

FISCAL YEAR 2017  
CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT  
REQUEST

*Institution Name:* Grand Rapids Community College

*Project Title:* Exercise Science Facility Renovation

*Project Focus:*  Academic     Research     Administrative/Support

*Type of Project:*  Renovation     Addition     New Construction

*Program Focus of Occupants:* Exercise Science, Police Academy & Wellness

*Approximate Square Footage:* 74,319

*Total Estimated Cost:* \$8,500,000

*Estimated Start/Completion Dates:* Fall 2017 – Fall 2019

*Is the Five-Year Plan posted on the institution's public internet site?* YES

*Is the requested project the top priority in the Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan?* YES

*Is the requested project focused on a single, stand-alone facility?* YES

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Describe the project purpose.

The purpose of this project is to renovate an existing, stand-alone facility to support GRCC's Exercise Science Department and the Police Academy. The mission of GRCC's Exercise Science Department is to educate and positively impact the health of students and the community by offering academic coursework, outreach, and practical learning opportunities that promote individual wellness skills and prepare health, exercise science, and wellness professionals for their future. The law enforcement program is a pre-service police academy program that prepares a student to become eligible to be a licensed police officer in Michigan. GRCC is the only academy in Michigan that offers both day and night class options, allowing students a more flexible school schedule and the option to work outside the academy and still receive the required training. The goal of the intended renovation project is to provide adequate classroom and learning space to support these programs.

Describe the scope of the project.

The Ford Fieldhouse is first and foremost an instructional facility. Spaces within the facility are used day and evening, Monday through Friday for Exercise Science, Wellness and Police Academy instruction. Also, approximately 70 different sections of credit course work are offered each semester as all GRCC students must complete a one-credit wellness course as a graduation requirement. Plans call for renovations within the Ford Fieldhouse to convert under-utilized space into functional classrooms and to accommodate HVAC, electrical, plumbing and code compliance requirements. In addition, ADA compliance will be addressed throughout the facility, as well as life safety and fire suppression systems.

Please provide detailed, yet appropriately concise responses to the following questions that will enhance our understanding of the requested project.

1. How does the project enhance Michigan’s job creation, talent enhancement and economic growth initiatives on a local, regional and/or statewide basis?

The popularity of and need for Exercise Science majors and professionals is rapidly increasing. For example, Exercise Science majors at GVSU, GRCC’s primary transfer partner, have increased by 400% in the last 5 years and are increasing rapidly across the nation. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that in 2020, there will be a 24% increase in fitness trainers and instructors, a 39% increase in physical therapists, a 30% growth in athletic trainers, a 28% growth in exercise physiologists, and a 29% growth in cardiovascular rehabilitation technicians. Exercise Science degrees often lead students to careers in all the afore-mentioned fields. The ability to renovate the facility and re-purpose obsolete spaces into usable classrooms will allow us to expand course offerings to improve transferability and job readiness.

Description	2014 Jobs	2015 Jobs	2024 Jobs	2014 - 2024 Change	2014 - 2024 % Change	Median Hourly Earnings
Coaches and Scouts	1,668	1,688	1,890	222	13%	\$9.57
Occupational Therapists	903	922	1,123	220	24%	\$31.61
Physical Therapists	1,489	1,538	2,012	523	35%	\$37.01
Exercise Physiologists	78	79	86	8	10%	\$21.85
Athletic Trainers	79	83	110	31	39%	\$18.04
Occupational Therapy Assistants	264	277	393	129	49%	\$20.79
Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors	1,188	1,224	1,368	180	15%	\$14.35

EMSI/Occupational Employment Statistics

2. How does the project enhance the core academic and/or research mission of the institution?

**Mission: GRCC is an open access college that prepares individuals to attain their goals and contribute to the community.**

The Exercise Science Department (formerly the Wellness Department) has updated and modernized its curriculum from the old PE model into Exercise Science. Recently created and soon-to-be-forthcoming courses in Exercise Science include Introduction to Exercise Science, Group Exercise Instructor Course, Personal Trainer Instructor Course, Concepts in Public Health, Kinesiology, and Advanced Athletic Training, as well as Spinning and Urban Eco-Trek. These courses align to specific job requirements and popular fitness trends, as well as to bachelor’s degree programs at our four-year transfer institutions. The Exercise Science Department has recently created a pre-major that is aligned with the exercise science programs at our five major transfer institutions, as well as specific articulation agreements with Grand Valley State University (our number one transfer institution). Formal articulation and 2+2 agreements have been finalized with Cornerstone and Western Michigan University, and we are finalizing a formal

agreement with Aquinas. In addition to offering transfer curricula, the Exercise Science Department offers professional certifications (e.g. Spinning, Yoga, Pilates, Personal Training, and Group Exercise) to persons currently practicing in the field, and its courses meet the Wellness graduation requirement that all GRCC degree-seeking students must meet.

