VSU) and Trident University International (TUI).

"Our articulation agreements are clearly designed to build strong partnerships and coordination between schools to aid in a smooth transition for GMC graduates," said Roy McClendon, Jr., assistant vice president-academic affairs.

In 2013, the school revised their core curriculum resulting in reduction of the number of hours required for a student to graduate. In addition, the new streamlined program is better aligned with the core curriculum of the University System of Georgia schools-allowing for GMC students to obtain a four-year degree in a timely manner.

"With developing these partnerships, students, with the help of their advisors, can make better course choices and can save our students both time to degree completion and money," added McClendon.

The majority of the current articulation agreements include a "guaranteed admission" clause that accepts GMC core courses in whole, and guarantee admission to students who have completed associate degrees.

"GMC will continue to pursue agreements with four-year colleges and universities in order to support Governor Nathan Deal's Complete College Georgia (CCG) initiative as well as support graduates who desire to earn baccalaureate degrees," said Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell, IV, GMC president.

By 2020, it is projected that over 60 percent of Georgia jobs will require some form of a college education. Currently in the state, only 42 percent of young adults have a degree or certificate from a university or technical college. Without a better educated workforce, the state will suffer losses of jobs and new industry to more educated states and countries.

In an attempt to avert this crisis, the state developed the CCG initiative which is in line with commitments for the Complete College America (CCA) agenda. Meeting college completion goals begins by growing the number of students graduating from high school who are fully prepared for success in college. The CCG has identified three areas that must be improved upon in order to meet the program goals: Georgia's high school graduation rate, the academic readiness of students who do graduate, and opportunities for access to college.

GMC consists of a student population of around 12,000 annually, plus 250 ROTC cadets. Many of these students choose to seek baccalaureate degrees at four-year colleges and universities. Having articulation agreements in place ensures students will not lose credits when they transfer.

Brick and mortar schools will not be the only avenue offered to GMC students in the near future. Articulation agreements with online universities are creating new opportunities for learning, particularly for active-duty military students.

“Our military students face a unique challenge in terms of finishing college,” says Caldwell. “Part of being in the military is moving frequently, and transferring credits among multiple institutions can be a very frustrating process. It’s hard to make progress on a degree when credits don’t transfer, which is why partnerships with online universities like TUI are essential. This way, students who can’t continue their coursework at a traditional university for any number of reasons — maybe it’s a military transfer or perhaps they’ve taken a full-time job and can’t schedule classes during the day — can continue their education seamlessly with online coursework,” says Caldwell.

Georgia Military College holds Articulation Agreements with the following:

Articulation Agreements Exists With:

Agreements marked with an * are guaranteed admission agreements.

- Agnes Scott College*
- Albany State University*
- Argosy University (Atlanta Campus)*
- Armstrong State University*
- Art Institute of Atlanta (AIA)
- Ashford University*
- Auburn University at Montgomery*
- Berry College*
- Brenau University*
- Brewton-Parker College*
- Columbus State University
- Dalton State College*
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU)
- Emmanuel College*
- Fort Valley State University*
- Georgia College & State University*
- Georgia Southwestern State University*
- Georgia State University*
- Kaplan University*
- LaGrange College*
- Mercer University
- Middle Georgia State College*
- Paine College*
- Piedmont College*
- Point University*
- Reinhardt University*
- Saint Leo University*
- Savannah State University*
- Shorter University*

- Southern Polytechnic State University*
- Strayer University*
- Thomas University*
- Toccoa Falls College*
- Trident University International*
- Valdosta State University*
- Wesleyan College*
- Young Harris College*