

AGC Decision Report

Distance Learning Standards: Policy 7.2

Decision

On April 9, 2024, the AGC membership voted to approve modification of the wording of Policy 7.2 Distance Learning Standards as follows:

III. Policy Statement:

All distance learning courses will adhere to the current Quality Matters Higher Education Standards.

IV. Reason for the Policy:

The policy was necessitated by HLC requirements and recommendations, GRCC's 2014 AQIP Quality Check-up, the need for institutional Distance Learning Standards, and a desire to continuously improve the quality of distance learning courses.

VII. Related Documents:

Specific Review Standards from the Quality Matters (QM) Higher Education Rubric, Seventh Edition" (as revised).

VIII. Contacts:

Policy Owner: Executive Director of Teaching, Learning, and Distance Education (TLDE), Distance Learning Faculty Advisory Board (subcommittee of AGC)

X. Procedures:

The approved Distance Learning Standards will be utilized:

- A. in GRCC's Online and Hybrid Certification Course (OHCC) and other distance learning training and professional development.
- B. in the distance learning course development process.
- C. in the review of distance learning course design.
- D. by faculty as a tool for self-assessment of distance learning course design.

Procedures for the implementation of these standards will be outlined in each of the above processes.

Sponsors/Champions of Proposed Policy

Amy Lyn (Teaching Learning Distance Education), Gary Brand (Business), Rachel Lutwick-Deaner (English), Julie Hess (Mathematics), Samantha Sprague (Psychology), Ian Matthews (TLDE), Mike Miller (Instructional Support & Institutional Planning).

Rationale/Supporting Data

Changes to the Policy Statement, Reason for the Policy, Related Documents, and Contacts sections of the policy serve to:

- improve accuracy
- clarify the intent of the policy
- reflect a departmental name change
- remove inactive/incorrect links.

Changes to the Procedures section serve to delineate between the course development process and the review process.

The sponsors reviewing this policy:

- solicited input from the Distance Learning Faculty Advisory Board (DLFAB) subcommittee
- sought and included AGC input through three presentations and one table discussion
- received and responded to input from departments and individual faculty members.

Implications for Action

Modifications to this policy and related procedures will require changes to course development and review processes and associated practices.

Date of Decision by AGC

Date: April 9, 2024

Vote: 100% approved, 0% not approved, 0% abstained

Policy approved.

Section to be Completed by the Provost

Evaluation Plan

The Distance Learning Standards Policy will be evaluated according to the next scheduled review of the policy. This evaluation and review will include feedback from GRCC faculty members and College stakeholders as well as benchmarking from peer institutions and any relevant data pertaining to understanding the implications of the policy.

Next scheduled review of policy: Academic Year 2026-27

Response from Provost

I received this AGC Decision Report on Wednesday, August 21, 2024. I approve of the revised policy statement recommended by the AGC as outlined above. I am charging the policy review sponsors, led by the Executive Director of TLDE and DLFAB, to coordinate this implementation. The Executive Director of TLDE and DLFAB will bring an update to the Academic and Student Affairs Council at a date they deem feasible once they have outlined the implementation steps. Additionally, this update should include the draft policy document for posting on the GRCC policies webpage, incorporating the approved revised policy statement and any procedural or other non-policy statement changes, as applicable, and a communications plan to inform faculty members of how this updated policy impacts them, per the Implications for Actions noted above. Full implementation of this revised policy statement should be accomplished no later than the end of the fall 2024 semester.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelia Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

September 4, 2024