

2015-16 EDITION

# The Reynolds Advance College Academies



Reynolds  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

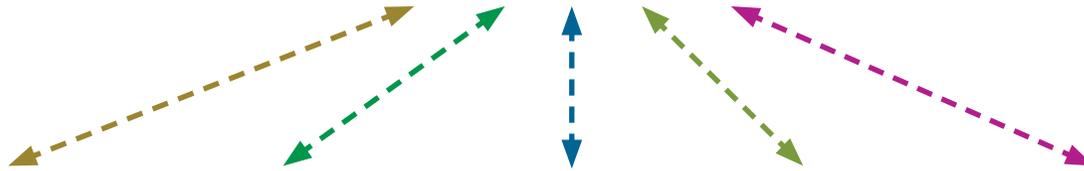


WHERE OUTSTANDING **STUDENTS** GET STARTED

Reynolds ACA Partners:



Reynolds  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Goochland County  
Public Schools



ACA programs are evidence that Reynolds and our public school district partners are working together to respond to Virginia House Bill 1184 and satisfy the requirements of Virginia Code section 22.1-254.13:1.



## Message from the Director

Welcome to the **Reynolds Advance College Academies (ACA)**! The Reynolds ACA provides outstanding high school students the opportunity to earn an associate degree while completing the requirements for their high school diploma. We have carefully selected and sequenced the college course work in the program so that you can satisfy the requirements of the high school diploma and associate degree at the same time.

Students typically apply to the Reynolds ACA in the 8th grade through their local school division, enroll in advanced high school courses in the 9th and 10th grade, and take the required college coursework for the associate degree during the 11th and 12th grade. Students in the Reynolds ACA program are *required* to attend a five-week session of college courses during the summer between their sophomore and junior year.

Reynolds Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees through its Advance College Academy sites. As members of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment

Partnerships (NACEP), Reynolds adheres to NACEP's rigorous standards of program quality for curriculum, faculty, and students.

In 2015, we reached two significant milestones: the Reynolds ACA won **First Place** in Virginia Community College System's Excellence in Education Awards in the category of Improving Student Success, and the first cohort of 34 students in the Reynolds ACA at J.R. Tucker High School received associate degrees in Social Science at the Reynolds Commencement ceremony. For more on the Reynolds ACA, visit our website at [www.reynolds.edu/aca](http://www.reynolds.edu/aca).



*Miles S. McCrimmon, Ph.D., is the director of the Reynolds Advance College Academy.*

## Is an ACA the Right Choice for You and Your Family?

Over the last few years, we have learned that the success of a student in the ACA depends on two major factors. First, how dedicated are you, the student, to work hard and commit yourself to your studies? Second, how supportive is your family of your school requirements? Students and families who are motivated to do the following things make the best ACA candidates.

### Successful Reynolds ACA Students...

- Choose to take challenging courses and programs in their school. These students will have completed Algebra I, at least one year of world language, and, if possible, other high school-level courses *before* entering ninth grade.
- Regularly study at night and on the weekends and are prepared to take two college classes in the summer between their sophomore and junior year of high school.
- Demonstrate the maturity to take responsibility for their own education and have a proven track record of motivating themselves to keep up with school work, especially when coursework

and projects provide them an extra challenge.

- Are involved at their school through clubs, service opportunities, athletics, music and art programs, or other similar activities.

### Families of Successful Students...

- Provide the support necessary to encourage the student with their academic responsibilities.
- Provide access to a computer and internet service for the student outside classroom hours.
- Plan around their student's required enrollment in college courses at Reynolds during a five-week summer session before the student's junior year of high school.



### Reynolds Admissions and Placement Requirements

ACAs are considered specialized high school programs and as such have separate selection processes determined by each local school division. Students should consult with their middle school and/or high school counselors for more detail about admission requirements.

After admission into an ACA, prior to enrolling in the first Reynolds courses, students must complete the Reynolds Community College application, demonstrate readiness in English and Math, and place into English 111, College Composition I, on the Virginia Placement Test for English (VPT-English) and Mathematics 163, Pre-Calculus, on the Virginia Placement Test for Mathematics (VPT-Math).

