

AGC Decision Report

Approved by AGC Executive Committee on March 7, 2024

8.22 Maximum Student Credit Hour Load Per Semester

Decision

On January 16, 2024, the AGC membership voted to approve revisions to this policy as part of a scheduled review.

The revised policy reads as follows:

The maximum credit hours permissible in a semester are 20. Students who wish to enroll in a higher academic load must get permission from their assigned academic advisor or the advising program director.

Sponsor/Champion of Proposed Policy

Co-Chairs: Dillon Carr (Department Head, Social Sciences) and Nate Spahn (Department Head, Manufacturing and Applied Technology)

Members: Lisa Gloege (Professor, Social Sciences) and Erin Busscher (Associate Professor, Academic Advising and Transfer Center)

Rationale/Supporting Data

Increasing the maximum student credit hours to 20 allows more flexibility for students taking 4 and 5 credit options and decreases a barrier toward completion. Data indicate that students are likely to be successful when self-selecting higher academic loads.

Shifting overload decisions from Associate Deans to academic advisors is common practice at several benchmarked institutions and provides another contact point that encourages student conversation with advisors when making academic decisions.

The team reviewing this policy:

- Provided benchmarking data, literature review, and internal GRCC student success data to support the proposed change,
- Sought and included input from AGC members at three meetings.
- Received and responded to input from departments, programs, and individual faculty members.

Implications for Action

Changes to this policy will require changes to the accompanying procedures for consistency in language.

Date of Decision by AGC

Date Passed: January 16, 2024

91% approved, 7% not approved, 2% abstained

Section to be Completed by the Provost

Evaluation Plan

The Maximum Student Credit Load Per Semester 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.

Next scheduled review of policy: Academic Year 2026-27

Response from Provost

I received this AGC Decision Report on Tuesday, March 26, 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 Department Heads of Social Sciences and Manufacturing and Applied Technology, to coordinate this implementation. The Department Heads will bring an update to the Deans' 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. Full implementation of this revised policy statement should be accomplished no later than the start of the next Academic Year in August 2024.



April 5, 2024