

Academic Governing Council
Decision Form

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

Lowest Level Reading Placement Policy

Decision

On March 15, 2016, the AGC membership voted to approve the following policy:

Students reading at the 7th grade level or below will be required to undergo remediation at GRCC prior to enrolling in credit classes. Applicants with documented reading disabilities are encouraged to request testing accommodations to ensure accurate placement.

Rationale

Success rates for GRCC's lowest level developmental students have continued to trend downward. Students who take the Accuplacer Reading Assessment and score below GRCC's lowest level developmental courses have been enrolling in courses for which they are not prepared to succeed.

The proposed policy will:

- Refine the placement process to better support student success.
- Use multiple measures to assess college readiness.
- Involve Fast Track and other College Success Center resources to assist students.
- Better prepare students to successfully begin developmental coursework.

Supporting Data

Success rates for GRCC's lowest level developmental students have trended downward. Interventions such as Literacy Empowerment (students reading with mentors) and RD 095 Reading for College Success (structured reading workshop) have not resulted in substantial reading remediation. In preparing a policy to support lowest level readers, the Lowest Level Reading Placement Team benchmarked reading cut scores, referrals, and interventions at comparable academic institutions. The proposal was presented to the AGC membership for discussion and feedback in January and February 2016. The proposal approved at the March 2016 AGC meeting reflects AGC member feedback.

Implications for Action

Possible implementation actions may include the following:

- Create an Indicator for Secondary Assessment for this group of students. A reading level below 7th grade equivalency triggers multiple measures.
- Refer students to the College Success Center where the secondary assessment will be administered in order to confirm reading level.
- Allow students to re-take the placement test after seven weeks of remediation in the College Success Center.
- Refer students with reading levels of below 7th grade level to the Literacy Center of West Michigan.

Date of Decision by AGC

March 15, 2016

Vote: 89% yes, 7% no, 4% abstain

Section to be completed by the Provost.

Evaluation Plan

An implementation plan and timeline for this policy will be formulated by John Cowles, Dean of Student Success and Retention, and Vikki Cooper, Director of Developmental Education and Reading faculty member, and presented to Deans' Council for feedback in Winter Semester 2017.

Response from Provost

I support the AGC vote. As specified above, an implementation plan will be developed for review in Winter Semester 2017.

Laura Chesley

4-7-16