Change of Major
Do you know why students should think twice before changing their major?

When a change of major is submitted, the requirements fall under the current catalog. Because MACRAO is being replaced by MTA and it is not in GRCC’s current catalog, this means that changing the major can result in different course and grade requirements for students. As the new catalog year policy is in place, students who changes their major (program of study) after August 25, 2014 will fall into the program requirements from the 2014-15 catalog. While this could have minimal to no implications for some students, those in an associates in arts (AA) or associates in science (AS) track will be moved from MACRAO to the MTA. So it is important that students are aware of the implications of changing their major (program of study) based on this new policy that took effect Fall 2014.

MTA versus MACRAO
Many students attend GRCC with the goal of transferring to a four-year college/university. In the Fall 2014, GRCC implemented a new General Education program called the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA). New students interested in transferring should familiarize themselves with the MTA guidelines. Returning students (students who started at GRCC Summer 2014 and prior) who maintain continuous enrollment can still complete the MACRAO agreement to satisfy the general education requirements. They will have until the Fall 2019 to complete MACRAO.

MTA
• EN 100/101 and EN 102
• Two approved courses in Humanities (from two disciplines, excluding studio and performance classes)
• PS 110 and one additional Social Science course other than PS discipline
• Two approved courses in Natural Sciences, including one with laboratory experience (from two disciplines)
• One course in Mathematics, should be satisfied by an entry-level college course
• Must complete at least one credit at GRCC to satisfy MTA
• Need at least 30 credits earned to satisfy MTA
• All courses must be a grade of ‘C’ (2.0 on 4.0) to apply toward MTA

MACRAO
• EN 100/101 and EN 102
• Eight credits in Humanities (from two disciplines)
• Eight credits in Social Sciences (from two disciplines)
• Eight credits in Natural Sciences, including one with laboratory experience (from two disciplines)
• Must complete at least 15 credits at GRCC to satisfy the MACRAO agreement
• Any passing grade will satisfy the MACRAO courses

Questions?
Please contact an advisor/counselor.

Transfer Credit Policy Change (‘C’/’C-’)
Students transfer to GRCC for various reasons and often times bring with them credits from other institutions. Currently, GRCC grants transfer credit for courses passed with a grade of ‘C’ or better. Beginning in January 2015, incoming transfer credit will only be granted if the course was passed with a grade of ‘C’ (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or better. The new policy is meant to align with the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) that requires that students earn a ‘C’ or better in each course used toward the MTA general education requirements. Students planning to use transfer credit to satisfy degree requirements should be encouraged to send their official transcripts to GRCC for evaluation, prior to January 2015 if possible.
Workshop Schedule
Each Fall and Winter, Counseling, Advising, & Retention Services hosts a series of free workshops for students. Our workshops cover a variety of academic, career and personal development topics (e.g., study skills, career planning basics, and overcoming procrastination). All workshops are offered on a drop-in basis.

Please consider announcing the workshop series in your classes and/or posting the flyer or link on Blackboard, and encourage your students to attend if you believe they could benefit from the offerings. Some faculty offer extra credit for workshop attendance, or allow students to attend as part of a class assignment. We record workshop attendance and provide students with signed attendance slips. (Due to space limitations, we kindly ask that you not send an entire class or athletic team to attend a workshop.)

More Dates

Transfer Fair
Wednesday, October 22, 2014
1-5 p.m.

Thanksgiving Holiday
Wednesday-Sunday
November 26-30, 2014

Exam Week
Monday-Thursday
December 8-11, 2014

Graduation Audit Deadline for Fall 2014 Graduates
Monday, December 15, 2014

Winter 2015 Registration Dates
Registration for Current and Returning Students begins at 8:00 a.m. using the Online Student Center at grcc.edu.

Tuesday, October 14 30 credits/higher earned
Thursday, October 16 12 credits/higher earned
Tuesday, October 21 0-11 credits/higher earned
Thursday, October 23 Open Enrollment (New Students and Early College)

Academic Foundation Placement (AFP)
Many of our students place into an AFP course (PY 97; MA 95, 96, 97 or 98; EN 97; RD 95, 97, or 98) and may be reluctant to take these classes because they do not count towards graduation. These classes are vital to the student’s academic success as they prepare at-risk students for required curriculum courses. These classes should be taken first to prepare students for academic success. We must be careful not to overload students, taking into consideration other obligations. The Fast Track/On Track programs grcc.edu/fasttrack are other options for students who place into AFP classes (these options are based on their scores). Students who place into AFP classes are at-risk students and need additional help and support from all of us.

Mandatory Placement
CLS 100 Introduction to College: New Student Experience
The first year experience course is mandatory for new students who had less than a 3.0 high school grade point average or transfer to GRCC with fewer than 12 college credits. It is important for students to take CLS 100 during the first semester at GRCC to gain the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to be successful in college. If a student drops or doesn’t pass the required CLS 100 course, he/she will have a registration hold impacting future registration attempts. There is a Challenge Exam available grcc.edu/testing for students who feel prepared and want to try to waive this requirement. Students can also satisfy the CLS requirement with an equivalent transfer course. Registration assistance should be referred to the Counseling and Career Center (616) 234-3900.

