

## STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES WITH THE 2+2 MODEL

### What is the 2+2 model?

The “2+2 model” allows students to earn a bachelor’s degree by completing two years at a community college for an associate degree, and then transfer to a 4-year college or university for a final two years of study culminating in a bachelor’s degree.

#### BENEFITS OF THE 2+2 MODEL

- Community colleges offer **significantly lower tuition and fees** (typically less than half as much) than 4-year institutions.
- Many community colleges are “**open admission**” institutions, and are equipped to provide necessary prerequisites to help students become eligible to enroll in college level courses.
- Many community colleges provide **academic and English language assistance** and other support services to prepare students for the demands of studying at the university level.
- Community colleges **work closely with their local communities**, connecting international students with academic/cultural programs and other services in the area.
- International students who earn an associate degree at a community college are **eligible for one more year of Optional Practical Training (OPT)** than if they started at a 4-year school.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE 2+2 MODEL

Contact a local EducationUSA Adviser, Regional Educational Advising Coordinator (REAC), or visit EducationUSA online at <https://educationusa.state.gov/>.

#### WHAT IS A COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

*A community college (also known as an associate’s college) is a higher education institution that offers two-year programs leading to the Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree. These colleges have technical and vocational programs with close links to secondary/high schools, community groups, and employers in the local community.*

#### CONSIDERATIONS OF THE 2+2 MODEL

- Students who complete a 2+2 program **obtain the same bachelor’s degree** from a 4-year college or university as they would have if completing all four years at that school.
- Students who complete **general education requirements** for their bachelor’s degree at the community college level can focus on coursework specific to their chosen field of study once enrolled at a 4-year college or university.
- Many 4-year colleges and universities offer merit-based **transfer scholarships** to community college graduates.
- Some community colleges offer **dual admissions programs**, whereby students apply to both the community college and 4-year institution simultaneously with the guarantee of admission upon completion of the associate degree.

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