Schenectady County Community College will offer more paths to four-year degrees

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Schenectady County Community College is expanding its transfer programs to give students who head to four-year colleges better odds of graduating.

The community college is developing more applied associate degrees, designed to send students to further education, including a concentration in communications that will open this fall. The school also is considering programs in visual arts, history and psychology that would prepare students to transfer into the junior year of a four-year degree program.

Students who transfer often have to take extra courses to catch up to their peers who began at four-year colleges that weren't offered at the two-year college or realize they took additional courses at a community college that don't count toward a four-year degree. The seamless transfer program aims to break down those barriers.

"The benefit for the community college student is they efficiently transfer and don't take courses they don't need," said Carol DeFries, dean of liberal arts at Schenectady County Community College. "It's fiscally more responsible for them and they know if they have the grades they will be accepted and they will be able to start as a rising junior."

Schenectady County Community College's communications concentration will open in the fall. Students will take introduction to communication, public speaking, media writing and visual communication, as well as general education classes. The concentration is one of three in the liberal arts: humanities and social sciences applied associate degree.

Megan reports breaking news and covers education.