

Academic Governing Council Decision Report

Graduation Requirements: Policy 7.20 March 18, 2025

Purpose

Policy 7.20 is designed to provide clarity on the requirements to earn an associate's degree or certificate at GRCC. It is intended to ensure that all students who receive a certificate or degree from GRCC acquire job skills and/or knowledge needed for their intended credential, have life skills to excel in their career and further their educational goals, and that they have been exposed to content that broadens their perspectives.

Decision

On March 18, 2025, the AGC membership voted to approve the revised Policy 7.20: Graduation Requirements as part of a regularly scheduled review. The revised policy statement follows:

To be awarded an associate's degree at Grand Rapids Community College, students must have:

- *Completed at least 60 credit hours of coursework.*
- *Met the requirements outlined in GRCC's 8.31 Minimum Institutional Credit Policy.*
- *Completed the academic program requirements for the conferred degree as outlined in the GRCC College Catalog, including general education requirements.*
- *Earned a cumulative grade point average at GRCC of at least 2.0 at the time of graduation audit.*
- *Fulfilled the Michigan Transfer Agreement-aligned English Composition and Communications required coursework.*
- *Courses below 100-level will not be used toward graduation requirements, including the minimum number of credits that need to be completed.*

To be awarded a certificate at Grand Rapids Community College, students must have:

- *Met the requirements outlined in GRCC's 8.31 Minimum Institutional Credit Policy.*
- *Completed the academic program requirements for the awarded certificate as defined in the GRCC College Catalog.*
- *Earned a cumulative grade point average at GRCC of at least 2.0 at the time of graduation audit.*
- *Courses below 100-level will not be used toward graduation requirements, including the minimum number of credits that need to be completed.*

Sponsors

Co-Chairs: Chris Remley, Associate Registrar – Graduation, Student Records, and Jennifer Batten, Associate Provost, Instructional Support and Institutional Planning (ISIP)

Committee Members: Deb DeWent, Director of Curriculum Management, ISIP; Patrick Kamau, Professor, AATC; and Renae Boss Potts, Assistant Professor, Nursing

Rationale/ Supporting Data

The committee updated the policy as follows:

- The word 'developmental' was removed from both the certificate and degree sections of the policy.

- Clarification was added as to when the GPA must be 2.0 so the policy now states “at the time of graduation audit” for both certificates and degrees.

The committee reviewing this policy:

- Sought and included input from AGC members at three meetings.
- Responded to any input from departments, programs, and individual faculty members.
- The committee reviewed graduation policies at 9 Michigan Community Colleges.

Implications for Action

Policy 7.20 Graduation Requirements was last approved in March 2022 by AGC. This current revision has minor language changes but not differences in content or intent. Procedures and processes are well established and are carried out by the Student Records Office. Other than updating the Policy Document, other procedural changes are not apparent.

Date of Decision by AGC

Date passed by AGC: March 18, 2025

- Yes:43
- Yes proxy: 14
- No: 0
- No proxy: 0

Section to be Completed by the Provost

Evaluation Plan

The Graduation Requirements Policy will be evaluated according to the next scheduled review of the policy. This evaluation and review will include feedback from GRCC faculty members and College stakeholders as well as benchmarking from peer institutions.

Next scheduled review of policy: Academic Year 2027-28

Response from Provost

I received this AGC Decision Report on Wednesday, April 2, 2025. I approve of the revised policy statement recommended by the AGC as outlined above. I am charging the Instructional Support and Institutional Planning (ISIP) department, led by the department’s Associate Provost, to coordinate implementation of this policy revision. This will include updating the policy document, reviewing the procedures, and, if appropriate, making updates to the procedures per the implications for action outlined above. This will be followed by an update to the Academic and Student Affairs Council once the policy document has been reviewed and updated. Additional steps of implementation will include working with the Provost’s Office to update the policy document on the appropriate GRCC webpage and a communication plan about the updated policy document. Full implementation of this revised policy statement should be accomplished no later than the start of the next Academic Year in August 2025.



April 7, 2025