

Closing an College Action Project

Project Name: CAP 1.2.1 – Academic Alignment - Programs of Study
Date Closed: Proposed - February 2014
Project Leader: Fiona Hert

In order to close a College Action Project you must provide a thoughtful response to the following three questions.

1. What is the primary reason for closing this project?

Programs of Study (POS) were implemented in 2009. Since that time, 46 faculty and staff have completed 23 general education (11) and occupational (12) areas in just over four years. This represents 48% of the State of Michigan’s 33 highest enrolled occupational programs, a requirement of the project to complete Programs of Study for these programs. GRCC completed the highest number of Programs of Study in the state compared other Michigan community colleges.

The process to accomplish a discipline specific Program of Study has now been incorporated into the departmental Program Review process. The POS no longer needs to be a separate process due to the assimilation into GRCC’s Academic Program Review.

2. What aspects of this project would you categorize as successful? (Attach data as needed).

The following measurable criteria were used to determine success of this action project:

Measurable Criteria	Status
To complete Programs of Study in the top highest enrolled occupational programs as determined by the State of Michigan Community Colleges Services Unit and the Department of Education.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forty six faculty from Arts and Sciences and School of Workforce Development participated in the implementation and completion of Programs of Study and curriculum alignment projects. Twenty three POS reports have been completed. They have been utilized as part of GRCC’s academic program review process. All occupational faculty have presented at the Michigan Occupational Trends Conferences in the last three years and shared their findings with other discipline specific faculty and staff in Michigan. All findings have been shared with departmental staff and curriculum changes 	Complete

<p>have been implemented appropriately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All reports are listed on the College's website by program www.grcc.edu/programsofstudy • New courses and new articulation agreements have been implemented in many of the areas including Law Enforcement, Welding, and Corrections. 	
Improved secondary to post-secondary curriculum alignment has occurred.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All programs involved in POS were required to review their entrance assessment and testing requirements to improve high school to college articulation. Faculty reviewed alignment of Accuplacer scores with needs of the program and made recommendations in courses that included, for example, math, reading, and textbook requirements. • Courses were revised or created as result of information gathered from assessment data. 	Complete
Outreach with area career and technical centers have occurred to align college and high school curriculum.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach has occurred with area career and technical centers including Allegan and Kent Career and Technical Center. The Dental Programs Director was appointed to the Allegan career center Dental Advisory Committee due to the connection from the POS. • Several faculty (CJ and Office Administration) have presented at the Michigan Department of Education Career and Technical Conference (February 2012 and 2013) and shared findings with secondary partners. 	Complete
Assimilate the Program of Study process into internal GRCC academic processes.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POS for 2013-2014 is included in the Academic Program Review process. Each department will be required to complete this process once every four years to ensure the curriculum is in alignment with high school occupational curriculum. 	Complete and ongoing

3. What aspects of this project would you categorize as less than successful?

The one aspect that was not as successful as hoped was the opportunity to discuss the Program of Study and Curriculum Alignment work with high school faculty and counselors. A special event was planned to bring high school faculty to campus to meet with discipline specific GRCC faculty in Winter 2011, however the participation despite advertising, communication, and outreach to area superintendents, principals and counselors was underwhelming from high schools and, as a result, the event was cancelled. Faculty have since then implemented contact with counselors and faculty on a case by case basis.

The other area which did not prove as successful at the time was a deep curriculum analysis by discipline. As the work of POS was primarily only one year in length, faculty did not have the time to devote to this work in its entirety. Faculty that did Year Two work (Corrections, Law Enforcement, for example) utilized the time to make changes in courses that had positive impact on their curricula. With the addition of a curriculum specialist at GRCC, this work will now be included in program review and as a result of the new curriculum model as proposed and approved by AGC (Academic Governing Council).