

# Study in the U.S through the “2+2” Model



## WHAT IS THE 2+2 MODEL?

One of the great strengths of American higher education is that students can transfer from one accredited college or university to another, especially (but not only) when there is an “articulation” agreement between the systems or institutions. The “2+2 model” allows students to earn a bachelor’s degree by completing two years of community college study for an Associate (A.A. or A.S.) degree, followed by two years of study at a 4-year college or university, culminating in a bachelor’s degree. Thus, the term: **“2+2” model**.

Community colleges maintain articulation agreements (also called transfer agreements, transfer guides, and transfer pathways) with 4-year colleges and universities to help simplify the transfer of credits and recognition of degrees between institutions. Some community colleges also maintain dual admissions programs wherein students apply to both institutions at the same time, with the guarantee of future admission to the 4-year university upon successful completion of the associate degree. Students should be aware that these 2+2 transfer agreements often require students to complete specific coursework and maintain a good academic record, as evidenced by the Grade Point Average (GPA).

## WHY CHOOSE 2+2?

Community colleges offer students an affordable quality education. Tuition and fees at community colleges may be significantly lower than at 4-year institutions, and many 4-year colleges and universities also offer transfer scholarships to high-performing community college graduates.

Academic requirements for admission at many community colleges are generally more flexible than at 4-year institutions, and minimum required scores on standardized tests such as TOEFL are often not as high.

Community colleges help prepare international students for the demands of studying at the university level by offering additional academic and English language assistance, academic writing support, and other forms of individualized attention for those new to U.S. higher education.

“2+2” students who complete many of the general education requirements for their bachelor’s degree at the community college level are then able to focus on specific major-oriented coursework at university.

International 2+2 students can have a more diverse and immersive cross-cultural experience in the United States by attending two different institutions in two U.S. locations.

Like other international students, students who pursue the 2+2 model can take part in Optional Practical Training (OPT) to gain practical skills relevant to their studies.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** on community colleges and the 2+2 model, students can contact a local EducationUSA Adviser, Regional Educational Advising Coordinator (REAC), or visit us online at [EducationUSA.state.gov](https://www.educationusa.state.gov).



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