



GRCC Curriculum Model

A curriculum is a scope and sequence of learning activities that is arranged in a logical order for a defined audience. The scope responds to the breadth of learning intended and the sequence illustrates the order, with complexity of learning outcomes becoming greater over time. The overarching purpose of curriculum is to describe the intentions of a learning experience. A curriculum is also a planning and communication tool that lets stakeholders (faculty, staff, students, and the community) know what is being taught, why, and how the intended learning is to inspire and impact the learners.

The GRCC Curriculum Model establishes guidelines and standards for GRCC curricula, including degrees, programs, and courses. The model is based on the following principles:

- Academic programs and courses are purposefully defined in the context of the goals and expectations of students and their learning needs.
- The curriculum is outcomes-based and learning is defined by measurable student learning outcomes at the institutional, program, and course levels for all offerings.
- Degrees are defined and granted by the institution.
- All GRCC programs will result in a meaningful credential and prepare students to immediately enter the workforce, enhance their skills or knowledge in a particular area to support their continued employment or transfer to another institution to continue their education.
- Programs are created and delivered within schools and departments.
- Programs and courses provide the same opportunities regardless of delivery method.
- General education are included in all programs that lead to a degree.

Curricula are built by aligning content and competencies seamlessly through degrees, programs, and courses. The model integrates these curricular components systematically to facilitate curriculum development, delivery, and evaluation.

Degrees & Certificates

GRCC currently offers and awards the following types of degree and credentials for college credit:

- *Associate of Arts (A.A.)* – This degree is designed to prepare students to transfer to colleges or universities to pursue a Bachelor’s degree. Students earning this degree fulfill MACRAO requirements.
- *Associate of Science (A.S.)* – This degree is designed to prepare students to transfer to colleges or universities to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in a science or mathematics related field. Students earning this degree fulfill MACRAO requirements.



- *Associate of Applied Arts & Sciences (A.A.A.S.)* – This degree is designed to prepare students for employment in a specific career field.
- *Associate of Business (A.B.)* – This degree is designed to prepare students for entry level positions in the business field or prepare students to transfer to colleges or universities to pursue a Bachelor’s of Business Administration or another degree in a business related field.
- *Associate of Nursing (A.N.)* – This degree is designed to prepare students to qualify to take the NCLEX-RN examination to become registered nurses.
- *Associate of Fine Arts (A.F.A.)* – This degree is designed to prepare students to transfer to colleges or universities to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts.
- *Associate of Music (A.M.)* – This degree is designed to prepare students for entry level positions in the music field or to prepare students to transfer to colleges or universities to pursue a Bachelor’s of Music or another performance related degree, thus requiring significant music performance credits.
- *Associate of General Studies (A.G.S.)* – This degree is designed for students who wish to earn an associate degree without following a specific program.
- *Certificate* – This credential is designed to prepare students with specific knowledge and skills necessary to enter a career, continue employment, or prepare for transfer to a college or university.
- *Advanced Certificate*- These programs are designed to provide students, who already have or are in the process of earning a degree, with enhanced knowledge and skills.
- *Industry Recognized Certification*- Designed to align coursework with external credentials. The courses in the *Industry Recognized Certification* may be a part of a degree program, or included in a combination of courses that together prepare students meet the requirements to apply for an external credential.

In addition to the credit bearing certificates, GRCC offers non-credit certificates.

- *Certificate of Completion*- This credential is designed to prepare students to enter or continue employment in specialized careers.



Academic Programs

Associate degrees and certificates are aligned with 10 different kinds of programs, as appropriate based on their purpose or role in the preparation of students.

