

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.*

Decision:

- All students who are new to distance learning at GRCC are required to complete a distance learning orientation before they can enroll in an online or hybrid class.

Rationale:

- HLC Distance Learning “Change Visit” (2012): In the section on “Underperformance of online students”, the team recommended to prepare and qualify students.
- Current Practice: Optional orientation to online learning
 - Indicators that it is not meeting the needs of distance learners:
 - Feedback from faculty
 - Input from students
 - Online Student Help Desk tickets
 - Online student retention rates
- Well-defined expectations need to be available prior to enrollment, not after the course has started. Our current system does not have this in place.

Supporting Data:

- Strategic Plan 2014-17 CAP 1.2.3: Develop a comprehensive student success structure for online learners
- Mandatory Orientation 8.0 “External benchmarking and CCSSE and SENSE data show students who attend a mandatory orientation have increased student success, retention, and graduation rates.”

Findings:

Richland Community College, IL

- Retention in online courses improved after the implementation of a mandatory online orientation
 - 71.8% retention rate pre-orientation compared to 79.5% retention rate post-orientation
 - Retention remains 80-84% three years later.

Implications for Action:

1. Title of proposal is changed to reflect DISTANCE LEARNING ORIENTATION
2. Student cost should be absorbed by the college as the general orientation is.
3. Clear content expectations so as to not replicate instructor orientations.
4. Mechanics of preventing enrollment would seem most beneficial to have it be explained w/ general orientation, accessible on the Distance Learning web page and ensured at the time a student selects a course by a pop up that confirms or requires their DL orientation action.

5. Design so as not to slow down or be an obstacle by being brief and having only essential components that are not subject discipline driven.

Evaluation Plan: *Return to AGC in Fall, 2018 for review.*

Date of Decision by AGC: December 9, 2014

Response from Provost:

- *Complete implantation plan by February, 2016 for including the 16-17 catalog and full implantation for Fall, 2016.*
- *This should allow testing and piloting during the 15-16 academic year.*
- *Convene and implementation team by early February, 2015. DLFAB consult with Dean of ISIS and Director of CTE to formulate team.*
- *Update AGC in Fall 2015.*
- *Submit final implantation plan to Provost Office by February 2016.*

Patti Fugkumbi 1/6/15