The law enforcement program at Grand Rapids Community College is a pre-service police academy program that prepares a student to become eligible to be a licensed police officer in Michigan. GRCC's Police Academy offers both day and night classes. GRCC is the only academy in Michigan that offers both the day and night class options, allowing students a more flexible school schedule and the option to work outside the academy and still receive the required training. The program provides professional law enforcement training, offering the most current and innovative training. Through GRCC's Law Enforcement program, students complete an Associate in Arts and meet the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to become eligible for licensing as a Michigan Police Officer. Licensure rates for GRCC grads consistently meet or exceed State and National benchmarks.

3. How does the project support investment in or adaptive re-purposing of existing facilities and infrastructure?

There are currently six racquetball court rooms that are no longer used for that purpose. These rooms cannot currently be used for instruction as they are not ADA compliant nor appropriately equipped for instructional needs. Opening those spaces up and re-purposing them will allow for multipurpose classroom space that would be safer, accessible, and allow for more effective instruction.

4. Does the project address or mitigate any current health/safety deficiencies relative to existing facilities? If yes, please explain.

It would bring code compliance for life safety to the facility, including fire suppression. Additionally, it would include ADA accessibility for students, faculty, staff, and the general public. Problems that impact the usability of this facility include lack of air conditioning, which in summer, when temperatures in the building rise to dangerous levels, can lead to health risks or even all classes in the building being cancelled.

5. How does the institution measure utilization of its existing facilities, and how does it compare relative to established benchmarks for educational facilities? How does the project help to improve the utilization of existing space and infrastructure or conversely how does the current utilization support the need for additional space and infrastructure?

From a curricular standpoint, the most significant shortcomings of the building are lack of appropriate classroom space for the new coursework referenced earlier. Appropriately equipped and sized classroom space for these courses is needed near the exercise facilities (e.g. basketball courts, weight rooms, track, etc.). New curricula also require space for a human performance lab that is more sophisticated and spacious than the current room used for this purpose. This lab will also be a resource to our health and science programs.

Lack of adequate classroom space results in several classes needing to share spaces or meet in less than ideal/appropriate spaces in other buildings, which presents activity and sound challenges. Utilization statistics reflect use of a space but do not adequately reflect when multiple courses and activities are forced to share space. Furthermore, several teaching spaces in the building are not ADA compliant and, therefore, use is limited.

6. How does the institution intend to integrate sustainable design principles to enhance the efficiency and operations of the facility?

GRCC incorporates LEED standards in all building and renovation projects. In addition to employing LEED standards, we incorporate energy efficient systems, automated controls and lighting sensors. Recyclable materials are used in furnishings, carpeting, etc.

7. Are match resources currently available for the project? If yes, what is the source of the match resources? If no, identify the intended source and the estimated timeline for securing said resources?

Existing plant fund resources will be allocated, and the college is actively working with numerous external funding partners to assist with the funding for this project. All planning and construction resources will be on hand prior to the desired start of the project in fall of 2017.

8. If authorized for construction, that state typically provides a maximum of 75% of the total cost for university projects and 50% of the total cost for community college projects. Does the institution intend to commit additional resources that would reduce the state share from the amounts indicated? If so, by what amount?

At this time, our total request is \$4,250,000, which is 50% of the total estimated project cost.

9. Will the completed project increase operating costs to the institution? If yes, please provide an estimated costs (annually, and over a five year period) and indicate whether the institution has identified available funds to support the additional cost.

The addition of classrooms and upgrades to the infrastructure would not increase operating costs. The college should see a decrease in the overall operating costs due to efficiency of updated utility systems.

10. What impact, if any, will the project have on tuition costs?

The renovation will not have any impact on GRCC tuition costs.

11. If this project is not authorized, what are the impacts to the institution and its students?

The current conditions of the facility are significantly impacting our ability to grow and expand programs due to lack of instructional space. If this project is not authorized, we will be severely limited in our ability to develop necessary classes that are in demand and necessary for students

to transfer. Accessibility and life safety issues in this facility would continue to be major concerns.