- *Liberal Arts & Sciences (general)* - Designed to fulfill GRCC general education and MACRAO, without focusing on a specific discipline or major. Prepares students to transfer to a college or university to pursue a Bachelor's degree.
- *Pre-Major*- Designed to fulfill GRCC general education requirements, and MACRAO, while focusing on coursework prerequisite to a particular major at a college or university.
- *Articulated Pre-Major*- Designed to fulfill GRCC general education and MACRAO, while focusing on coursework prerequisite to a particular major at a specific college or university. The GRCC courses stated in the formal articulation agreement are guaranteed to transfer to the college or university if minimum grade and other stated expectations and are met.
- *Career* - Designed to prepare students to be qualified for entry into a career in a specific field. These programs may have Tracks that allow students to specialize within the program. They also may have areas of Emphasis, which provide students with more depth of knowledge or skills in a particular area.
- *Career (MACRAO)* - Designed to prepare students to be qualified for entry into a career in a specific field and to fulfill GRCC general education and MACRAO, focusing on coursework prerequisite to a particular major at a college or university.
- *Articulated Career*- Designed to prepare students to be qualified for entry into a career in a specific field and includes the coursework prerequisite to a particular major at a specific college or university. The GRCC courses stated in the formal articulation agreement are guaranteed to transfer to the college or university if minimum grade and other stated expectations and are met.
- *Pre-Professional* - Designed to prepare students for transfer to a college or university while allowing them to begin the coursework requisite for a specialized professional degree, i.e., Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Business. These programs may include a Major that allows students to focus on the specific content necessary to prepare them to seamlessly continue in their coursework at the transfer institution.
- *Professional*- Designed to prepare students to be qualified for entry into a professions oriented career, requiring a specialized professional degree, i.e., Associate of Nursing, Associate of Music. Professional programs may include a Major that allows students to focus on the specific content necessary to prepare them for work in the profession.



- *Articulated Pre-Professional-* Designed to prepare students for transfer to a college or university while allowing them to begin the coursework requisite for a specialized professional degree, i.e., Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Music, and Bachelor of Business. These programs may include a Major that allows students to focus on the specific content necessary to prepare them to seamlessly continue in their coursework at the transfer institution. The GRCC courses stated in the formal articulation agreement are guaranteed to transfer to the college or university if minimum grade and other stated expectations and are met.
- *Apprenticeship-* Designed to prepare students with specific knowledge and skills necessary for a particular trade or industry in which they are already employed.

General Education

The model includes definitions that encourage a robust general education program that is aligned with the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrar's and Admissions Officers (MACRAO) and lays the foundation for students pursuing associate's degrees to be successful, whether their goal is to continue their education at another institution or to complete a degree that prepares them to enter the workforce upon graduation.

The GRCC General Education Program is comprised of four categories: Humanities; Social Sciences; Quantitative Skills and Natural Sciences; and English Composition. Courses designated as fulfilling general education requirements must satisfy the requirements of one of these areas. Survey of American Government (PS110), is a mandatory Social Science requirement for all GRCC curricula. In addition to these categories, curricula must include one Wellness credit.

All programs that lead to a degree must include a minimum of 15 credit hours of general education coursework. Programs may specify the general education coursework that is best aligned with the curricular content of the program. For any program, a particular course may be chosen to meet general education requirements or to meet program specific requirements, including the professional core, Major or Curricular Track, but not both at the same time. A student in a specific program cannot count the same course toward more than requirement, for example, general education *and* program requirements or program electives *and* general electives.

Institutional Learning Outcomes

Institutional Learning Outcomes include the knowledge, skills and competencies which are embedded within every aspect of the college to inspire and enhance each student's transferable learning skills. The ILOs represent the broad categories of competence that enable



students to be successful in further education, in careers, as citizens, and in their personal lives. They are:

- *Communication Skills* – Students will effectively express and exchange ideas through listening, speaking, reading, writing, and other modes of interpersonal expression
- *Critical Thinking Skills* – Students are able to gather and synthesize relevant information, evaluate alternatives, and implement creative and effective solutions
- *Social Responsibility Skills* – Students are prepared to practice community engagement that addresses environmental responsibility, social justice, and cultural diversity
- *Personal Responsibility Skills* – Students will become independent learners who understand and express the lifelong skills necessary for physical, social, economic, mental, and emotional health

The content and competencies associated with the ILOs is systematically embedded throughout every program curricula. All of the academic programs previously listed result in the mastery of the GRCC Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs). General education courses are associated with the ILOs to ensure that all students have the opportunity to be educated in these areas.

