



APPALACHIAN INTER-MOUNTAIN SCHOLARS (AIMS) HIGHER PROGRAM
A partnership of MECC & UVA Wise

AIMS LETTER OF INTENT

Congratulations on your intent to transfer to UVA Wise as an AIMS Higher Program Scholar. It is very important that you and your parent(s), if applicable, completely familiarize yourself with the following information. Promptly address any questions you may have concerning these guidelines to either UVA Wise Office of Admissions at 276.328.0102 or admissions@uvawise.edu.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The AIMS Higher Program is an educational partnership that produces a dual admission agreement for students who enter MECC as AIMS Higher scholarship recipients and who later wish to transfer to UVA Wise to pursue and complete a four-year degree. It applies to residents of Lee, Scott, Wise, and Dickenson Counties, and the City of Norton who begin their college enrollment as students at MECC.

MECC REQUIREMENTS

AIMS Higher Program participants must meet the following requirements for enrollment at UVA Wise upon completion of the transfer program at MECC:

- Demonstrate full time enrollment at MECC (at least 12 hours per semester)
- Complete necessary coursework within three years at MECC
- Maintain at least a 2.5 or higher GPA while enrolled at MECC
- Complete the necessary coursework to receive an Associate of Arts and Sciences degree in a transfer program
- Earn no grade below "C" during the period of enrollment at MECC
- Demonstrate sound character and remain in good standing while enrolled at MECC
- Participate in all program events as specified by this agreement or subsequent addendums

Students who fail to meet the AIMS requirements specified by MECC upon entrance will also be ineligible for benefits of this program should they choose to transfer to UVA Wise.

UVA WISE FINANCIAL BENEFITS

Upon successful completion of the transfer program of study at MECC, AIMS Higher Program recipients will receive financial benefits equal to the amount of annual tuition as set by UVA Wise. This agreement does **not** cover any student fees, room or board charges at UVA Wise.

The AIMS Higher Program Scholarship will fill the financial gaps for transfer students who receive financial aid that is less than the cost of tuition at UVA Wise or who fail to qualify for any financial assistance. Other grants or scholarships received will reduce the amount of AIMS Higher Program Scholarship assistance the student qualifies to receive.

These financial benefits will be in effect for up to three years after transfer, if the following requirements are met while enrolled at UVA Wise. Participants must:

- Complete the In-State Tuition Form to confirm VA residency prior to enrollment at UVA Wise
- Be enrolled full-time (12-18 hours) during each fall and spring semester at UVA Wise. Students who enroll in more than 18 hours per semester will be responsible for payment at the approved per hour rate.
- Earn a grade of “C” or better in all courses
- Maintain consecutive enrollment
- Demonstrate sound character and remain in good standing while enrolled
- Participate in all program events as specified by this agreement or subsequent addendums

Students who choose to stop out or enroll for fewer than 12 semester hours will lose eligibility for the AIMS Higher Program. They shall be held financially liable for payments made by or on behalf of UVA Wise for their AIMS tuition.

UVA WISE COMMUNITY SERVICE

While enrolled at UVA Wise, participants will be expected to complete twenty (20) hours of community service each year. This service will be self-reported to UVA Wise Admissions by participants emailing admissions@uvawise.edu with a summary of their completed project(s) by the end of each academic year.

CONFIRMATION/SIGNATURE(S)

I, the participant, authorize the Office of Admissions and Records at MECC to release my transcript to the Office of Admissions at UVA Wise at the end of my first year of study and again upon completion of my Associate’s Degree program. In addition, both offices may share my academic and biographical information to facilitate my transfer to UVA Wise and for program assessment purposes.

I/We have read the above guidelines and have received an explanation of any that we did not completely understand. My/Our signature(s) indicate that I/we accept the AIMS Scholarship award and agree to abide by these guidelines and requirements.

I/We also understand that participants will be able to cancel this letter of intent at any time by sending written notice to the UVA Wise Office of Admissions at the address listed below.

STUDENT PARTICIPANT

Printed name	Signature	Date

PARENT (if dependent student)

Printed name	Signature	Date

MECC REPRESENTATIVE

Printed name	Signature	Date

Please return this completed **AIMS Letter of Intent** and **AIMS Biographical Profile** to:

UVA Wise Office of Admissions, 1 College Avenue, Wise, VA 24293 OR admissions@uvawise.edu.