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:

The AGC voted to approve the following definition of a credit hour at GRCC:

A credit hour gives value to an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement of those outcomes. A credit hour requires a minimum of one hour of direct faculty instruction and two hours of out-of-class student work each week for the equivalent of fourteen weeks.

Many academic experiences are integral to courses or programs because they allow students to practice and apply their learning in the laboratory, studio or workplace. Each of these requires additional contact hours to earn a credit hour.

- Clinicals require a minimum of 1.75 hours of student participation each week for the equivalent of fourteen weeks for each credit hour.

- Laboratories, Music Ensembles, Studios, Practica, Internships, and Fieldwork require a minimum of 2 hours of student participation each week for the equivalent of fourteen weeks for each credit hour.

- Co-ops require a minimum of 5 hours of student participation each week for the equivalent of fourteen weeks for each credit hour.

- Lecture/Labs are a way to implement an instructional strategy particular to a discipline. The department/program defines the credit hour/contact hour ratio according to the type of work required of students to meet the outcomes of those courses.

Rationale:

These definitions are the ones currently in use at GRCC. Until now, they had not been memorialized as policy; they were only our practice.

Supporting Data:

The committee that developed these definitions reviewed our current practice and determined it met our current needs.

Implications for Action:
With the adoption of this policy, GRCC will now be in compliance with the Higher Education Act.

Evaluation Plan:

This academic policy should be reviewed again in three years (Winter 2015).

Date of Decision by AGC:

February 14, 2012

Response from Provost:

The Provost endorses the policy on Credit Hour Definition as approved by AGC.

[Signature]
3.15.12