Supporting Occupational Degrees at GRCC

Sarah Rose, Counselor

Are you working towards a specific Associates degree or certificate program? You might be eligible for GRCC’s Occupational Support Program. There are many occupational Associate degrees and certificates here at GRCC including areas like: Business, Child Development, Computers, Criminal Justice, Health, Hospitality, and Technology. The primary purpose of this program is to provide academic support services to eligible students who are experiencing economic, social, personal, or academic difficulties.

To be eligible for the Occupational Support Program (OSP) you must be in an Occupational program at GRCC and meet one or more of the following requirements:

- Economically Disadvantaged
- Displaced Homemaker
- Enrolled in a Non-Traditional Curriculum
- Single Parent or Pregnant Individual
- Limited English Proficiency
- Have a Documented Disability

Students in the program enjoy assigned academic advisors, career planning assistance, personal counseling, referrals to college and community resources, workshops and seminars, possible child care options, and early registration. In addition, students who are eligible for a Pell grant through the Financial Aid Office but who still don’t have enough to cover their tuition, books, and transportation costs, may be eligible for additional financial assistance through the Occupational Support Program.

The Occupational Support Program highly encourages students who are enrolled in non-traditional curriculums to register with the office. A non-traditional curriculum is determined by whether males or females are under represented in that particular field.

Sample Non-traditional Programs for Women:

- Automotive Technology
- Chemical Technology
- Corrections
- Electronics Technology
- Plastics Manufacturing Technology

Sample Non-traditional Programs for Men:

- Child Development
- Interior Decorating and Design
- Office Administration
- Culinary Arts
- Practical Nursing

For more information about the Occupational Support Program, please contact us at 616.234.4155 or visit us on the 3rd Floor of the Student Center.
College Learning Studies will offer new courses for Fall 2010

**CLS 102 - Practicing Strategies for Academic Success**

This course is designed for students who wish to improve academic performance. The goal of the course is to develop critical learning skills necessary for the student to reach or remain in academic good standing. Students will learn how to apply learning strategies and to identify motives, attitudes, and behaviors that lead to college success.

**CLS 104 - Basic Strategies for Financial Success**

This course will provide students with basic financial literacy and money management skills for today and the future in order to help them make responsible choices and smart financial decisions. Topics will include, but not be limited to, credit, loans, savings, budgeting, and financial aid. Students will also learn how to avoid the financial pitfalls that many fall into—overspending, misusing credit and not budgeting.

**CLS 150 – Leadership Development**

The purpose of this course is to learn effective and ethical leadership skills and practices. Topics, concepts, and skills will include leadership styles and strategies, communication skills, strategic planning skills, and ethical issues of leadership. This course will address the practical applications of leadership for use on campus, in the community, and within the workforce.

Counselor Spotlight

**Patrick Kamau**

My name is Patrick Kamau and I have been a counselor at GRCC for almost seven months now. I have an MA in Counseling from Cornerstone University and I am working towards completion of my doctoral degree in Counselor Education at WMU. These programs have exposed me to a diversity of roles in the counseling profession. The preparation I have received has helped me to successfully work as a: mental health professional at Bethany Christian Services, college counselor/advisor at WMU and in Pastoral Care and Counseling in several churches. These experiences have provided me with a thoroughly integrated-broad perspective that enable me to respond to the educational, career and personal needs of students at GRCC.

Over the years, I have come to believe four things about college students. First, I believe students learn best when they are motivated. Second, I believe with professional help, students can choose the right classes, right major, right schedule and right career path. Third, I believe with professional help, students can successfully graduate and transfer to institutions of higher learning or enter the world of work. Finally, I believe GRCC, with its staff of distinction will continue to prepare and produce students of distinction.

I love working at GRCC. I’m proud to be part of this wonderful institution. When I am not at GRCC, I enjoy reading, listening to gospel music, playing and watching soccer and going bowling.