EN 120 Improving Editing and Proofreading (1/1.5)
This is a new class required as a corequisite for CJ 259 students and those who place into EN 101 and have a sentence skills score of 0-93 on Accuplacer. This course is designed to help students improve their grammar, mechanics, word usage, and basic sentence skills through critical reflection of their own writing. Course activities include participation in lecture, editing practice, and sentence analysis. Significant time is spent on skill building exercises primarily in a workshop setting. A grade of ‘C-’ or higher is necessary to receive credit.

The Counseling and Career Center Provides Career Development Assistance for Students Who:
• Seem to be “lost” and in need of appropriate life direction
• Are “undecided” about what career or college major to pursue
• Want to know the specifics about an occupation
• And much more.

Faculty are often the first to communicate with GRCC students about career choices. You can help by advising your students to either call (616) 234-3900 or schedule a career counseling appointment.
GRCC WORKSHOPS Fall 2014

All workshops are held in Room 336, Student Center. For more information, contact the Counseling and Career Center, Room 327, Student Center at (616) 234-3900, or visit grcc.edu/counseling.

ACADEMIC, CAREER AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

Career Planning Basics
Wednesday, Sept. 17; 1-2 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 28; 5-6 p.m.
This workshop will cover the basics of choosing a major and planning for a career. Learn a step-by-step planning process and leave with a "next step" goal.

Career Direction
Thursday, Sept. 11; 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 9; 1-2 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 20; 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Get a full overview of the steps for selecting a career or major. Learn how to complete the first and most important step, and get info about a one-on-one session available to help you complete the remaining steps.

Non-Traditional Career Opportunities
Tuesday, Oct. 21; 4:45-5:45 p.m.
Crossing gender stereotypes through career opportunities.

Successful Transfer Planning
Thursday, Oct. 16; 1-2 p.m.
Learn how to transfer to another institution and how to apply for admission, scholarships and more.

Pre-Professional Health Programs
Tuesday, Oct. 21; 1-2 p.m.
Getting into a professional school for medicine, dentistry, optometry, physician assistant studies, physical therapy, podiatry, pharmacy, chiropractic or veterinary medicine requires MORE than just a good GPA! Learn how to prepare NOW by attending this workshop led by a GVSU professional.

MyDegreePath
Learn how to utilize this new web-based tool designed to help you stay on a clear path to graduation. The schedule is posted online: grcc.edu/counselingandcareercenter/mydegreepath

Research is for You!
Thursday, Oct. 23; 1-2 p.m.
Great summer research programs are available, allowing you to explore four-year schools, live on campus and gain valuable hands-on experience. Come and learn how to get started!

Study Abroad is for You!
Wednesday, Nov. 12; 1-2 p.m.
Learn how you can become a world traveler. We’ll cover the process, scholarships and opportunities available to you when you decide to study abroad!

Writing that Outshines the Competition
Thursday, Nov. 6; 11:30-1 p.m.
A practical and interactive workshop about writing scholarship and degree program applications that will get you noticed.

Is Online Learning Right for Me?
Tuesday, Oct.14; 12-1 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 17; 12-1 p.m.
Online courses provide convenient and flexible learning opportunities for students. This workshop will provide an overview of how online learning works and what skills students need to be successful.

Financial Aid Facts
Monday, Oct. 6; 1-2 p.m.
Do you know how to apply for financial aid and how to avoid losing it? Learn all about grants, loans and scholarships from a GRCC Financial Aid Office expert.

ACADEMIC SKILLS

Study Skills
Monday, Sept. 29; 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 1; 5-6 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 4; 1-2 p.m.
Learn effective study techniques geared toward your learning style. Discover your learning style today at www.work-learn.com (click Questionnaire).

Effective Note-Taking
Tuesday, Sept. 9; 12-1 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 29; 4-5 p.m.
Learn specific note-taking techniques to get the most out of your classes. We’ll cover strategies for capturing information from lectures and from reading assignments.

Test-Taking Strategies
Thursday, Oct. 2; 5-6 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 3; 1-2 p.m.
Tests are a fact of life for all college students. Strong preparation is key. Learn strategies for organizing your test prep and increasing your test-taking competence through tried-and-true methods.

Test Anxiety Solutions
Tuesday, Sept. 23; 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 13; 2-3 p.m.
Do your palms sweat and your heart race during a test? Ever “blank out” during a test? Learn test prep skills and other strategies that can help!

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Stress Relief
Wednesday, Oct. 8; 2-3 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 18; 5-6 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 2; 1-2 p.m.
Feeling totally stressed out? Learn techniques you can use to minimize and manage the stress in your life.

Overcoming Procrastination
Tuesday, Oct. 7; 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Do you wait until “the last minute” to get your work done? Learn ways to break the habit and accomplish your goals.

Bridging the Communication Gap
Wednesday, Sept. 24; 1-2 p.m.
Explore the history of your own communication style and how it affects your current ability to get your point across in school and at work.

Caregiving 101
Thursday, Sept. 25; 9-10 a.m.
Learn about available community resources to assist family caregivers of older persons and important tips on caregiver self-care.

Death and Dying
Tuesday, Oct. 28; 1-2 p.m.
Death is an inevitable part of life, yet we live in a death-denying society. Learn basic info about death, dying and bereavement within U.S. culture. Increase your understanding of those experiencing these life events.

Alcohol and Marijuana Use
Monday, Oct. 13; 1-2 p.m.
Alcohol and marijuana are used and abused by many college students. Learn how the use of these substances can impact your academic success and what you can do to minimize academic consequences.