

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**AGENDA ITEM: 5.V**

**DATE: June 10, 2015**

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**SUBJECT: Request to Seek Accreditation – NSU**

Board of Regents [Policy 1:10 Relationship of Curriculum and Instruction to Statutory Objectives](#) specifies that “Each campus must seek and receive Board approval before applying for initial accreditation or an expanded scope of accreditation for academic programs.” In accordance with Board policy, Northern State University requests approval to seek accreditation from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) for its Rising Scholars (Concurrent Dual Credit) Program (Attachment I).

Achieving this accreditation will serve as a guarantee to students, policy-makers, and other postsecondary institutions that the accredited partnership meets rigorous national standards. It will also distinguish a concurrent enrollment partnership, thereby enhancing its ability to recruit new partners and students.

Dr. Hawley will be available to answer questions.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve NSU’s requests to seek accreditation from National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) for its Rising Scholars (Concurrent Dual Credit) Program.

## SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

### Request to Seek Accreditation Under BOR Policy

**1. Institution:** Northern State University

**2. Program(s) seeking accreditation:** Rising Scholars (Concurrent Dual Credit) Program

**3. Level of program(s) involved in accreditation:**

Certificate	Master's Degree
Associate Degree	Doctoral Degree
Bachelor's Degree	

**4. Accrediting Agency:** National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships

*NOTE: Use additional pages if needed to address the following questions.*

#### 5. What are the advantages of accreditation?

Increase credit transferability beyond the SDBOR system for concurrent dual credit courses offered by NSU in South Dakota High Schools under the Rising Scholars (RS) program. Currently BOR Institutions require institutions outside of the BOR system be accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships as a condition of accepting concurrent dual credit.

As of May 7, 2015, there are three (3) institutions in the state of South Dakota with [NACEP membership](#): Mitchell Technical Institute and Mount Marty College are institutional members and the South Dakota Department of Education is a partner member. No SDBOR Institutions are members of NACEP and no higher educational institutions in South Dakota are accredited by NACEP.

Northern State University Director of Online & Continuing Education (OCE) has been tasked with leading the NSU NACEP accreditation process. The Director of OCE will collaborate with NSU RS Program Coordinator, Deans, Department Chairs, Faculty and other administrative staff to develop a comprehensive NACEP Accreditation application.

NACEP accreditation: <http://www.nacep.org/accreditation/benefits-accreditation/>

- Serves as a guarantee to students, policy-makers, and other postsecondary institutions that the accredited partnership meets rigorous national standards
- Distinguishes a concurrent enrollment partnership, thereby enhancing its ability to recruit new partners and students

- Aids students and families when they seek credit recognition for their college credits earned through concurrent enrollment
- Allows programs to display the NACEP logo on their websites and in other publications
- Offers national leadership opportunities to concurrent enrollment professionals. Staff from NACEP-accredited concurrent enrollment programs may hold an elected position on the NACEP Board of Directors or be appointed as a Committee Chair to help shape the future of concurrent enrollment around the country.

**6. What are the anticipated costs involved in accreditation, including:**

**A) Costs involved in undergoing self-study and preparing the application for accreditation.**

- Online & Continuing Education/Rising Scholars staff time to complete membership application – approximately 30min.
- Concurrent Enrollment Program Self-Study to begin upon BOR approval to seek accreditation. Time to complete Self-Study approximately 200 hours spread across Online & Continuing Education and Rising Scholars staff, Deans, Department Chairs, and faculty between June 2015 and December 2016.
- Online & Continuing Education/Rising Scholars staff time to complete Accreditation Intent to Apply approximately 50 hours. Anticipate submission of the Accreditation Intent to Apply for 2017-2018 Accreditation Cycle prior to January 31, 2017.

**B) Out-of-pocket costs related to dues or site visits.**

- Annual membership fee is \$450.00 (prorated by 50% for institutions joining during 2<sup>nd</sup> half of calendar year)
- Accreditation Intent to Apply fee \$100.00
- Accreditation Application processing fee \$300
- [NACEP does not typically conduct site visits](#) – NACEP Peer Review Team conducts an interview with the applicant either in person at the NACEP National Conference or via teleconferencing/videoconferencing.

**C) Base budget implications including incremental costs and minimum base resources required (dollars and FTE).**

- No anticipated increase in FTE
- Anticipate minimal increases to annual membership fee

**7. What is the source of the resources needed?** NSU Online & Continuing Education department self-support funds.

**8. What is the estimated date for submission of accreditation application?** July 1, 2017

  
Institutional Authorization (President)