### Benefits of Completing a Reynolds ACA Program

High school students participating in college credit courses often have social, emotional, career, and academic advantages over their peers who do not participate in such programs. Reynolds Community College offers the ACA program to allow students to increase the academic rigor of their high school experience. The desire for rigor should be the ultimate goal of participating in an Advance College Academy.

Students participating in one of the ACA programs attend a designated high school in their school division and participate in the program as a member of a cohort all four years of high school. The cohort model allows the student to develop strong peer relationships the student can utilize as a support system throughout the program. Students also receive career coaching services from Reynolds beginning in the ninth grade year.

***Visit [www.reynolds.edu/aca](http://www.reynolds.edu/aca) for your school division's specific Reynolds ACA curriculum.***

## Transferability of Courses

When any high school student with any form of college credit decides to attend a four-year college or university, the college or university makes three decisions about the student.

- ▶ First, the college or university makes an admissions decision. Based on the high school record, does the student meet the admissions requirements of the college or university?
- ▶ Second, the college or university will make a decision about the acceptance of transfer credit. This decision may be made at the admissions level or within the academic department to which the student's major belongs.
- ▶ Third, the college or university will make a decision about the social standing of the student. Social standing decisions vary by institution and might relate to housing or course registration windows.

All transfer decisions are made by the specific college or university to which the student has been admitted. Reynolds makes no guarantee about the transfer of the college credit students earn through

participation in the ACA programs. It is important to note that the college or university may make the decision about the transfer of college credits during the admissions process, once the student



*Hands-on learning is at the core of Reynolds ACA programs.*

declares a major, or at some other time during the student's enrollment at the college or university.

Prospective ACA students should consult the transfer guides of the specific colleges or universities they wish to attend. These guides can often be found by accessing the transfer admissions portion of the college or university website. Students can also utilize the Transfer Tool of the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV). The tool can be found at: [www.schev.edu/students/transfer](http://www.schev.edu/students/transfer).

Bear in mind that the information on the transfer tool does not constitute a formal evaluation of transfer credit or a guarantee of the transferability of courses and credits, and it is subject to change from time to time to ensure accuracy. For questions regarding the content of the transfer information, please contact the appropriate college or university.

Once enrolled in an ACA program, students should contact the specific college or university of interest, their high school counselor, their ACA career coach, or one of the career, employment, and transfer counselors at Reynolds for more information.

## College & Career Coaching Services

Students participating in one of the Advance College Academy programs will be assigned to work with a career coach. The career coach is a Reynolds employee dedicated to this special student population. The coach will work closely with the school program coordinator and the designated school counselor to design programming to facilitate the exploration of self, work, and educational opportunities. The career coach program will begin in the 9th grade year with interest, skills, and value assessments for each student. In the 10th grade year, the career coach will guide the student through the application and enrollment process at Reynolds. Career coaching in the 11th grade will focus on preparing the best admissions application to colleges and universities. In the 12th grade, students will be encouraged to identify scholarship opportunities, participate in a job shadowing experience, and explore college majors.

The overall goal of the Reynolds ACA career coach is to help each student successfully navigate the many transitions they will face between middle school and college. The ACA career coach will help welcome 9th grade students to their new high school; assist

10th and 11th grade students as they navigate the Reynolds application and enrollment process; and finally, help 12th grade students enroll at a college or university upon completion of the program.

There are four signature characteristics of every Reynolds ACA Career Coach.

### 1. The ACA Career Coach is available.

The ACA career coach has office hours each week at each ACA designated high school. Students in the program will know where and when they can find their career coach.

*Reynolds ACA students are proud of the academic challenges they are able to meet.*



### 2. The ACA Career Coach builds relationships with ACA students.

ACA career coaches are relationship builders. Each career coach gets to know the students and is better able to match opportunities and interventions to particular students. The relationship between the career coach and the ACA student begins in the 9th grade year and continues until the student graduates from the program.

### 3. The ACA Career Coach is the link to Reynolds for ACA students, parents, and local school division personnel.

In most instances, the ACA career coach will be the Reynolds employee most familiar to the ACA student. Thus, the career coach can help students identify appropriate college resources (such as the testing center or the academic support center), act as an intermediary between the student and other departments of Reynolds (such as the Office of Dual Enrollment or Admissions and Records), and serve as an advisor.

