

Maricopa Community Colleges Innovation of the Year Application

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College	Project title		
GCC	ACE Online Application		
Team members - List the team members involved in this project, including yourself. Provide name, job title, email for each. One person per line.			
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A team photograph including all members must accompany this application. Photograph must be 5"x7" and 300dpi or larger. Create a caption for this photograph identifying team members (using full names) in order of appearance from left to right.			
Some of the team members are off-site, we have scheduled an appointment for a team photoshoot. We will submit a team photograph soon.			
Executive summary (50 words or less)			
The GCC ACE Program is the first program to develop and implement a new online scholarship application. This has resulted in a streamlined and efficient application process for our diverse high school student population. The new system supports seamless student process, cost effectiveness and promoting zero waste objectives.			

Innovations should include information that addresses all of the criterion below and is in alignment with the [Maricopa Vision, Mission, and Value Statements](#).

Quality: It is evident that the innovation increases "quality" in the course, program, office, or institution.
The new system has eliminated human errors and increased quality of the application process. For the new cohort, we have received total of 416 applications and only 6 were incomplete. The new system allows data from the online applications to be tracked, sorted, analyzed accurately and efficiently. This results in providing statistics necessary for internal and external reports in a timely manner.
Efficiency: There is evidence that the innovation contributes to a more efficient way of doing things.
The online application provides clear and concise instructions for the application process, which allows students to submit application efficiently. This directly supports seamless process compare to the paper-based applications. Information is accessible to the program in a quick and user-friendly format. Prior process required 3-4 staff members to compile, enter and format data.
Cost effectiveness: There is evidence that the innovation adds a value to the institution while at the same time containing or reducing costs.

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While providing the same or increased levels of service to students, costs were cut by development of online application, reduction of paper and less staff resources. During the first year of online application, we have received 126 online and 74 paper-based scholarship applications. This is evidence of continued cost savings.

Replication: The innovation selected can be replicated in other institutions with a minimum of difficulty.

The GCC ACE Program was selected by ACE Directors to develop and implement the first ever online application. The online application process was designed with the mission of effectively developing a tool that can be replicated across the district to all ECP Programs (ACE, HOL and Dual Enrollment). The GCC ACE team can assist in the district implementation by sharing what worked and/or did not work in our process. The application of the online format has proven to be both user-friendly to our students and budget friendly to the ACE program.

Creativity: The innovation should be as original as possible or the adaptation should be creative.

High school students live in a digital age, where applications and online communication are a standard. This online application allows us to update ourselves and the program to meet this new era. Giving students an accessible format where they can apply from any place at anytime is essential to an updated ACE program. All team members collaborated in the creative process in all stages of the development and implementation of the online application and format is set to allow data gathered from student survey along with process findings to be incorporated easily at any point. Online application can be an evolving process where changes can be implemented as needed to efficiently service our target students.

Timeliness: The innovation should not be more than five years old in the institution, but it must have been around long enough to be tested so that it meets most of the criteria.

Online applications are currently being used in all types of institutions. The GCC ACE Program is now updating its application process to meet student needs. We are the first to introduce the online application district-wide. The online application is the result of surveys and research indicating the need to minimize time, costs and create more accessibility to our target student population.

Learning: The results of the innovation have been shared with others for the benefit of students throughout Maricopa.

The paper-based to online application transition has been shared with other ACE Directors, the Dean of Student Life and Dual Enrollment at the ACE District Directors meeting. Statistics on the number of applications, information collected, survey results, and research gathered were shared in hopes of further collaborations and the development of a standardized online application process for all ACE Programs in the Maricopa Colleges.

Collaboration: The innovation successfully demonstrates collaboration, teamwork, and cooperation to ensure continuous process improvement efforts on behalf of students throughout Maricopa.

To support collaboration with district-wide ECP Programs, we have presented the new system during ACE Directors' monthly and Round-Table meetings. Surveys were formatted into the online application to ensure collaboration from applying target students for the 2016 cohort. This has allowed us to adjust and make changes as needed to accommodate and facilitate process to our target students. The survey method allows for the constant evolution of the online application to fit the changing needs of the students as well as the programs'.