Operationalizing the Program & Certificate Model

Each degree the College offers has a defined purpose in terms of the role it plays in preparing students to either pursue entry-level employment, or transfer to a four-year institution, or both. The purposes for the degrees articulated in this model are listed in the chart below.

	Primary Purpose of Degree/Certificate	
	Transfer	Work
Associate of Art	X	
Associate of Science	X	
Associate of Applied Arts & Sciences		X
Associate of Business	X	X
Associate of Nursing		X
Associate of Fine Arts	X	
Associate of Music	X	X
Associate of General Studies	NA	NA
Certificate	X	X
Advanced Certificate		X
Certificate of Completion		X
Industry Recognized Certification		X



Degrees and programs are purposefully aligned based on the curricular expectations for the various programs and degrees. The expectations for the curricular content for each degree/program are listed in Appendix A.

Student transcripts reflect the intended purpose of the degree and associated program in which they graduate. The information for each degree/program combination can be seen in Appendix B.

Courses

Courses are the way in which the curricular content and experiences are delivered. At GRCC, classroom and out-of-classroom learning experiences are curricular at the course level. Each of these is characterized by explicit student learning outcomes, a plan for experiences that will lead students to achieve these outcomes, and a plan for assessing that achievement.

GRCC provides an extensive array of courses with varying purposes for students, including the following types:

- *Program Requirement*- Offering designed to meet the learning needs of students in a specific GRCC program.
- *General Education*- Offering designed to meet the specific criteria for a GRCC Distribution Requirement, Wellness, or Composition. The course should be designated by the requirement it fulfills.
- *Elective*- Offering designed to expand learning opportunities for degree seeking students. May or may not be restricted to students in a specific GRCC program.
- *Community Interest*- Offering designed for non-degree seeking students based on an expressed interest or need.
- *Continuing Education*- Offering designed to meet the specific requirements of a profession for continuing education credit.
- *Service*- A discipline specific offering designed as a transferable prerequisite to one or more GRCC programs.
- *Developmental*- Offering designed as a non-transferable prerequisite to college level GRCC courses that does not count for credit toward a certificate or associate degree.



Courses are offered in a variety of formats, each with a minimum requirement for contact hours. The formats, definitions, and contact hour requirements are listed in the table below.

Course Format	Definition	Contact Hours per 1 credit	Other Details
Lecture	A course in which content is primarily delivered through presentations of facts, principles, context, or interpretation. Instruction takes place in a traditional classroom setting or online format.	1	
Seminar	A course which focuses on a topic that is not included and/or studied in depth in the discipline's regular course offerings. In a seminar course, a group of students work with a faculty member to study this special topic. A seminar course topic is not intended to become a regular course in a curriculum. The purpose is to provide a unique opportunity for a group of students and a faculty member to explore a special or new topic. The topics of seminar courses in a discipline will typically not be routinely repeated.	1	Policy on Numbering of Seminar Courses: Seminar courses are designated by the following numbers: 291 (one credit hour seminar), 292 (two credit hour seminar), 293 (three credit hour seminar), 294 (four credit hour seminar). The particular topic of the Seminar must be included in the Seminar title.
Clinical	A course that is a part of an academic program and allows students to be directly supervised by an instructor while applying methods and principles of a clinical discipline, and which takes place in a clinical setting, including practice labs, hospitals, or other agencies.	1.75 (min)	
Lecture/ Labs	A course which integrates both lecture and lab formats.	1 (min)	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, while upholding the credit contact hour ratios for lecture and lab courses.



