

Course Review

A Comprehensive Review of Guam Community College's Driver's Education Course

Prepared by

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DRIVER'S EDUCATION

The Driver's Education offering consists of one course: ME051 Driver's Education. ME051 is a three-credit course offered under the Guam Community College's Automotive Department. One section is offered during the fall and spring semesters. The current course description is as follows:

Department of Motor Vehicle requires students to be in class for 32 hours [8 days] and in the car for 8 hours of instruction covering driving procedures, vehicle code rules and laws, use of vehicle instruments and controls. The 8 hours consist of 4 hours behind-the-wheel driving experience and 4 hours of in-car observation covering road driving skills as well as special skills such as backing, parallel parking, handling emergencies, etc. Students must be rated as "competent" on all "required" driving skills in order to receive credit (CR) for the course. Course offering: As needed. Prerequisite: Students must be 15 years of age or older before the first day of the course.

Instruction is given in basic fundamental driving skills and operating a motor vehicle safely. The course provides classroom instruction and "behind-the-wheel" driving time in accordance with Guam Law: 16 Guam Code Annotated Section 3113 (16GCA § 3113) which states that licensing public and private drivers education services must provide 40 hours of training with 32 classroom hours and 8 hours in-automobile or on-road to those individuals applying for a first time driver's license.

Course History

1985

The Driver Training Project began in 1985 as a Chapter II funded program and was ongoing up through Fall 2002 as a Title VI grant program for high school students. The federal grant subsidized the cost of tuition and fees with high school students paying only \$50 for the classes. The grant budget provided funding for up to 38 driver education classes to include

payment for instructors (classroom and behind-the-wheel time) and the purchase of one vehicle every other year for driver training. GCC had five instructors who were certified to teach Driver's Education. By 2002, twelve high schools (public, private, and DoDEA) were represented in the Driver's Education program. The classes were held after school and on Saturdays.

In November 2002, the College received notice that USDOE would no longer approve driver's education under the grant. Thus, beginning Spring 2003, the students paid full tuition and fees.

December 1989

The earliest course document found for the Driver's Education course was from December 1989 (course document author—C. Veltri). The course code/title was *SP051: Drivers Education*. The course was offered as a secondary course, although the course guide is not clear as to whether this course was a secondary or postsecondary course or both. The catalog description read as follows:

The course is designed not only for unlicensed and beginning drivers but is beneficial in making any driver safer and more efficient. Although basic fundamental driving skills are emphasized, "Defensive driving" is also taught. No official Driver's License Exams are given although preparation for both written and road license exams is included.

Contact hours, duration, credit and cost:

1. Contact hours per week: Lecture 5 hours and Lab 3.5 hours
2. Duration: 60 hours for 4 groups of 3 persons, or 15 hours for each 3 person group.
3. Credit: 0.5 carnegie unit
4. Cost to student: Standard tuition and fees plus \$20.00 lab fee

The target group was high schools students, age 15 or older and adults.

Successful completion of this course entitled students to a "Driver's Education

Certificate” and possible benefits such as lower car insurance rates, etc. The course grade was pass/fail (credit or no credit). In addition, students had to receive a rating of competent on at least 75% of all other driving skills listed on the chart. A passing score on a written practice vehicle code exam was also required.

July 1993

Pursuant to a memorandum (7-27-93) from the Guam DOE Director, Dr. Franklin Quitugua, to the College President, DOE was in the process of developing and implementing a comprehensive Drivers Education program. As such, GDOE invited GCC to participate in a committee which would be responsible for providing oversight and advisement for drivers education issues. The committee included representation from the: Guam Police Department, DOE, GCC, Office of Highway Safety, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Department of Motor Vehicles, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Students Against Drunk Driving.

No document was available for this writer’s review to determine if GCC participated in the committee or the outcomes of the committee’s work.

January 1995

A new course guide with substantive revision was submitted by C. Veltri on 12-6-94 and approved on 1-23-95. The course code/title remained the same (*SP051-Driver’s Education*). The new course guide specifically stated the course was a **secondary course** with the following objectives:

1. To provide a Driver Education Course which complies with Guam Public Law 22-20 (added to the 16GCA § 3113 which states that licensing public and

private drivers education services must provide 40 hours of training with 32 classroom hours and 8 hours in-automobile or on-road to those individuals applying for a first time driver's license). Note: This course revision actually provided more classroom hours (42) and more in-automobile hours (12) than the law required. The course was later revised in 2002 to reduce these hours to align with the law's requirement.

