

Grand Challenge Curriculum: Course Structure & Processes

New Designator

A new GCC designator has been created for these courses.

All courses are listed under the GCC designator so faculty, students, and advisers can easily identify them.

The designator maps to the Provost's Office. Maintenance of these course records in curricular systems (ECAS, ECS, etc.) is managed by the Office of Undergraduate Education (OUE).

Degree Requirements

As with all courses, academic units determine if a particular course will fulfill a requirement for a major or minor.

GCC courses may be proposed to fulfill an LE theme requirement, and are strongly encouraged to do so (so courses will fulfill requirements toward degree completion).

GCC courses may not be proposed to fulfill a Writing Intensive requirement (the WI curriculum is already saturated; WI can be considerably more work for instructors; students may shy away from a course with a W because they may perceive it as involving more work than a non-W course; enrollments allowed in these courses will be larger than practicable for a WI course).

GCC courses are not cross-listed, with the exception of courses proposed to be offered at both the 3xxx and 5xxx levels for a specific purpose.

Course Structure

Each new course proposed to be offered under the GCC designator is assigned a unique regular course number. As with any course, the assigned number stays with the course, and subsequent offerings of the course will use the same number. Numbers are tracked and assigned by OUE. Courses and attributes (LE, course level, etc.) are tracked through the usual systems, and data for each course and its attributes will be tracked over time. Course titles appear on the student's transcript, and units are encouraged to create descriptive titles for each course.

Because these courses are intended to be offered multiple times and to showcase their status as a special but ongoing part of the curriculum, they are not offered as "topics" courses. Even a special, one-time offering of a unique GCC course is assigned its own regular course number.

Course Review and Approval

Courses should be proposed by two or more faculty, in consultation with their departments and colleges. GCC courses follow the usual processes for approval of a new course, *with special attention to timely and expedited review at all levels*. Individual courses are reviewed by the Campus Curriculum Committee (including the Associate Dean for the University Curriculum and Provost's liaison for Strategic Planning), and by the Council on Liberal Education designation.

The approval of GCC courses is based on the guiding GCC Principles (see GCC Principles document). In particular, these classes should do the following:

- address grand societal challenges such as water, food health, immigration, poverty, social justice, environmental change, etc.;
- be taught from multiple disciplinary perspectives;
- be co-taught by at least two individuals (preferably regular faculty, long-term instructors, and/or distinguished visitors);
- and should promote active learning in the classroom.

Course Scheduling: Timing and Implementation

Proposals for Grand Challenge Courses should be submitted via the Grand Challenge Online Proposal Form (<http://z.umn.edu/gccform>).

See [proposal deadlines and course proposal guidelines](#).

The mechanics of the actual course scheduling for GCC designator courses is managed by OUE, in consultation with the faculty teaching the courses and their departments.

Funding for GCC Courses (managed through the Provost's Office)

Course development: A modest stipend will be provided to help support the development of GCCs the first time they are taught. These funds are allocated for course development, hiring of graduate assistants to help with course development, purchase of materials, and other forms of support related to the development of the course. Funds will be transferred to the college(s) of the individuals developing the course.

Tuition Attribution: Because GCC courses are offered under the GCC designator, the instructional tuition (i.e., the "75% side") is automatically attributed to the Provost's Office. After the end of the semester, that tuition will be transferred proportionately to the college(s) of the instructors who taught the course that semester. For example, if two faculty in different colleges co-teach the course, each college will receive 50% (as usual, the 25% side follows the student and his/her college of enrollment).

Colleges have the discretion to determine how the course development and tuition revenue funds transferred to the college are used, within their collegiate and departmental guidelines and standards. Requests for funding for TA support, instructional materials, field trips, guest speakers, etc. should be handled through the usual departmental and collegiate processes; no additional funds will be allocated by the provost beyond the course development and tuition funds listed above.