Helping students to Imagine, Develop, Explore, and Achieve their academic and personal goals while utilizing all available resources at GRCC.

The GRCC IDEA... For Students and Faculty

The Counseling and Career Center, Occupational and Disability Support Services, and TRIO/Student Support Services collaborated to research best practices in Advising Models across the country. From this research and many hours of discussion, a useful tool has been developed to help students utilize all resources that are available at GRCC. This tool is called IDEA and can be utilized by any faculty member or advisor to help students get the most out of their community college experience. The following outline of this tool provides just a few suggestions to use in transitioning a first semester student to a qualified graduate and/or effective transfer student.

STUDENTS can use the IDEA steps to create a productive GRCC experience.

I – Imagine – When you first arrive at GRCC
- Write down any academic interests as well as thoughts about possible majors or careers
- Meet with a counselor to create a plan for your possible academic and career goals

D – Develop – Early in your GRCC experience
- Attend Academic Advising Day and Transfer Fair to develop your knowledge about majors by talking to faculty members and speak with transfer representatives
- Develop your study and test-taking skills by attending workshops. Information about workshops is available online at www.grcc.edu/counselingevents

E – Explore – After your first or second semester
- Explore ways that you can get involved at GRCC to build your resume with extracurricular activities and community service www.grcc.edu/clubs
- Explore the transfer process, including important dates, by attending a Successful Transfer Planning Workshop at the Counseling and Career Center

A – Achieve – As you prepare to complete your studies
- Complete an Official Graduation Audit with the Student Records Office www.grcc.edu/registrargraduation
- Utilize the Job Placement Center for resume writing, interview tips, and job search techniques www.grcc.edu/jobplacement

FACULTY can use the sequential stages of IDEA to encourage student’s academic, career, and personal growth while they are attending GRCC.

I – Imagine – For students in Entry level courses or who are just starting at GRCC
- Encourage students to research careers related to the class you are teaching
- Refer them to the Counseling and Career Center to create an initial academic plan and to discuss possible majors and career planning

D – Develop – Developing student’s knowledge outside of the classroom
- Engage students in conversations about your field of study during office hours, class discussions and Advising Day
- Offer your students extra credit points for attending the Counseling and Career Center Workshops

E – Explore – Encourage students to explore how course material pertains to careers
- Ask your students to explore their interests and have them consider job shadowing or informational interviews
- Consider having a job panel present to your class. For example, a Psychology instructor could ask a psychologist, a counselor and a social worker to come in and discuss their jobs

A – Achieve – Create smooth transitions
- Connect your students to individuals in the field or faculty at transfer schools to help ease the transition to work or school
- Encourage students to continuously look for individuals who can serve as references for transfer scholarships and jobs

COUNSELING AND CAREER CENTER
Location:
3rd Floor Student Center
Center Hours:
Monday – Thursday:
7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Friday:
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Call to schedule an appointment at 616.234.3900
Website: www.grcc.edu/counseling
- Academic Advising
- Career Assessments
- Career Counseling
- Classroom Presentations
- Crisis Response
- Faculty/Staff Consultation about Student Issues
- Personal Counseling
- Transfer Planning
- Workshops on Various Academic and Career Topics

Academic Advising and Transfer Fair will be held October 23 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Applied Technology Center. Come talk with representatives from over 25 transfer schools as well as discuss fields of study with GRCC departments!
COUNSELING AND CAREER CENTER

Fall 2007 Workshops
Check out the workshops that are offered this semester at the Counseling and Career Center.

September Workshops:
Effective Note Taking
Staying Informed About Financial Aid

October Workshops:
Exploring Business Careers
Effective Note Taking
Successful Transfer Planning
Study Skills and Learning Styles
Test Taking and Anxiety

November Workshops:
Successful Transfer Planning
Test Taking and Anxiety
Tips and Tools to Energize Your Semester
Exploring Careers in Health Care

December Workshops:
Final Exam Preparation

Check out www.grcc.edu/counselingevents for more information on dates and times of workshops, transfer school visits and other upcoming programs that the Counseling and Career Center will offer.

Tips for Starting a Successful Semester

Start Organizing Immediately
• List all of your deadlines for assignments, tests, and projects in a planner or electronic calendar. This will help you anticipate and prepare for times during the semester that will be more intense.

Begin Learning During Your First Week
• Begin your assigned reading as soon as you receive the syllabus. If you can stay on top of the material from day one, you will be less stressed later in the semester when the majority of assignments, projects, and tests are due.
• Do you know how you learn best? Take an online learning style assessment to become more aware of what studying techniques might be more helpful for you! Check out a free learning assessment at www.engr.ncsu.edu/learningstyles/ilsweb.html

Build Relationships With Instructors
• Introduce yourself to each of your instructors before or after class or go to their office hours during the first couple of weeks. Being able to talk to the instructor will help you feel comfortable approaching them if you need to discuss questions that you have about the material or if an unpredicted issue arises.

Need To Speak With A Counselor?
The Counseling and Career Center’s mission is to assist you with academic, career, and personal issues while you are working toward a program at Grand Rapids Community College.

1. Call 616.234.3900 to schedule an appointment with the front desk staff to meet with a counselor for a 30 minute block of time. Please mention whether you need assistance with academic advising, career counseling, or personal counseling.

2. There are Counselors available for you to meet with on a Walk-in basis for questions that are less than 10 minutes between Aug. 7, 2007 and Sept. 14, 2007. Counselor availability is Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

3. Between Oct. and May, the Counseling and Career Center has a Counselor-on-Duty every Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for quick advising questions at the kiosk desk on the 3rd Floor of the Student Center.

Counselor Spotlight...
I have been a Counselor in the Counseling and Career Center at Grand Rapids Community College for 8 years and most recently I have taken on counseling responsibilities at GRCC’s Wealthy Learning Corner. The Learning Corner is a great place where students are encouraged to establish bonds with their peers, develop learning strategies, and learn how to have effective study partners.

As a Counselor, I also get the opportunity to help students in the transfer process. Choosing the correct transfer school is more than a notion. It involves deciding on the appropriate cost, size of the college, location, demographic background of students and programs offered. Personally, I had an excellent experience attending a Historically Black College/University (HBCU) where I was able to establish strong ties with my classmates. At HBCUs students may initially notice more limited conveniences or technology. However, the benefit of this type of environment is that there is a very strong family-type bond between students, faculty, and staff. This bond continues to be a strong influence throughout my professional career. Learn more about HBCUs at http://edonline.com/cq/hbcu.

Mr. Marco Trimble
Even though I love being around people, most of my spare time is spent on more individual activities such as cooking, gardening, biking, fishing, reading for facts and working out.