Music Ensembles	A course in which the primary purpose is to prepare and offer opportunities for students to perform instrumental or vocal music as a group.	2	
Studio	A course involving the demonstration and application of design and theory in a defined physical setting (i.e., studio) and which is characterized by significant one-on-one student/instructor interaction. Students explore and experiment under the guidance of an instructor.	2	
Laboratory	A course which is focused around the implementation of an instructional strategy particular to a discipline and allows students to interact directly with natural phenomena, materials, or models, use tools to manipulate data existing data, or engage in data collection.	2	
Fieldwork	A course which allows students to practice and apply their learning or investigation in the field rather than in a laboratory or headquarters.	2	Fieldwork courses differ from practica, internships, and co-ops in that the instructor is working with and supervising students in the field.
Independent Study	A learning experience in which the student and instructor agree upon a topic of study, learning outcomes and number of credits that are awarded for the work.	1	
Practica	A work experience embedded in an academic class that is a part of an academic program, designed to provide students with supervised practical application of a previously or concurrently studied theory.	2	
Internship	A course which is a supervised, professional experience, guided by learning outcomes, that builds on and enhances previous coursework, and allows students to make connections in the professional fields they are	2 (min)	Can be taken for 1-6 credits per semester. The maximum number of credits a student can earn towards a degree is 6.



	considering for career paths, and which provides employers with an opportunity to guide and evaluate talent.		
Co-op	A course that is a part of an academic program and integrates a hands-on, paid, career-related work experience with theory based coursework in the chosen field of the student.	5	Theory-based coursework can be a part of the co-op course or in a course co-requisite to the co-op course.
Physical Activity	A course devoted to participation in or the performance of some form of physical activity. Knowledge associated with the proper performance of the activity is also presented.	2	
Tutorial	A course that provides individualized instruction in a particular subject matter.	1	

Definitions

Course- A set of learning experiences designed around a specific topic or discipline.

Curricular Tracks- An area of curricular focus in a Career program with a minimum of 8 credits of coursework.

Curriculum- A scope and sequence of learning activities that is arranged in a logical order for a defined audience.

General Education- Institutional curriculum requirements for all associate’s degrees.

Major- An area of curricular focus in a Pre-Professional program with a minimum of 15 credits of coursework.

Program- A set of courses designed to meet the learning needs of students for a specific purpose.

Program Outcome- What the student should be prepared to do upon completion of the program, i.e., obtain employment, transfer to a four-year institution.

Student Learning Outcome (Institution, Program, Course)-

Institutional (ILO)- The knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviors all students who graduate with a degree or credential from GRCC are able to demonstrate. The ILOs include



Communication, Critical Thinking, Social Responsibility Skills, and Personal Responsibility. The competencies and skills associated with the ILOs are embedded within programs and courses.

Program- The specific knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors all students within a particular program are able to demonstrate upon graduating with that degree or credential.

Course- The specific knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors all students within a particular course are able to demonstrate upon completion of the course.

Appendix A Degree/Certificate & Program Associations

	Liberal Arts & Sciences	Pre-Major	Articulated Pre-Major	Career	Career (MACRAO)	Articulated Career	Professional	Pre-Professional	Articulated Pre-Professional	Apprenticeship
Associate of Arts	X	X	X							
Associate of Sciences	X	X	X							
Associate of Applied Arts & Sciences				X	X	X				
Associate of Business							X	X	X	
Associate of Nursing							X			
Associate of Fine Arts								X	X	
Associate of Music							X	X	X	
Certificate	X			X						X

Appendix B Degree and Program Definitions

Type	Programs	# Min/Max Credits	MACRAO /State Transfer Block Required	Min # Gen Ed Credits Req.	Prof. Core Req.?	Other requirements/info	Degree/ Credential Awarded	Student Preparation
A.A. Associate of Arts	Liberal Arts & Sciences (general)	60/60	Yes	31 (including Wellness/PS110) All gen ed courses must be transferable	No	None	Diploma- A.A. ONLY Transcripts- MACRAO & Plan Code Name	BACHELOR'S
	Pre-Major	60/60	Yes	31 (including Wellness/PS110) All gen ed courses must be transferable	No	None	Diploma- A.A. ONLY Transcripts- MACRAO & Plan Code Name	BACHELOR'S
	Articulated Pre-Major (2+2 or 3+1)	60/90 60/90	Yes	31 (including Wellness/PS110) All gen ed courses must be transferable	No	None	Diploma- A.A. ONLY Transcripts- MACRAO & Plan Code Name	BACHELOR'S
A.S. Associate of Science	Liberal Arts & Sciences (general)	60/60	Yes	31 (including Wellness/PS110) All gen ed courses must be transferable	No	Min. 20 credits in Natural Science & Mathematics, two 2-semester sequences diff sub. Areas (1 lab science seq.)	Diploma- A.S. ONLY Transcripts- MACRAO & Plan Code Name	BACHELOR'S
	Pre-Major	60/60	Yes	31 (including Wellness/PS110) All gen ed courses must be transferable	No	Min. 20 credits in Natural Science & Mathematics, two 2-semester sequences diff sub. Areas (1 lab science seq.)	Diploma- A.S. ONLY Transcripts- MACRAO & Plan Code Name	BACHELOR'S
	Articulated Pre-Major (2+2 or 3+1)	60/NA 90/NA	Yes	31 (including Wellness/PS110) All gen ed courses must be transferable	No	Min. 20 credits in Natural Science & Mathematics, two 2-semester sequences diff sub. Areas (1 lab science seq.) Provide rationale if over 60 credit hours	Diploma- A.S. ONLY Transcripts- MACRAO & Plan Code Name	BACHELOR'S