2. To provide instruction in basic fundamental driving skills.
3. To impart knowledge required to operate a motor vehicle safely.
4. To provide students with opportunities and experiences that will develop knowledge, competency, visual perception, decision-making process, and handling skills needed for safe, efficient operation of a motor vehicle.

Course hours, duration, credit, and cost:

1. Contact hours: Lecture 42 hours (Note: The 12 hours of in-car instruction were included in "lecture hours" rather than as "lab hours" due to the constant instructor commentary and assistance provided to students during this in-car phase).
2. Duration: Secondary course 1 period per day for 5 days per week for ½ semester
3. Credit: ¼ Carnegie unit per semester or 3 semester hours
4. Cost to student: Standard tuition and registration fees

The target group remained the same (students age 15 years or older).

The rationale for this new course proposal as stated in the course proposal included:

- For students: The major impact on students is that their student-teacher contact time (hours they must attend) increased from 18 hours to 42 hours. This increase resulted from an additional 26 hours in the classroom instruction phase. However, students' in-car instruction was reduced from 15 hours to 12 hours (per 3 student group). The number of students able to take the course remained the same as the increased class time was cancelled out by the reduced small group in-car time.
- For GCC: Enrollment in other courses and programs would not be significantly affected as the overwhelming majority of Driver's Education

students were not attending other courses. The small percentage of students that were would still be committing themselves to the same weekly times as they ordinarily had registered for.

- Faculty: The total faculty required would remain the same.
- Facility: The facility requirements would increase in that a single classroom would be needed for an additional eight hours per week.
- Cost: The additional cost would be approximately \$1,400 for 100 textbooks (student class sets) and \$200 for teacher resource materials.
- External Agencies: The revisions made this course comparable to that offered by the Guam Public School System, the University of Guam, and the private driving schools of Guam by increasing the classroom instruction phase to the 30 hours as recommended by the Driver's License Branch.

January 2002

A non-substantive course revision was made to change the number of contact hours for the course from 42 hours to 40 hours to align with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) requirement. DMV requires students to be in class for 32 hours and in the car for 8 hours (4 driving and 4 observing) for a total of 40 hours. But, the GCC course was previously adopted with 42 contact hours (30 in class and 12 in the car). The non-substantive revision changed the contact hours, but the course content and competencies of the GCC course were not changed.

March 2010

A non-substantive revision was made to change the Drivers Education course code from SP051 to ME051. No revisions were made to the course content and competencies.

The next section of this report provides a snapshot of the course over a four-year period from Fall 2007 to Spring 2011 to include student enrollment and a cost analysis as follows:

Student Enrollment

Table 1 shows student enrollment in the Drivers Education course from Fall 2007 to present. Only one Drivers Education course has been offered each semester. The same instructor taught the course during these past four years. The course is offered on Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Please note that from Fall 2007 to Spring 2010, the course code was SP051. This code was changed to ME051 beginning Fall 2010.

Table 1: Student Enrollment in Drivers Education Course

Term	Course	Maximum Enrollment	Actual Enrollment
Fall 2007	SP051	30	11
Spring 2008	SP051	30	10
Fall 2008	SP051	30	*
Spring 2009	SP051	30	13
Fall 2009	SP051	30	14
Spring 2010	SP051	30	13
Fall 2010	ME051	30	18
Spring 2011	ME051	30	13

* In Fall 2008, the course was scheduled but then cancelled

Cost Analysis

A cost analysis of the course is presented showing revenues and expenses over a period of four years from Fall 2007 to Spring 2011. Tables 2 and 3 provide a breakdown of these amounts.

The **revenue** generated comes from tuition and enrollment fees. Students pay for a three-credit course and enrollment fees which include a “Behind-the-Wheel” lab fee.

The **expenses** include the instructor’s salary, estimated vehicle maintenance, and new vehicle replacement. The same instructor taught the course from Fall 2007 to Spring 2011, and the instructor’s hourly rate remained consistent throughout this period.

According to the Automotive Repair Controller, some vehicle maintenance is done in-house by the Automotive classes. Additionally, a new vehicle is supposed to be purchased every five years to replace the old vehicle. The last vehicle purchased was a Toyota Corolla in 2005; however, no new vehicle was purchase in 2010 due to budgetary constraints. Please note that the vehicle is also used by the College for other college-relates services. Thus, the gas expense listed in Table 3 reflects only the usage of the vehicle for the Driver’s Education course.

