

AGC Decision Report

7.15 Prior Learning Assessment
Approved by AGC Executive Committee on March 7, 2024

Decision

On January 16, 2024 the AGC membership voted to endorse revisions of the 7.15 Prior Learning Assessment Policy Statement.

The existing Policy Statement reads:

III. Policy Statement

Grand Rapids Community College may award credit for non-traditional learning or work experiences. Grand Rapids Community College will award credit for the course if a student is able to demonstrate competency in Course Learning Outcomes for a course by submitting a portfolio to be evaluated by a subject matter expert, only if the following guidelines are met:

- If a Challenge Exam, an AP Test, a CLEP, a Test-Out, or an Industry Recognized Credential exists for a course and is a viable option, it should be used instead of a PLA portfolio evaluation.
- Credit must be aligned with a course and may only be awarded once for that course.
- Credits will not be awarded for General Education courses.
- Students have been made aware that the credit awarded by the college is typically not transferable to other institutions.

Below is the new language (with specific changes underlined):

III. Policy Statement

Grand Rapids Community College may award credit for non-traditional learning or work experiences. Grand Rapids Community College will award credit for the course if a student is able to demonstrate competency in the Course Learning Outcomes for a course by submitting a portfolio to be evaluated by a subject matter expert, only if the following guidelines are met:

1. If a Challenge Exam, an AP Test, a CLEP, a Test-Out, or an Industry Recognized Credential exists for a course and is a viable option, it should be used instead of a PLA portfolio evaluation.
2. Credit must be aligned with a course and may only be awarded once for that course.
- ~~3. Credits will not be awarded for General Education courses.~~
4. Students ~~have been~~ will be made aware that the credit awarded by the college is typically not transferable to other institutions.

Sponsor/Champion of Proposed Policy

Co-Chairs: Julie Parks (Dean and Executive Director of Workforce Training) and Chris Schell (Faculty, Applied Technology)

Rationale

- This policy was up for review in 2023-2024. The Procedures were updated in 2023.
- Michigan Reconnect driving Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) for adult learners (21+ years of age).

Supporting Data

The sponsors of this modification to the Prior Learning Assessment Policy solicited input from AGC during three presentations and incorporated such input in the document.

Implications for Action

Implementation should be as soon as possible.

Date of Decision by AGC

Date: January 16, 2024

Vote: 100% approved, 0% not approved, 0% abstained

Section to be Completed by the Provost

Evaluation Plan

The Prior Learning Assessment 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 2026-27

Response from Provost

I received this AGC Decision Report on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. I approve of the revised policy statement recommended by the AGC as outlined above. As recommended by the policy review sponsors, the revised policy statement language should be implemented as soon as possible. I am charging the policy review sponsors, led by the Dean of the School of Workforce Training, to coordinate this implementation. The Dean will bring an update to the Deans' Council at a date they deem feasible once they have outlined the implementation steps. Additionally, this update should include the draft policy document for posting on the GRCC policies webpage, incorporating the approved revised policy statement and any procedural or other non-policy statement changes, as applicable. Full implementation of this revised policy statement should be accomplished no later than the start of the next Academic Year in August 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shuta Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

April 5, 2024