Type	Programs	# Min Total Credits	MACRAO Required	Min # Gen Ed Credits Req.	Prof. Core Req.?	Other requirements/info	Degree/Credential Awarded	Student Preparation
A.A.A.S. Associate of Applied Arts and Science	Career	60/NA	No	15 (including 1 Wellness course/PS110/ 2 course sequence Composition 1 course Humanities 1 course Natural Science & Mathematics 1 Course Social Science- PS110 may meet this requirement) All gen ed courses must be transferable	No	May include Curricular Tracks, Provide rationale if over 60 credit hours	Diploma- A.A.A.S. & Plan Code Name Transcripts- A.A.A.S. & Plan Code Name	WORK
	Career- MACRAO	60/NA	Yes	31 (including Wellness/PS110) All gen ed courses must be transferable	No	None	Diploma- A.A.A.S. & Plan Code Name Transcripts- A.A.A.S. & Plan Code Name, MACRAO	WORK + BACHELOR'S
	Articulated Career (2+2 or 3+1)	60/NA 90/NA	No	15 (including 1 Wellness course/PS110/ 2 course sequence Composition 1 course Humanities 1 course Natural Science & Mathematics 1 Course Social Science- PS110 may meet this requirement) All gen ed courses must be transferable	No	May include Curricular Tracks Provide rationale if over 60 credit hours	Diploma- A.A.A.S. & Plan Code Name Transcripts- A.A.A.S. & Plan Code Name	WORK + BACHELOR'S

A.B. Associate of Business	Pre- Professional	60/NA	No	15 (including 1 Wellness course/PS110/ 2 course sequence Composition 1 course Humanities 1 course Natural Science & Mathematics 1 Course Social Science- PS110 may meet this requirement) All gen ed courses must be transferable	Yes	See AACBS curriculum standards May include a Major Provide rationale if over 60 credit hours	Diploma- A.B. ONLY Transcripts- A.B. & Plan Code Name	BACHELOR'S
	Professional	60/NA	No	15 (including 1 Wellness course/PS110/ 2 course sequence Composition 1 course Humanities 1 course Natural Science & Mathematics) All gen ed courses must be transferable	Yes	See AACBS curriculum standards May include a Major Provide rationale if over 60 credit hours	Diploma- A.B. & Plan Code Name Transcripts- A.B. & Plan Code Name	WORK
	Articulated Pre- Professional (2+2 or 3+1)	60/NA 90/NA	No	15 (including 1 Wellness course/PS110/ 2 course sequence Composition 1 course Humanities 1 course Natural Science & Mathematics 1 Course Social Science- PS110 may meet this requirement) All gen ed courses must be transferable	Yes	See AACBS curriculum standards May include a Major Provide rationale if over 60 credit hours	Diploma- A.B. ONLY Transcripts- A.B. & Plan Code Name	BACHELOR'S

