

*Academic Governing Council*  
**Decision Form**

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*This form is to be used when the Academic Governing Council makes a decision on an issue.  
This form is sent to the Provost.*

**Industry Recognized Credentials/Test Credit Policy  
Decision**

On April 12, 2016, the AGC membership voted to approve the following new policy:

*Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) awards course credit for external nationally recognized industry or professional credentials and accredited or nationally recognized exams and tests. When equivalence between a credential or test and a GRCC course(s) has been established by the academic department (in which the course(s) resides) and the College, the GRCC Registrar's Office will award credit for the course(s), if the following guidelines are met:*

- *The course alignment with external credential has been formally documented in the Registrar's Office prior to student request for course credit.*
- *The credential is current/valid at the time the credit is awarded (has not expired)*
- *Students provide original verification to the GRCC Registrar's Office*
- *All established requirements (for example, minimum acceptable test scores) are met.*

**Rationale**

The language of the current Transfer Policy (8.29) identifies the practice of awarding credit from accredited institutions, foreign institutions, experiential learning and non-traditional adult learning programs. This policy focuses on accepting transfer course credit, but lacks specificity regarding Test Credit, Credit for External Credentials, and Credit for Industry Recognized Credentials. This proposed new policy identifies specific guidelines for the awarding of GRCC credit for Industry Recognized Credentials along with the existing practice for Test Credit.

**Supporting Data**

Feedback on the existing Transfer Policy was collected during Fall Semester 2015 from Associate Deans, Registrar's Office, and Instructional Support. A cross-functional team reviewed this feedback and met to develop and propose revised policies to the AGC. The proposed policy was presented to the AGC membership for discussion and feedback in February and March 2016. The proposal approved at the April 2016 AGC meeting reflects AGC member feedback.

**Implications for Action**

- Courses should be aligned with industry standards through the curriculum development process, when applicable.
- Courses will be recorded manually on student transcripts as transfer credit, listing the name of the credential earned.
- Implementation will include developing and maintaining an updated list of applicable credentials.

**Date of Decision by AGC**

April 12, 2016  
Vote: 100% approved

*Section to be completed by the Provost.*

**Evaluation Plan**

This new policy will be reviewed in Winter Semester 2019.

**Response from the Provost**

I support the AGC Vote. This new policy will be in effect beginning Fall Semester 2016. The Curriculum and Registrar's Offices are responsible for developing any applicable internal processes and communicating those to faculty and staff, as well as developing and maintaining an updated list of applicable credentials.

Rennie Chesley      5-13-16