

MULTIPLE DEGREES

I. Policy Section

8.0 Students

II. Policy Subsection

8.26 Multiple Degrees

III. Policy Statement

The College recognizes that there are instances where students may require additional degrees and certificates for employment or for personal growth and satisfaction. This policy applies to any Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) student who has received a degree from GRCC. Students may be awarded additional associate degrees subject to the following stipulations:

- A. The Associate of General Studies degree may not be earned as an additional degree.
- B. No additional associate degree will be granted in programs that require the same Program Courses.

IV. Reason for the Policy

- A. The policy provides for clarity and implementation of past practice.
- B. GRCC needs to ensure that all of its degrees provide meaningful credentials to students for transferability and employability.
- C. GRCC must supply proof of additional learning when awarding multiple degrees.
- D. GRCC must ensure that students are able to maximize their financial aid to facilitate transfer.

V. Entities Affected by this Policy

GRCC Students, Faculty, and Staff

VI. Who Should Read this Policy

GRCC Students, Faculty, and Staff

VII. Related Documents

GRCC College Catalog
GRCC Curriculum Policy

VIII. Contacts

Policy Owner: Dean of Instructional Support
Registrar/Student Records Office
Academic Advising and Transfer Center
Deans
Provost

IX. Definitions

Associate Degree - As outlined in GRCC's College Catalog and Curriculum Policy, GRCC offers a variety of associate degrees that are designed for students who plan to transfer to a college or university as a junior to complete a bachelor's degree or who are interested in preparing for a career that does not necessarily require a bachelor's degree. These degrees include the following:

Associate of Arts (AA)
Associate of Applied Arts and Sciences (AAAS)
Associate of Business (AB)
Associate of Nursing (AN)
Associate of Fine Arts (AFA)
Associate of Music (AM)

Associate of General Studies (AGS) Degree - This degree requires fifteen credits of general education courses, including: EN101 and EN102 or COM131 or COM135; 1 Humanities course; 1 Social Sciences course; and 1 Mathematics or 1 Natural Sciences course. There are no "programs" associated with this degree. The degree is listed on the diploma.

Certificate - As outlined in GRCC's College Catalog and Curriculum Policy, GRCC offers a variety of certificates that prepare students with specific knowledge and skills necessary to enter a career or continue employment in a particular field.

X. Procedures

- A. Students may only declare one academic program at a time, therefore, students cannot be awarded more than one associate degree at the same time.
- B. Students may be awarded multiple associate degrees and certificates in any combination aside from the exclusions for AGS and degrees with identical program requirements as outlined in the Policy Statement. For instance, a student may earn an AA and an AB. A student may also be awarded more than one AAAS and more than one certificate.
- C. The Registrar's/Student Records Office will coordinate with the Instructional Support Office to maintain a list of programs that require the same Program Courses.
- D. When a student completes the Graduation Application Form, a degree audit is performed by the Registrar's/Student Records Office in order to determine if a student has completed their degree requirements. The student will be notified if they are unable to be awarded an additional degree per the terms outlined in this policy.

XI. Forms

Graduation Application Form
College Catalog

XII. Effective Date

Fall 2023

XIII. Policy History

August 2013 - New Policy
April 2018 - Policy Revision approved by Academic Governing Council
November 2022 - Policy Revision approved by Academic Governing Council

XIV. Next Review/Revision Date

2026-2027