Type	Programs	# Min Total Credits	MACRAO Required	Min # Gen Ed Credits Req.	Prof. Core Req.?	Other requirements/info	Degree/Credential Awarded	Student Preparation
A.N. Associate of Nursing	Professional	60/NA	No	15 (including 1 Wellness course/PS110/ 2 course sequence Composition 1 course Humanities 1 course Natural Science & Mathematics 1 Course Social Science- PS110 may meet this requirement)	No	See NLNAC curriculum standards Provide rationale if over 60 credit hours	Diploma- A.N. Transcripts- A.N.	WORK
A.M. Associate of Music	Pre-Professional	60/NA	No	15 (including 1 Wellness course/PS110/ 2 course sequence Composition 1 course Humanities 1 course Natural Science & Mathematics 1 Course Social Science- PS110 may meet this requirement) All gen ed courses must be transferable	Yes	See NASM curriculum standards May include a Major Provide rationale if over 60 credit hours	Diploma- A.M. ONLY Transcripts- A.M. & Plan Code Name	BACHELOR'S
	Professional	60/NA	No	15 (including 1 Wellness course/PS110/ 2 course sequence Composition 1 course Humanities 1 course Natural Science & Mathematics 1 Course Social Science- PS110 may meet this requirement)	Yes	See NASM curriculum standards May include a Major Provide rationale if over 60 credit hours	Diploma- A.M. & Plan Code Name Transcripts- A.M. & Plan Code Name	WORK
	Articulated Pre-Professional (2+2 or 3+1)	60/NA 90/NA	No	15 (including 1 Wellness course/PS110/ 2 course sequence Composition 1 course Humanities 1 course Natural Science & Mathematics, 1 Course Social Science- PS110 may meet this requirement) All gen ed courses must be transferable	Yes	See NASM curriculum standards May include a Major Provide rationale if over 60 credit hours	Diploma- A.M. ONLY Transcripts- A.M. & Plan Code Name	BACHELOR'S

Type	Programs	# Min Total Credits	MACRAO Req	Min # Gen Ed Credits Req.	Prof. Core Req.?	Other requirements	Degree/Credential Awarded	Student Preparation
A.F.A Associate of Fine Arts	Pre-Professional	60/NA	No	15 (including 1 Wellness course/PS110/ 2 course sequence Composition 1 course Humanities 1 course Natural Science & Mathematics, 1 Course Social Science- PS110 may meet this requirement) All gen ed courses must be transferable	Yes	See accreditation curriculum standards May include a Major Provide rationale if over 60 credit hours	Diploma- A.F.A ONLY Transcripts- A.F.A & Plan Code Name	BACHELOR'S
	Articulated Pre-Professional (2+2 or 3+1)	60/NA 90/NA	No	15 (including 1 Wellness course/PS110/ 2 course sequence Composition 1 course Humanities 1 course Natural Science & Mathematics 1 Course Social Science- PS110 may meet this requirement) All gen ed courses must be transferable	Yes	See accreditation curriculum standards May include a Major Provide rationale if over 60 credit hours	Diploma- A.F.A ONLY Transcripts- A.F.A & Plan Code Name	BACHELOR'S
A.G.S. Associate of General Studies	NA	60/60	No	15 (including 1 Wellness course/PS110/ 2 course sequence Composition 1 course Humanities 1 course Natural Science & Mathematics, 1 Course Social Science- PS110 may meet this requirement)	No	No prior degree earned from GRCC	Diploma- A.G.S. Transcripts- A.G.S	NA
Certificate	Apprenticeship	Min8 Max 59	No	None	No	None	Certificate If less than 15 credit hours it must be associated with an external credential or have external accreditation	WORK OR BACHELOR'S
	Career							
	Articulated Certificate (1+1, 1+3)							
	Liberal Arts & Sciences (General)							

Advanced Certificate	NA	Min 8 Max 59	No	None	No	Pre-Req. Associate's Degree Earned or taken concurrently	Certificate If less than 15 credit hours it must be associated with an external credential	WORK
Industry Recognized Certification		NA	No	None	No		Alignment with external credential	WORK
Certificate of Completion	Apprenticeship	600 Clock Hour Minimum	No	None	None	None	Non-Credit Certificate	WORK
	Career							