

FOCUS ON EDUCATION

by Paula Steers Brown, Contributing Writer

Virginia is fortunate to have such an array of choices for higher education – 60 four-year colleges and 47 two-year colleges are accredited in the state.

The following information is compiled from the College Board *2008 College Handbook*. Where data is available, the scholastic aptitude test (SAT) scores listed represent the mid-50 percentile of the freshman class.

Visit the colleges' individual Web sites for specific information on each one's basis for selection as well as expectations for grade-point average (GPA), class rank, and high school preparation. Determine which schools encourage interviews and/or which ones put emphasis on recommendations or essays. Certain schools for the arts require portfolios and/or auditions. Seniors from home-

schooled backgrounds usually have specific transcript requirements. Important information is easily accessible on annual costs, financial aid, faculty, majors, special facilities, special study options, credit/placement exams, and internship possibilities.

The second compilation is a list of the two-year colleges in Virginia. The Virginia Community College System serves more than 240,000 credit students per year. It oversees a network of 23 community colleges that serves residents of the state, providing two-year degree programs, specialty training, and certifications. When a student does not have a solid GPA, a junior college or community college offers a way to take college-level classes in a small setting, often providing a greater chance of building a strong GPA with the goal of transferring credits to a four-year college or university. Certain junior colleges have feeder programs into highly competitive colleges such as Richard Bland's program that is affiliated with the College of William & Mary. There are many possible paths toward a final goal. You may be surprised to discover all the excellent possible options in our Commonwealth, so start exploring them.

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

Art Institute of Washington, Arlington; www.aiw.artinstitutes.edu; For-profit culinary school and visual arts college; Freshman class profile: 455 applied, 242 admitted, 234 enrolled.

Averett University, Danville; www.averett.edu; Private university, liberal arts; SAT: reading 430-540, math 440-530.

Bluefield College, Bluefield; www.bluefield.edu; Private liberal arts college affiliated with So. Baptist Convention; SAT: reading 410-530, math 410-530, writing 400-520.

Bridgewater College, Bridgewater; www.bridgewater.edu; Private liberal arts college affiliated with Church of the Brethren; SAT: reading 450-550, math 450-560.

Catholic Distance University, Hamilton; www.cdu.edu; Private 2-year upper division virtual university.

Christendom College, Front Royal; www.christendom.edu; Private liberal arts college affiliated with Roman Catholic Church; SAT: reading 560-700, math 500-610, writing 540-670.

Christopher Newport University, Newport News; www.cnu.edu; Public university, liberal arts; SAT: reading 530-620, math 530-620.

College of William & Mary, Williamsburg; www.wm.edu; Public university; SAT: reading 630-730, math 630-710.

DeVry University: Arlington, Arlington; www.crys.devry.edu; For-profit 4-year university; applicant must have high school diploma or equivalent, degree from accredited post-secondary institution or acceptable test scores and be at least 17 years of age.

Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg; www.emu.edu; Private university and liberal arts college affiliated with Mennonite Church; SAT: reading 450-600, math 450-600, writing 430-575.

ECPI College of Technology, Virginia Beach; www.ecpi.edu; For-profit health science and technical college; requirements include interview and program-specific admissions test. SAT: or ACT recommended.

ECPI Technical College: Glen Allen, Glen Allen; www.ecpitech.edu; For-profit technical college; program-specific admissions test required.

Emory & Henry, Emory; www.ehc.edu; Private liberal arts college affiliated with United Methodist Church; SAT: reading 470-590, math 478-570.

Ferrum College, Ferrum; www.ferrum.edu; Private liberal arts college affiliated with United Methodist Church; SAT: reading 390-480, math 390-490.

George Mason University, Fairfax; www.gmu.edu; Public university; SAT: reading 500-600, math 510-610, writing 490-590.

Gibbs College: Vienna, Vienna; www.gibbsva.edu; For-profit business and technical college.

Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney; www.hsc.edu; Private liberal arts college for men affiliated with Presbyterian Church (USA); SAT: reading 500-600, math 510-620, writing 480-590.

Hampton University, Hampton; www.hamptonu.edu; Private university; SAT: reading 481-552, math 464-606.

Hollins University, Roanoke; www.hollins.edu; Private university, liberal arts college for women; SAT: reading 500-670, math 470-600.

ITT Technical Institute: Chantilly, Chantilly; www.itt-tech.edu; For-profit technical college, commuter campus.

