

Vermont

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Vermont State Colleges
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- 1) Does the state have an identifiable “P-16” effort visible? Who is in charge of this effort?
In 2001 the Vermont public education partnership (VPEP) was established to address issues of mutual interest across the K-16 spectrum. VPEP no longer meets but we continue to send reports from colleges and universities back to the high schools in Vermont on the performance of their graduates.
 - a) Does the agency include a utility or function on its website designed explicitly to help potential students locate an appropriate college or university to attend?
Yes, there is a listing of colleges and universities with links to web sites. There is not a site whereby a student can learn about the differences in community colleges, universities, and technical colleges, but the Vermont State Colleges website links to the sites of the Community College of Vermont and Vermont Technical College (both members of the Vermont State College system).

<http://services.vsac.org/ilwwcm/connect/VSAC/>

Also, the Vermont Higher Education Council publishes an annual directory of all degree and certificate programs at Vermont colleges. You can access the directory on this web site or you can contact the VHEC office at info@vhec.info.
- 2) Is a mandated or recommended college preparatory curriculum in place in the state’s public high schools?
No, there is not a mandated or recommended college preparatory curriculum for Vermont public high schools.

- 3) Has the state articulated a set of explicit competencies or skills that define what it means to be “college ready?”

No, Vermont has not articulated a set of explicit competencies or skills that define what it means to be “college ready.”

- 4) Are systematic programs in place in the state that encourage students to accelerate progress by taking college-level courses while still enrolled in high school?

The Vermont State Colleges offers a statewide dual enrollment program that includes pathways for “disengaged” students as well as higher achieving students, including a pre-college level course called Introduction to College Studies in which successful completers receive a voucher to take a college-level course at any of the Vermont State Colleges. We also offer a full-year college-level alternative to the senior year in high school for higher achieving students. And the Vermont State Colleges have tech prep articulations with all the secondary technical centers in Vermont whereby students can earn 3-18 college credits while still in high school.

There have been various statewide incentive programs to increase AP offerings in the high schools, particularly in rural areas.

- 5) Is there a statewide policy present that governs placement into college-level courses or remedial courses? Is a standard set of placement tests recommended or required? If yes, are common cut scores for placement decisions in place or do institutions get to set their own?

No, Vermont does not have a statewide policy that governs placement into college-level courses or remedial courses.

- 6) Is there a visible statewide transfer and articulation policy? Does this cover all institutions or only public institutions? What are the specifics of this policy?

There is no statewide policy, but there is an articulation agreement between the Community College of Vermont and the University of Vermont, and the Vermont State Colleges have a single transcript for all five colleges, so “transfer” is seamless from the Community College of Vermont to any of the other four Vermont State Colleges.

- a) Is the transfer/articulation policy accompanied by a statewide transferable general education requirement? Does this name actual courses and/or credits? Are specific competencies identified that the student should meet through this coursework? Is testing used to guarantee student competency for progress or transfer?

No, there is no formal statewide policy. Specific competencies are not required nor is testing used to guarantee student competency.

- b) More specifically, does an AA or AS degree from a community college in the state meet general education requirements at public four-year institutions? What mechanisms are in place to make sure this actually happens?

Yes, an AA or AS degree from the Community College of Vermont does meet the general education requirements at the four year institution (per above).

- c) Does credit from transfer courses meet specific course requirements at the transfer institution (e.g. American History counts for American History) or do just the credits transfer to count against the total needed for graduation?

The credits transfer to count against the total need for graduation at the University of Vermont. Students transferring within the Vermont State Colleges, from the Community College of Vermont to any of the other four VSC colleges, can earn credit to meet specific course requirements.

- 7) Are there statewide test-out or competency-based provisions that will allow a student to accelerate progress toward a degree?

No, there is no statewide test-out or competency-based provisions that allow a student to accelerate progress toward a degree.

- 8) Does the state have an easily-accessible state-supported alternative institution that allows students to complete their degrees more quickly or conveniently than through attendance at a traditional public institution?

Yes, completing a baccalaureate degree, Johnson State College's External Degree Program is a highly accessible, alternative format program designed to meet the need of adults who have accumulated 60 or more college credits prior to enrolling in EDP.

The Community College of Vermont offers associate degree and certificate programs through 12 site offices statewide. CCV is the second largest college in the state of Vermont. Twenty percent of their course placements are through online courses.

- a) Does the state have an accessible central bank or catalog of on-line courses contributed by many institutions that enable students to do "one-stop shopping" for electronic courses?

No, Vermont does not have an accessible central bank or catalog of on-line courses.

- 9) Does the state provide incentives to institutions for improvements in degree production or graduation rates? For minimizing the number of students graduating with excessive numbers of credits (e.g. more than 120 SCH)?

No. The state does not provide incentives to institutions for improvements in degree production or graduate rates, nor for minimizing the number of students graduating with excessive numbers of credits.

10) Does the state provide incentives for students who successfully complete their degrees (e.g. tuition rebates or cash bonuses)? For students who complete their programs without amassing additional credits (e.g. within 120 SCH)? Are there financial disincentives for students to take more than the number of credits needed to graduate (e.g. full or out-of-state tuition)?

No, the state does not provide incentives for students who successfully complete their degrees, or for completing degree without taking additional credits, nor are there financial disincentives for students taking more than the number of credits needed to graduate.