

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Am I eligible for the Dual Degree Program?

You are eligible for the DDP if:

- You are a full-time student in your second semester at JJC.
- You have successfully completed a minimum of 12 and maximum of 21 credit hours and you are in good academic standing—that is, you are not on academic probation.

When should I apply?

You need to apply during your **second semester** at JJC.

How do I enroll?

It's easy to enroll in the DDP—and it's free! You can get the application form from your JJC counselor. You can also access and print the form from either the JJC or GSU website (*insert web address*). After you complete the simple, one page form, turn it in to the Counseling Department at JJC. After verifying your eligibility, JJC will send your application to GSU. Jose Reyes, the Director of the Dual Degree Program and Transfer Articulation at GSU, will let you know when you have been accepted!

Why should I enroll in the Dual Degree Program?

If you enroll in the DDP, complete your associate degree at JJC and transfer to GSU, you will have lots of opportunities and advantages: **guaranteed admission to GSU**, the **Guaranteed Tuition Plan**, **GSU Promise Scholarships**, **special advising**, and more. Read on to learn more about each of these.

Will I be guaranteed admission to GSU?

Yes! If you are enrolled in the Dual Degree Program, you will be **guaranteed admission** to Governors State University after you graduate from JJC.

Will I be able to afford to attend GSU? And what is the GSU Guaranteed Tuition Plan?

The tuition at GSU is the lowest of any public university in Illinois, and it is **much** lower than the tuition at private universities. Better yet, the **GSU Guaranteed Tuition Plan** for students in the Dual Degree Program will allow you to **lock-in the GSU tuition rate for four years** from the date you enroll in the DDP. Many four-year universities have guaranteed tuition plans, but they don't allow community college transfer students to participate. The **GSU Guaranteed Tuition Plan** is specifically designed for JJC students in the DDP, who will automatically lock in their tuition at GSU during their second semester at JJC. This plan will save you hundreds of dollars in tuition if you complete your bachelor's degree at GSU.

What is the GSU Promise Scholarship?

Beginning in 2012, GSU will award 50 GSU Promise Scholarships to Pell-eligible students. Only students enrolled in the Dual Degree Program will be eligible to apply. These scholarships--which cover tuition, fees, books and required course materials--will allow recipients to **graduate with a bachelor's degree from GSU debt-free!** And what if you're not Pell-eligible? All DDP students will also be informed early about the many other transfer scholarships at GSU, including the Community College Honors, Phi Theta Kappa, Latino Achievement and discipline-specific (e.g., business, education, etc.) scholarships.

What kind of special advising will be available to me?

You will have an academic advisor both at JJC *and* from GSU, who will assist you with transfer advice, course selection, and designing a personalized academic plan to complete both your associate and bachelor's degrees in a

minimum number of terms—and without loss of credit.. We want to be sure you are on the right track, so working with your GSU advisor is a requirement of the DDP.

Does it matter what associate degree program I am in at JJC?

No. Full-time students in **all degree programs—including AAS degrees**—at JJC are eligible to enroll in the DDP. Many universities do not accept the AAS degree in transfer, but GSU has a number of degree programs that are specifically designed for AAS students who want to complete their bachelor's degree: Interdisciplinary Studies, Business and Applied Science, Community Health, Health Administration, Criminal Justice and Nursing. Your GSU advisor will work with you one-on-one to help you choose the degree program that best fits your academic and career goals.

I'm in the nursing program—or other selective admission program—and I can't complete my degree in 5 semesters. Can I still enroll in the DDP?

Yes. There is a special provision for students in these selective admissions programs. If you are in one of those programs, you will be invited to enroll in the DDP during the second semester of enrollment in that selective program.

Will my credits transfer to GSU?

Yes. Your GSU and JJC advisor will work with you while you are a student at JJC to ensure that your academic plan will enable you to graduate from JJC and to transfer all of your credits to GSU. If you follow their advice, you will not lose any credits when you transfer.

How long will it take to earn my associate and bachelor's degree?

The DDP is designed to enable students to complete both an associate and bachelor's degree within four years. You will have no more than five academic semesters (plus summers) to complete your associate degree at JJC. The semester after you graduate, you will enroll at GSU and you will have four more semesters (plus summers) to complete your bachelor's degree.

I don't know yet where I want to transfer. Should I still enroll in the Dual Degree Program?

You're not alone—most community college students haven't decided where they want to transfer. You have everything to gain—and nothing to lose—by enrolling in the DDP. Your enrollment in DDP will not limit your transfer options in any way. If you decide to transfer to another university, no problem! But if you do decide to transfer to GSU, you will have many advantages that won't be available to non-DDP students. Remember, the DDP will provide you with an excellent opportunity, but it does not carry any obligation for you to transfer to GSU.

Will I have a chance to get involved in student activities at GSU?

Absolutely. GSU is an upper division university, which means that they do not offer classes to freshmen and sophomores. It also means that, as a transfer student, you will not be competing with students who have already been at the university for two years. All students at GSU are transfer students! So if you want to write for the university newspaper, get involved in student government, or join a club you will have many opportunities to participate and to be a leader. While you are still enrolled at JJC, you will learn all about Student Life and be invited to participate in events and activities at GSU.

What bachelor's degree programs are available at GSU?

Your GSU advisor will help you learn about all the options at GSU. You can also look online to find information about these undergraduate programs <http://www.govst.edu/degree/default.aspx?id=9924>

At JJC, I'm used to small classes where I can get to know the professors. What will my experience be like if I transfer to GSU?

Much the same! The average class size at GSU is only 14 students, and professors are as accessible as they are at JJC.

How will my financial aid awards (Pell and MAP) be affected?

The financial aid advisors at GSU will ensure that your financial aid will smoothly transition to GSU after you graduate from JJC and transfer to GSU.

What if I still have questions? Who should I call?

Angie Kaysen-Luzbetak, Transfer Coordinator, or your personal JJC counselor can answer your questions about the Dual Degree Program. Or, for additional information regarding transfer to GSU as part of the Dual Degree Program, feel free to contact Jose Reyes, the Director of the Dual Degree Program and Transfer Articulation, at 708-534-4494, or e-mail him at dualadegree@govst.edu.