Talking about Transfer

Academic Advising Day and Transfer Fair is March 29th from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is the perfect time to talk to potential transfer schools. However, take a few minutes before talking to representatives to write down a list of questions to ask so that you get all your answers at once!

Here are some ideas to get you started on your own list of important questions:

1. How does the transfer process work at your school?
2. What are the deadlines to apply to the school, to complete my financial aid application, to apply for scholarships, register for classes, & get housing?
3. Does your school offer the major(s) that I am considering?
4. When can I have an idea about which GRCC classes will transfer?
5. What is your name? Can I follow up with you later if I have more questions?

Searching for the Right Career?

Most college students will change their mind about their major or career path at least 3 times during college. Students often come into the GRCC Counseling and Career Center frustrated that they are so unsure about what they would like to study.

Does this sound like you? First of all, you are not alone! One of the main reasons that it is such a difficult decision is simply that there are so many options available to each of us. However, you can take advantage of options at GRCC to begin working on making a solid career or major decision.

1. Take a 1 or 2 credit career class. Starting in Fall 2006, GRCC began offering CLS 101, Career Decision Making and CLS 110, Career Development. Read the descriptions on your Online Student Center.
2. Attend a Career Direction Workshop. This 2.5 hour workshop will give you insight into your interests, values, and abilities so that you can begin matching your characteristics to possible careers.
3. Call the Counseling and Career Center to begin a series of hour long appointments to assess your interests, values, and abilities. Also, learn how to research career options.
The Counseling and Career Center would like to extend a huge thanks to a few faculty and staff members for their work over the past 6 months as we have been developing new methods to provide counseling services at GRCC. Linda Spoelman and Pat Missad have been invaluable partners as the Counseling and Career Center creates a more standardized Developmental Advising approach to ensure that students are learning and developing life and planning skills every time they are in a counselor’s office. As classroom faculty members, they have given us assistance into developing an Academic Advising Syllabus as well as CARP documents outlining the teaching that we do as counselors.

In addition, Eric Mullen and Bernie Manker have been instrumental in revising the orientation for incoming students. This new program will be called Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR). Counselors will now have the chance to meet with students in small groups as well as individually during orientation providing more time to teach students the importance of the advising process to their success.

I have a GREAT job!!! I have worked as a Counselor at GRCC for 9 years and have been involved in college counseling for over 20 years. I did not always know that I wanted to become a Counselor though and I actually earned my Undergraduate degree in Foreign Language and Sociology. An unpaid, volunteer experience during college changed my career goals completely!

My own experience has helped to develop my emphasis as a Career Counselor here at GRCC. I view the career planning work that I do with students as simply an “extension” of what they are already doing themselves. Career Counseling can be anything from a conversation to clarify ideas or set some goals to a more in-depth and personal career planning process that includes some self-assessment and testing.

Outside of my role as a Counselor, I enjoy spending time with my 2 dogs (Labrador Retrievers), snowshoeing, biking, hiking, live music, creative arts, and traveling. The important thing that I want students to know is that they can make an appointment with me through the Counseling and Career Center to talk about their plans & goals and easily check out what career planning and testing is all about.

Understanding the MACRAO Agreement

The MACRAO Agreement is an agreement that was created between community colleges and some 4 year schools to give students a package of general education credits that participating 4 year institutions will consider equivalent to their required general education credits. However, each of the classes taken as part of MACRAO will still be looked at by the 4 year institution to determine whether they are transferrable and applicable to the program you choose to study. The MACRAO Agreement is made up of 30 credits. These 30 credits come from Communication Skills (6 credits), Humanities (8 credits), Social Sciences (8 credits), and Natural Science and Math (8 credits). To find out what classes count for each of these general education areas, visit the Counseling and Career Center or get online at www.grcc.edu/macrao for a list.

MACRAO is accepted with or without the full Associates Degree by the following schools:

- Central Michigan University
- Eastern Michigan University
- Ferris State University
- Grand Valley State University
- Lake Superior State University
- Northern Michigan University
- Olivet College
- Saginaw Valley State University
- Spring Arbor University
- Western Michigan University

Collaborating Across Campus...

The Counseling and Career Center would like to extend a huge thanks to a few faculty and staff members for their work over the past 6 months as we have been developing new methods to provide counseling services at GRCC.

Linda Spoelman and Pat Missad have been invaluable partners as the Counseling and Career Center creates a more standardized Developmental Advising approach to ensure that students are learning and developing life and planning skills every time they are in a counselor’s office. As classroom faculty members, they have given us assistance into developing an Academic Advising Syllabus as well as CARP documents outlining the teaching that we do as counselors.

In addition, Eric Mullen and Bernie Manker have been instrumental in revising the orientation for incoming students. This new program will be called Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR). Counselors will now have the chance to meet with students in small groups as well as individually during orientation providing more time to teach students the importance of the advising process to their success.