

## Changes to the Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR)

In March 2023, University Senate approved several changes to the Senate Regulations relating to the Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR). Some of these changes were primarily administrative in nature (e.g. Undergraduate Council replaces a separate, dedicated Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement Committee in making recommendations for approval); however, there were also changes in the specific requirements that can be used to meet the GCCR for an undergraduate program. The goal of these changes is to give programs more flexibility in designing GCCR assessments that are relevant and appropriate for their respective discipline, while still meeting a common set of overall standards between programs. These changes should not reduce the rigor of the GCCR assessments, but instead give students the opportunity to develop communication skills that are most pertinent to their discipline.

The complete text of the revised Senate Regulation 3.1.2.1.5 can be found on the Senate’s website. The previous and revised specifications for the GCCR requirement are outlined in the table below.

<u>Previous GCCR requirements</u>	<u>Revised GCCR requirements</u>
Students must earn an average grade of “C” or better on assignments designated to meet the GCCR requirement	Student must earn a passing grade in any course being used to meet the GCCR requirement
Three components which should reflect the standards and practices of a particular discipline: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One or written assignments in English, totaling at least 4,500 words</li> <li>2. An oral assignment in English of at least 10 minutes or a visual assignment</li> <li>3. Demonstration of disciplinary information literacy</li> </ol>	Three components which should reflect the standards and practices of a particular discipline: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One or more written assignments</li> <li>2. An oral assignment (e.g. presentation) or a visual assignment (e.g. website or video presentation)</li> <li>3. Demonstration of disciplinary information literacy</li> </ol>
Assignments being used to meet the GCCR requirement must incorporate a draft/feedback revision process	One assignment must incorporate a draft/feedback/revision process
The GCCR may be satisfied by either a single course or a series of courses	The GCCR may be satisfied by either a single course or a series of courses
Programs may use a course offered by another undergraduate program, as long as that other program agrees	Programs may use a course offered by another undergraduate program, as long as that other program agrees

### **Do I need to do a course and/or program change?**

All courses that were previously approved to meet the GCCR requirement can continue to be delivered as approved and will continue to meet these revised GCCR requirements. However, because some of the guidelines have been relaxed, it is likely that many programs may wish to make modifications in how their students are satisfying the GCCR. The guidance provided below should

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provide insight for what we believe will be the most common scenarios regarding changes in a program's GCCR in response to changes in the Senate Regulations.

Program faculty want to...	Change needed?
Leave the previously approved course(s) and assignment(s) unchanged	Course and program changes are not needed
Relax some of the guidelines (e.g. word count, need for draft/feedback/revision process on each assignment) but the previously approved course(s) and assignment(s) will remain in place	A course change is not needed as long as the overall course content and student learning outcomes remain unchanged. A program change is also not necessary.
Remove or substantially change (e.g. new assignment that was not previously approved) assignments but use the previously approved course(s)	A major course change for the affected course(s) must be submitted, including the completion of the supplementary GCCR approval form
Use a different course to meet the GCCR, which <u>has not</u> been previously approved to meet the GCCR	<p>A major course change or new course proposal must be submitted, including the completion of the supplementary GCCR approval form.</p> <p>A program change must be submitted, including the completion of the supplementary GCCR approval form (same form used for the course proposal can be attached).</p>
Use a different course that <u>has</u> been previously approved to meet the GCCR, but for another program	A program change must be submitted, including the completion of the supplementary GCCR approval form. As long as the existing course will be delivered as approved, a separate course change may not be necessary. Documentation that the other program agrees to allow the use of its course in meeting the GCCR must be provided alongside the program change proposal.
Use completely different multiple courses to meet the GCCR	A program change must be submitted, including the completion of the supplementary GCCR approval form. Individual course changes may also be necessary if courses have not been previously approved for use in meeting GCCR requirement.

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### **What does the GCCR course approval process look like?**

When a new course or a major course change is being submitted through Curriculog, proposers will be asked whether or not the course is being used to fulfill some or all of a program's GCCR requirement. If the answer is 'Yes', programs will be prompted to complete an additional form that will outline the specific assignments being used to meet the GCCR requirement and justify the relevance and appropriateness of each required assignment for their specific discipline. If multiple courses are being used to meet a program's GCCR, then this process must be completed for each course. Likewise, any program changes involving a change to the GCCR requirement will also be prompted to complete and submit this same form. A copy of the GCCR form can be found [here](#). The same completed form may be submitted with both the course and program changes, as appropriate.

Once the submission is initiated through Curriculog, it will follow the same process as typical course and program proposals, including being recommended for approval at the departmental, college and Undergraduate Council levels before reaching the Senate Council office. Review by Undergraduate Council replaces the review by a separate Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement Committee.