



Your Student's College Experience Starts Soon.

— PARENTS AND FAMILY —

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 get off on the right foot.

- ✓ New Student Orientation to make personal connections with Valencia College students, staff and faculty
- ✓ New Student Experience Course for all Associate in Arts. Some Associate in Science degrees also require the New Student Experience Course.
- ✓ 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. An advisor 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.



LifeMapSM

Developmental Advising

Students often need support learning how to navigate college. Valencia College advisors help students select the right academic and career pathway—and develop a plan to get there.

And we're here to help them—not just find the right path, but also develop the skills they need to get to their destination.

- ➔ My Education Plan
- ➔ My Financial Planner
- ➔ My Career Planner
- ➔ My Portfolio
- ➔ Degree Pathways



➔ valenciacollege.edu/lifemap

Atlas

The Valencia College Student Portal

Your student can:

- ➔ Register for classes
- ➔ Review degree requirements in “My Education Plan”
- ➔ Access grades
- ➔ Check Financial Aid status
- ➔ Receive confidential email communication from Valencia College



ATLAS email is the official and primary method of communication between Valencia College and your student.

➔ atlas.valenciacollege.edu

Federal 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 a FERPA waiver, 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.

Insider's Guide (Continued)

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. An advisor 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.

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.

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.

➔ 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 an advisor 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](#)
- ➔ [See courses required by degree \(My Education Plan\)](#)

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- ➔ [Buy textbooks](#)
- ➔ [Valencia College Campus Store \(online or on campus\)](#)
- ➔ [Tutoring](#)
- ➔ [Academic Support Centers](#)
- ➔ [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 ATLAS](#)
- ➔ [Financial Aid](#)
- ➔ [Answer Center](#)

AND THERE'S MORE

- ➔ [Student ID Card](#)
- ➔ [Security](#)
- ➔ [Access ATLAS on campus \(ATLAS Labs\)](#)

Learning Support

When things get challenging, remind your student that Valencia College has hundreds of staff members who are here to answer questions, provide tutoring, help them explore a career, plan their courses, finance their education, etc.

- ✓ **COMMUNICATION CENTER:** Writing Center, Speech Lab, PERT Review, Support resources for Reading, English and English for Academic Purposes (EAP)
- ✓ **MATH CENTER:** Math Lab, Math Open Lab, Hands-On Math, Math Connections and PERT Review
- ✓ **COMPUTER ACCESS LAB**
- ✓ **TESTING CENTER**
- ✓ **LEARNING IN COMMUNITY (LinC):** Linked courses team-taught by faculty. Higher success rates.
- ✓ **SUPPLEMENTAL LEARNING:** Model student who has successfully passed the course provides student success strategies outside of class.
- ✓ **SKILLSHOPS:** Free workshops. Solutions for your life.



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
- ➔ Emergency Alert System
- ➔ 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, 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 onsite 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
- 3 Faculty Focus on Learning
- 4 LifeMap
- 5 DirectConnect to UCF®
- 6 Learning Support
- 7 Free Parking
- 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 Atlas 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). Be sure to [check the Valencia College Admissions page](#) for more information.