South Central College Graphic Communications Program Background
Reasoning for a 72-Credit Waiver

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Graphics Production and Commercial Art were programs in existence for many years at SCC prior to the implementation of the current Graphic Communications program.

In 2008 the two programs started to look at the possibility of merging. Both programs used the same software packages and worked in the field of visual communications. The differences between the two programs were that Graphics Production was more geared towards project production with some layout and design. While the Commercial Art was more focused on layout, design and illustration with some production.

With guidance from both advisory boards in joint meetings, the go ahead to merge the two programs was approved. See advisory board minutes attached.

The joint advisory boards and faculty met over the next two years reviewing curriculum outlines, course descriptions, course schedules etc. It was decided that within the merging of the two programs that two emphasis will be maintained. A Graphic Communications emphasis in production and one in design along with a set of core technical courses all student would complete. After a couple of years it became evident that the emphasis should be eliminated and replaced with a Graphic Communications degree and diploma. Refer to the advisory meeting minutes in document GCCmeeting2.28.11. Spring 2013 was the first class graduation with the Graphic Communications degree.

With the merging of the two programs, some content from the Commercial Art program and from the Graphics Production had to be eliminated. Again the Graphic Communications course was refined under the guidance of the advisory board. We are producing a well rounded and versatile student with both the production capabilities such as printing, plate outputting, screen printing, bindery along with the layout, design, drawing skills and strong software skills in both areas.

A lot of content went into the merging of the two programs, and as mentioned some content had to be given up to fit into the current 72 credit program. Mesabi Range Community and Technical College-Eveleth campus, is the only other community college program in Minnesota that has the same CIP code (10.030100) as SCC. They are also seeking a waiver. Refer to document MesabiGraphicsAAS[2].pdf.

Since the current program has already been fine tuned and maintained as much content from the two original programs as possible, it would be very detrimental to try and cut any more out of the program.

The 2013 spring advisory meeting strongly supports the SCC Graphic Communications 72-credit waiver as outlined in the in the advisory meeting minutes in document gcMtg_Min020713.pdf

See program outline on the following pages.
Graphic Communications - Associate of Applied Science Degree 72 Credits

Degree Description
Graphic Communications is an ever-changing industry which encompasses magazine, newspaper and book printing, digital publishing, creative design, illustration, web page design, large format and digital printing and a host of other services according to the Print and Graphics Scholarship Foundation.

As a student in the Graphic Communications program, you'll be developing the creative side of yourself while carrying out your creativity in an actual production setting. The program offers training and instruction for students interested in graphic design, graphic production, web design and animation media. Introductory and advanced levels of illustration, layout and design, typography and product photography are also taught. Students will learn how to prepare their work for production with classes in work flow, printing processes and web page design. Students receive hands-on training using the latest Adobe Creative Suite which includes Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Dreamweaver, Flash and Acrobat.

Admission Dates: Fall Semester

Offered on the North Mankato Campus
The course requirements listed below are specific to the 2013-2014 school year. If you need to view the program from previous years view our Catalog Archive.

This credential is part of the Graphic Communications department. See the Graphic Communications department page for more details.

Required Technical Courses (17 Courses)
Complete the following courses:
GCC 1100 Introduction to Graphic Communications (4 Credits)
GCC 1120 Graphic Software 1 (4 Credits)
GCC 1130 Layout and Typography (3 Credits)
GCC 1141 Digital Image Exploration (3 Credits)
GCC 1210 Drawing for Graphic Designers (3 Credits)
GCC 1220 Graphic Software 2 (4 Credits)
GCC 1250 Web Interactive Media 1 (3 Credits)
GCC 1260 Printing Processes (4 Credits)
GCC 2110 Design and Illustration 1 (4 Credits)
GCC 2120 Portfolio 1 (3 Credits)
GCC 2150 Web/Interactive Media 2 (3 Credits)
GCC 2161 Production Work Flow 1 (3 Credits)
GCC 2210 Design and Illustration 2 (4 Credits)
GCC 2220 Portfolio 2 (3 Credits)
GCC 2250 Web/Interactive Media 3 (3 Credits)
GCC 2261 Production Work Flow 2 (3 Credits)
GCC 2275 Special Problems (1 - 4 Credits)
GCC 2290 Graphic Communications Internship (1 - 3 Credits)

Required Liberal Arts and Sciences (3 Courses)
To complete an AAS Degree, students must complete 18 MnTC credits from 3 of the 10 MnTC goal areas.
Select the following courses:
ENGL100 Composition (4 Credits)
COMM140 Interpersonal Communication (3 Credits)
Or
COMM110 Public Speaking (3 Credits)
ART 110 Art Structure (3 Credits)
Or
ART 130 Painting (3 Credits)
Or
ART 140 Digital Photography (3 Credits)

**Elective Liberal Arts and Sciences**
Select 8 additional MNTC credits from goals 1 - 10.
The following courses are recommended: PSYC100, SOC100, ART100, ART110, ENGL130, PHIL100 and PHIL 215.

PLEASE NOTE: All program plans are preliminary and curriculum may change without notice. Your catalog of record may have different requirements.