ITT Technical Institute: Norfolk, Norfolk; www.itt-tech.edu; For-profit technical college, commuter campus.

ITT Technical Institute: Richmond, Richmond; www.itt-tech.edu; For-profit technical college, commuter campus.

ITT Technical Institute: Springfield, Springfield; www.itt-tech.edu; For-profit technical college, commuter campus.

James Madison University, Harrisonburg; www.jmu.edu; Public university; SAT: reading 520-610, math 530-620, writing 520-610.

Jefferson College of Health Sciences, Roanoke; www.jchs.edu; Private health science and nursing college; SAT: or ACT required; Certification required for some programs.

Liberty University, Lynchburg; www.liberty.edu; Private university and seminary college affiliated with Baptist faith; SAT: reading 440-550, math 420-540.

Longwood University, Farmville; www.longwood.com; Public university; SAT: reading 490-570, math 490-580.

Lynchburg College, Lynchburg; www.lyncburg.edu; Private liberal arts college affiliated with Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); SAT: reading 460-560, math 460-570, writing 450-550.

Mary Baldwin College, Staunton; www.mbc.edu; Private liberal arts college for women affiliated with Presbyterian Church (USA); SAT: reading 470-580, math 450-550, writing 460-570.

Marymount University, Arlington; www.marymount.edu; Private university affiliated with Roman Catholic Church; SAT: reading 450-550, math 440-550, writing 440-540.

National College: Roanoke Valley, Roanoke; www.national-college.edu; For-profit business college; open admission; commuter campus.

Norfolk State University, Norfolk; www.nsu.edu; Public university; SAT: reading 400-480, math 400-470; Commuter campus.

Old Dominion University, Norfolk; www.odu.edu; Public university; SAT: reading 480-570, math 490-580, writing 460-560.

Potomac College, Herndon; www.potomac.edu; For-profit business college; Open admission.

Radford University, Radford; www.radford.edu; Public university; SAT: reading 450-540, math 450-540.

Randolph College, Lynchburg; www.randolphcollege.edu; Private liberal arts college affiliated with United Methodist Church (formerly Randolph-Macon Woman's College, coeducational fall 2007); SAT: reading 530-660, math 500-630.

Randolph-Macon College, Ashland; www.rmc.edu; Private liberal arts college affiliated with United Methodist Church; SAT: reading 490-590, math 490-590, writing 480-580.

Regent University, Virginia Beach; www.regent.edu; Private university affiliated with interdenominational tradition; SAT: reading 470-580, math 430-550, writing 490-560.

Roanoke College, Salem; www.roanoke.edu; Private liberal arts college affiliated with Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; SAT: reading 490-600, math 490-590, writing 470-560.

St. Paul's College, Lawrenceville; www.saintpauls.edu; Private liberal arts college affiliated with Episcopal Church; SAT: reading 300-410, math 290-400.

Shenandoah University, Winchester; www.su.edu; Private university affiliated with United Methodist Church; SAT: reading 450-560, math 430-550.

Southern Virginia University, Buena Vista; www.southernvirginia.edu; Private liberal arts college affiliated with Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; SAT: reading 460-600, math 440-570.

Stratford University: Falls Church, Falls Church; www.stratford.edu; For-profit 4-year university.

Stratford University: Woodbridge, Woodbridge; www.stratford.edu; For-profit 4-yr. university.

Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar; www.sbc.edu; Private liberal arts college for women; SAT: reading 510-640, math 470-600, writing 500-600.

University of Management and Technology, Arlington; www.umatweb.edu; For-profit business and engineering college.

University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg; www.umw.edu; Public university and liberal arts college, SAT: reading 580-670, math 560-640.

University of Northern Virginia, Manassas; www.unva.edu; For-profit university and business college.

University of Richmond, Richmond; www.richmond.edu; Private university and liberal arts college, SAT: reading 590-670, math 600-680, writing 590-680.

University of Virginia, Charlottesville; www.virginia.edu; Public university; SAT: reading 600-710, math 620-720, writing 610-710.

University of Virginia's College at Wise, Wise; www.uvawise.edu; Public liberal arts college; SAT: reading 420-530, math 430-530.

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond; www.vcu.edu; Public university; SAT: reading 480-580, math 480-580, writing 460-570.

Virginia Intermont College, Bristol; www.vic.edu; Private liberal arts college affiliated with Baptist faith; SAT: reading 410-530, math 410-540.