#### 4. The ACA Career Coach is knowledgeable.

The Office of Outreach and Recruitment supports the efforts of the ACA career coaches through specialized training and resources. Though each ACA student only has one career coach, students benefit from the collective body of knowledge and experiences of all the ACA career coaches.

The interventions ACA Career Coaches plan for ACA students focus on three areas:

##### 1. Entry

The ACA Career Coach plans activities designed to help the students make the transition from middle school to high school. Students in the program must identify themselves as members of the ACA community and find commonalities with their cohort members.

##### 2. Retention

The ACA curriculum is rigorous. The ACA Career Coach designs interventions aimed at helping ACA students successfully meet the curriculum demands and continue in the program through completion.

#### 3. Exit

ACA students are completing degree programs designed to lead to further study at baccalaureate institutions. The ACA Career Coach provides students with opportunities to explore careers and programs of study so the ACA student is prepared to make informed decisions about the college or university the student will attend as well as the appropriate major the student should select to lead to the student's desired career.

For more information on the ACA Career Coaches, see:  
[acacareercoach.wordpress.com](http://acacareercoach.wordpress.com)



*Hilda M. Billups, MSHE is the Reynolds ACA Career Coach Coordinator and a frequent contributor to our blog.*



## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***How do I apply?***

Consult your school division about its specific application process and deadlines. Decisions about acceptance into an ACA are made by the school division, not Reynolds.

### ***Who teaches in the program?***

High school faculty members who teach in an ACA must either possess or earn a master's degree in the teaching field or a master's degree in another field with at least eighteen graduate credits in the teaching field. These faculty members, once credentialed by Reynolds, go through a rigorous and ongoing process of training, mentoring, and regular site visits conducted by full-time Reynolds faculty liaisons in their teaching field.

### ***How likely is our curriculum to change?***

The curriculum for the program has been carefully crafted by constituents representing Reynolds and the local school division with the aim of

ensuring the student meets all of the requirements of the Virginia Advanced High School diploma and the associate degree program at Reynolds. While Reynolds does not anticipate any changes to these curricula, each student's final curricular path at Reynolds is ultimately determined by the college catalog of the academic year when the student begins. In addition, there could be curricular changes at the school or school system level at the discretion of the student's local school division.

### ***Will I be considered a freshman or a junior when I apply to a four-year college or university?***

While each institution is different, most ACA graduates will be considered first-year students with transfer credit when they apply to four-year institutions.

### ***Will I be able to transfer some credits to an out of state college or university if I decide not to attend college in Virginia?***

Each individual college or university will make decisions regarding transfer credits. Students should also realize that a college or university may accept courses for transfer but may not count those courses towards the program or major selected by the student because certain courses in the associate degree program may not be required for the major the student plans to pursue. Transfer of credits should not be the student's primary motivation for participating in an Advance College Academy program.

*Highland Springs High School's first ACA class will graduate in 2017.*



(See also, the “Transferability of Courses” section on page 5 of this brochure.)

***Will we be able to contact the teachers for help if we need it?***

The vast majority of the classes in the associate degree program are taught by high school faculty who have been trained and credentialed by Reynolds. These high school faculty members, whether they are teaching advanced high school courses in the 9th and 10th grade or college-level courses in the 11th and 12th grade, will make themselves available to students on a daily basis.

***Will the Reynolds Community College courses be offered before school, after school or in the summer?***

Though there are a few exceptions (SDV 100 and HLT 115 and some electives), all of the Reynolds courses will be taught during the regular school day, during the regular academic year at the student’s high school.

***What about transportation to the campus of Reynolds Community College?***

During the fall and spring semesters of the junior and senior years, the majority the courses students will be offered at the student’s high school. The courses will be taught by high school teachers who have been trained and credentialed by Reynolds. Depending on their curriculum, students may need to take one Reynolds elective to complete the program. If a student wishes to choose an elective that is offered on the Reynolds campus instead of one offered online or on the high school campus, that student will need to make individual transportation arrangements.

***Will SDV 100 and HLT 115 be offered online or will students have to come to campus?***

Students in SDV 100 and HLT 115 are taught together as part of a dedicated learning community on a Reynolds campus during a five-week summer session in the summer before the junior year. Completion of these two introductory courses is mandatory for entrance into the rest of the Reynolds coursework. ACA students must successfully manage the transition from the high school honors courses in 9th and 10th grade to the college courses required for this program in

11th and 12th grade. Because this transition will require quite a few new skills, the summer learning community is expressly designed to help students develop those skills.