Table 2: Revenues for Drivers Ed. Course from Fall 2007 to Spring 2011

REVENUES				
Term	Tuition	Enrollment Fees	Subtotal x Enrollment	Total
Fall 2007	3 credits x \$90 per credit = \$270	\$133 + \$103 lab fee = \$236	\$506 x 11	\$ 5,566
Spring 2008	Same	Same	\$506 x 10	\$ 5,060
Fall 2008	3 credits x \$110 per credit = \$330	\$146 + \$113 lab fee = \$259	\$589 x 0 (Course Cancelled)	\$ 0
Spring 2009	Same	Same	\$589 x 13	\$ 7,657
Fall 2009	Same	Same	\$589 x 14	\$ 8,246
Spring 2010	Same	Same	\$589 x 13	\$ 7,657
Fall 2010	Same	Same	\$589 x 18	\$10,602
Spring 2011	Same	Same	\$589 x 13	\$ 7,657
TOTAL REVENUE				\$52,445

Table 3: Expenses for Drivers Ed. Course from Fall 2007 to Spring 2011

EXPENSES	
Description	Cost*
Vehicle purchased in 2005	\$15,000
Annual Maintenance \$500 times 4-year period from 2007 to 2011 (Note: some annual maintenance is done in-house by classes): - Oil service: \$50 x 8 semesters - Brake flush: \$15 x 4 years	\$ 400 \$ 60
Gas: \$700 per year x 4 years	\$ 2,800
Every 2½ years tire replacement—one replacement during this 4-year period: \$60 x 4 tires	\$ 240
Instructor's Salary from Fall 2007 to Spring 2011 [Note: no course in Fall 2008—instructor paid for 92 hours (32 lecture + 60 behind-the-wheel) each semester]: \$21.66 per hour (reduced pay for Fall 2007 and Spring 208) x 92 hours x 2 semesters \$28.88 x 92 hours x 5 semesters	\$ 3,985 \$13,285
Car Insurance: \$500 per year x 4 years	\$ 2,000
Indirect Costs: Room usage, utilities, room maintenance, etc. would be 8% of revenue generated: 8% x \$52,445	\$ 4,196
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$41,966

***Amounts are rounded estimates as per the Automotive Repair Controller and Automotive Department Chairperson**

A review of Table 2 and Table 3 shows that the course generated a profit over the past four years:

Table 4: Cost Analysis with Current Vehicle

Revenue – Expense

\$52,445	Revenue
- \$41,966	Expense
\$10,479	Profit

(Note: The Automotive Repair Controller recommends that a new replacement vehicle should be purchased every five years. The last vehicle was purchased in 2005; however, no vehicle was purchased in 2010.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Update the current course guide (dated December 6, 1994), and reflect any changes to the course (e.g., textbook, classroom hours, behind-the-wheel hours, etc.)
2. Determine if the five-year timeline for purchase of new replacement vehicle is reasonable and/or modify timeline as appropriate; then, follow through with scheduled purchase of replacement vehicle as per the timeline.
3. Explore the possibility of running the Drivers Education course under Continuing Education (CE). The funds generated under CE can be a source for the Automotive Department's incentive funds.
4. Standardize the methodology for determining revenues and expenses for future course and program reviews.
5. Consider including the following student data in a future review of this course:
 - a. Why are students choosing to attend the GCC Drivers Education course instead of local driving schools which cost less?
 - b. What percentage of students who complete the GCC Drivers Education course pass the Driver's test issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles?

Footnote:

1. The initial draft of this Course Review was prepared in April 2011 by Dr. Geraldine S. James, Associate Dean, TPS. She received input and data from the following individuals:
 - a. Christopher Dennis (Automotive Department Chairperson)
 - b. Rick Mendiola (Automotive Repair Controller)
 - c. Patrick Clymer (Coordinator, Admissions & Registration)
 - d. Dean Reilly Ridgell

2. The April 2011 draft was reviewed by the following administrators on 8-3-11. Their input and recommendations were included in this final report:
 - a. Dr. R. Ray Somera (Academic Vice-President)
 - b. Dr. Michelle Santos (Dean, TSS)
 - c. Dr. Michael Chan (Adjunct Associate Dean)
 - d. Doris Perez (Assistant Director, Planning & Development)
 - e. Priscilla Johns (Program Specialist, AIER)
 - f. Joseph Benavente (Planner IV, AIER)
 - g. Marlana Montague (Institutional Researcher, AIER)
 - h. Huan Hosei (Program Specialist, Adult Education)