Virginia Military Institute, Lexington; www.vmi.edu; Public liberal arts and military college; SAT: reading 510-610, math 520-610.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg; www.vt.edu; Public university; SAT: reading 530-630, math 570-660, writing 530-620.

Virginia State University, Petersburg; www.vsu.edu; Public university; SAT: reading 410-480, math 400-480, writing 390-470.

Virginia Union University, Richmond; www.vuu.edu; Private university and liberal arts college affiliated with Baptist faith; SAT: reading 349-420, math 320-410.

Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk; www.vwc.edu; Private liberal arts college affiliated with United Methodist Church; SAT: reading 440-530, math 430-540.

Washington and Lee, Lexington; www.wlu.edu; Private university, liberal arts; SAT: reading 650-740, math 650-730.

World College, Virginia Beach; www.cie-wc.edu; For-profit technical college; open admission.

TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

Advanced Technology Institute, Virginia Beach; www.auto.edu.

Aviation Institute of Maintenance: Virginia Beach, Virginia Beach; www.aviationmaintenance.edu.

Beta Tech: Richmond South, Richmond; www.betatech.edu.

Beta Tech: Richmond West, Richmond; www.betatech.edu.

Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave; www.brcc.edu.

Bryant & Stratton College: Richmond, Richmond; www.bryantstratton.edu.

Bryant & Stratton College: Virginia Beach, Virginia Beach; www.bryantstratton.edu.

Central Virginia Community College, Lynchburg; www.cv.cc.va.us.

Dabney S. Lancaster Community College, Clifton Forge; www.dl.vccs.edu.

Danville Community College, Danville; www.dcc.vccs.edu.

Eastern Shore Community College, Melfa; www.es.vccs.edu.

ECPI Technical College: Richmond, Richmond; www.ecpi.edu.

ECPI Technical College: Roanoke, Roanoke; www.ecpi.edu.

Everest College: Arlington, Arlington; www.everest.edu/campus/arlington.

Everest College: Tyson's Corner, McLean; www.everest.edu/campus/tysons-corner.

Germanna Community College, Locust Grove; www.germanna.edu.

Heritage Institute: Manassas, Manassas; www.heritage-education.com.

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond; www.reynolds.edu.

John Tyler Community College, Chester; www.jtcc.edu.

Lord Fairfax Community College, Middletown; www.lfcc.edu.

Miller-Motte Technical College: Lynchburg, Lynchburg; www.miller-motte.edu.

Mountain Empire Community College, Big Stone Gap; www.me.vccs.edu.

National College: Bluefield, Bluefield; www.ncbt.edu.

National College: Charlottesville, Charlottesville; www.ncbt.edu.

National College: Danville, Danville; www.ncbt.edu.

National College: Harrisonburg, Harrisonburg; www.national-college.edu.

National College: Lynchburg, Lynchburg; www.national-college.edu.

National College: Martinsville, Martinsville; www.national-college.edu.

New River Community College, Dublin; www.nr.edu.

Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale; www.nvcc.edu.

Patrick Henry Community College, Martinsville; www.ph.vccs.edu.

Paul D. Camp Community College, Franklin; www.pc.vccs.edu.

Piedmont Virginia Community College, Charlottesville; www.pvcc.edu.

Rappahannock Community College, Glens; www.rcc.vccs.edu.

Richard Bland College, Petersburg; www.rbc.edu.

Southside Virginia Community College, Alberta; www.sv.vccs.edu.

Southwest Virginia Community College, Richlands; www.sw.edu.

TESST College of Technology: Alexandria, Alexandria; www.tesst.edu.

Thomas Nelson Community College, Hampton; www.tncc.edu.

Tidewater Community College, Norfolk; www.tcc.vccs.edu.

Tidewater Tech: Chesapeake, Chesapeake; www.tidewatertech.edu.

Tidewater Tech: Newport News, Newport News; www.tidewatertech.edu.

Tidewater Tech: Norfolk, Norfolk; www.tidewatertech.edu.

Tidewater Tech: Virginia Beach, Virginia Beach; www.tidewatertech.edu.

Virginia Highlands Community College, Abingdon; www.vhcc.edu.

Virginia Western Community College, Roanoke; www.virginiawestern.edu.

Wytheville Community College, Wytheville; www.wcc.vccs.edu. ■