***Will transportation be provided during the summer?***

Students and their families are responsible for transportation during the summers.

***During the summer, how long will the classes usually be?***

The summer classes, SDV 100 and HLT 115 will be taught during the second 5-week session of the summer before the junior year (traditionally late June to late July), two days a week for three hours a day. Reynolds determines the schedule for the summer semester annually. Once those dates are announced, students and their families will be notified.

## Advance College Academy Valuable Web Pages

### [reynolds.edu/ACA](http://reynolds.edu/ACA)

Reynolds Community College's website about its Advance College Academies includes information on curriculum, program design, faculty and staff, important dates, four-year institutions, and FAQs.

### [nacep.org](http://nacep.org)

The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) is the accrediting body for concurrent enrollment partnerships. NACEP defines concurrent enrollment as opportunities for high school students to take college credit courses taught by college-approved high school faculty.

### [sacscoc.org](http://sacscoc.org)

The Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges is the regional accrediting body for Reynolds Community College. SACS sets the requirements for faculty credentials. All high school faculty teaching in the program must meet these credentials.

## For more information about the ACA, feel free to contact:

### **Dr. Miles McCrimmon**

Director, Advance College Academy  
mmccrimmon@reynolds.edu  
(804) 523-5606

### **Ms. Hilda Billups**

Coordinator, ACA Career Coaches  
hbillups@reynolds.edu  
(804) 523-5637

### **Ms. Tracy Green**

Director, Outreach and Recruitment  
tgreen@reynolds.edu  
(804) 523-5789

### **Ms. Tracy Banks**

Coordinator, Dual Enrollment  
tbanks@reynolds.edu  
(804) 523-5320

*J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees and certificates. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College.*

## Class of 2015 Reynolds ACA graduates have been admitted to:

Auburn University  
Christopher Newport University  
Clafin University  
Clemson University  
College of William and Mary  
East Carolina University  
Eastern Mennonite University  
Fisk University  
Georgia Southern University  
Georgia State University  
George Mason University  
Hampton University  
Hollins University  
Howard University  
James Madison University  
Johnson C. Smith University  
Lynchburg College  
Mary Baldwin College  
New York University  
North Carolina A&T State University  
North Carolina State University  
Old Dominion University  
Roanoke College  
University of Maryland-Baltimore County  
University of Maryland-Eastern Shore  
University of Mary Washington  
University of Miami  
University of Richmond  
University of South Carolina  
University of Virginia  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Virginia State University  
Virginia Tech  
Virginia Union University  
Virginia Wesleyan College  
Washington College (MD)



*J.R. Tucker High School's first ACA class (pictured above in 2012)  
at Reynolds' commencement in 2015 (below).*



## The ACA's Gift of Time

Investing your effort in the ACA in high school returns the dividend of time in your college years.

### ***While in high school...***

You gain valuable experience about the behaviors and attitudes necessary to be successful in a baccalaureate program.

You enjoy the freedom to experiment in the role of the college student in a richly supportive environment.

You have a network of supportive professionals from both Reynolds and your high school to help you navigate this role.

### ***During your college years...***

You could choose to pursue a double major within a four-year span.

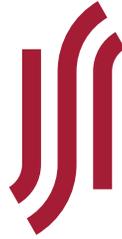
You could complete a combined bachelor's/master's program in four years.

You could choose to take fewer than 15 credits per term, leaving extra time for part-time (pre-professional) work, athletics, extracurricular activities, student government, internships, etc.

You could take full advantage of global "study abroad" options or semester-long or even year-long internships.

You could use summers normally spent catching up on credits for work or other exploration.

You could graduate early and move into the workforce sooner than your typical peers.



# Reynolds

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WHERE OUTSTANDING **STUDENTS** GET STARTED

[reynolds.edu](https://reynolds.edu) | Downtown • Goochland • Parham Road

*Reynolds Community College does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, family medical history or genetic information, military service, national origin, parental status, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation, or any other non-merit based factor. Reynolds offers programs under its open admissions policy. Admission to select vocational programs is based on a separate application process that is non-discriminatory. For the full policy and a list of select programs, visit [reynolds.edu](https://reynolds.edu).*