College and Community Profile

Grand Rapids Community College is a public, two-year educational institution with a 100-year history of academic excellence. The college has a solid reputation as a premier transfer institution and is nationally recognized for both its liberal arts and occupational programs. GRCC was the first community college established in Michigan. With a committed and stable workforce, the College offers more than 1,600 different courses and serves over 30,000 credit and non-credit students annually. GRCC offers programs through 28 academic departments that lead to Associate degrees and certificates, and prepare students for new careers, career advancement, or for transfer to 4-year colleges and universities. GRCC also serves more than 400 local businesses annually with its Job Training and Continuing Education and Professional Development programs.

Instruction at GRCC is organized into two schools. The School of Workforce Development is comprised of 15 departments including Applied Technology, Business, Computer Applications, Criminal Justice, Drafting and Design, Dental, Fashion Merchandising, Health Programs, Hospitality Education, Interior Decorating and Design, Landscape Management, Manufacturing, Nursing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, and Radiologic Technology. The School of Arts and Sciences consists of the 13 departments of Behavioral Science, Biological Sciences, Child Development, English, Language and Thought, Mathematics, Music, Physical Sciences, Social Science, Theater, Teacher Education, Visual Arts, and Wellness. The College has approximately 250 full-time and 670 adjunct faculty members, and looks forward to welcoming an additional 50 tenure-track faculty members in the fall of 2014.

Mission, Vision, and Values

The GRCC Vision is “As a college of distinction, GRCC inspires students to meet the needs of the community and the world” while the Mission is “GRCC is an open access college that prepares individuals to attain their goals and contribute to the community.” The College values include Excellence, Diversity, Responsiveness, Innovation, Accountability, Sustainability, Respect, and Integrity. The administration, faculty, and staff work daily to serve students and the surrounding community with the goal of meeting the standards set forth by the College’s Mission, Vision and Values.
Students
During the winter 2014 semester, the headcount was 15,767 with 30.7% of the students enrolled full time and 33.8% of the students were over 25 years old. The student body was 51.4% female and 24.9% were from minority populations. In district students made up 74.5% of the student body, while the remaining students came mainly from seven other counties across Michigan.

GRCC is committed to meeting the needs of all students by offering classes and support services at a variety of times including during the day, weekend and evenings. Further, classes are offered in person, hybrid, and online formats. Dual enrollment and early college programs are also available for high school students who wish to earn college credits. The faculty and staff at GRCC are committed to offering and promoting programs that allow our students to reach the highest level of academic achievement including the Honors Program and the Academic Service Learning and Study Away programs.

Governance
GRCC is governed by a seven member Board of Trustees who is elected at large in biennial elections. The College President serves as an ex officio member of the board. The Trustees serve for overlapping six year terms without compensation. The Board operates under the policy governance model and holds public monthly meetings.

Accreditation
Grand Rapids Community College has been accredited continuously since 1917 by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

Annual Budget
GRCC annual budget is $106 million with sources of revenue coming from three primary sources: property taxes, state aid, and tuition and fees. For the 2013/2014 academic year, revenue from property taxes is expected to make up 26% of the overall budget, 17% will come from state aid, 54% will come from tuition and fees, and 3% will come from other sources.

Location and Facilities
GRCC offers instruction from both urban downtown campuses and regional centers. The GRCC downtown campuses, the Main Campus and DeVos Campus, encompass more than 25 acres in the heart of Grand Rapids. Adjacent to West Michigan’s thriving Medical Mile, the Main Campus is at the center of local festivals and art shows, and within walking distance to museums, restaurants, and shops. Much of the Main Campus has undergone significant renovation in recent years. The DeVos Campus is nestled in the historic Heritage Hill area and boasts the newly renovated LEED certified Stewart Edward White Hall, Mable Engle House, Sneden Hall, and Lettinga House. The physical facilities on the Main and DeVos Campuses are well designed and will provide adequate space for the College’s operations well into the future.

The College offers instruction from regional centers in the metropolitan Grand Rapids area including local high schools and the Learning Corners for GED and ESL classes and on the West Michigan lakeshore. GRCC supports Michigan Technical Education Centers in Ottawa County and in downtown Grand Rapids. These centers offer training opportunities for high-demand occupations as construction, manufacturing, and mechanics and repair.
Accessibility
The GRCC Department of Accessibility is dedicated to providing faculty, staff, and students of all abilities, equal access to the functions and facilities of GRCC. The College workforce is committed to providing services and accommodations to achieve equal opportunity to personal, professional, and academically rewarding experiences by offering reasonable accommodations, auxiliary aids, support services, and programs designed to remove barriers to full participation in campus life.

Diversity
GRCC embraces and promotes the celebration and respect of human differences through its programs and activities in support of increased social justice and equity for all people. The Diversity Learning Center serves as a resource to the College and the community by coordinating activities that support inclusion and encourage respect for differences through learning opportunities such as educational programs, recognition and scholarships, women’s initiatives and partnerships, community partnerships, and diversity development services.

The Grand Rapids Community
Grand Rapids is the second largest city in Michigan and the largest city in the thriving western Michigan region of the state. It is located about 25 miles east of Lake Michigan on the Grand River. The city and surrounding suburban and rural regions are historic furniture manufacturing centers and five of the leading office furniture companies remain in the area. The city and surrounding communities are economically and culturally diverse, and contribute heavily to the health care, agricultural, information technology, automotive, aviation, and consumer goods manufacturing industries. The cost of living and housing is very affordable in the Grand Rapids area and there is an international airport nearby that serves the region. The city is the regional hub for exceptional medical treatment and research.

Grand Rapids offers a high quality of life with many options for activities during leisure time. Throughout the year, there are numerous events and programs related to the arts, entertainment, and sports. Grand Rapids boasts its own symphony, ballet, and opera as well as local theatres that produce critically acclaimed plays. There are large venues that accommodate touring Broadway shows and well-known artists. The community enjoys minor-league hockey in the winter and minor-league baseball in the summer. On quieter evenings, there are many wonderful and diverse restaurants to enjoy. The farmers markets and local shops provide shoppers the opportunity to buy local farm fresh produce and locally made goods. On weekends, there are endless getaway opportunities, especially for outdoor lovers. Hiking, camping, and all levels of boating are within a short driving distance of Grand Rapids.