1. Policy Overview & Background

During the merge of the six university databases (2003), a common Regental transcript was developed. This unified approach compelled system-level review, consideration, and approval of university-specific transcript comments. The Academic Affairs Council was identified as the logical entity to authorize usage of such comments. Any university interested in creating a new comment must submit a formal request, including rationale and intended use. Any university interest in creating a new comment must submit a formal request, including rationale and intended use. The System Vice-President for Academic Affairs will coordinate the evaluation process and then apprise the impacted university of deliberative outcomes.

2. Transcript Designations

2.1. Black Hills State University

2.1.1. University Scholar Graduate: Designation for students who complete the 4-year, supplemental Honors curriculum.

Eligibility criteria:

- Eighteen credits of honors-level general education courses
- Two semesters of non-English language
- Six credits of honors colloquia/seminars
- Three credits of capstone research
- Self-directed research/creative scholarship project
- Honors-caliber capstone project with defense

2.1.2. International University Scholar Graduate: Designation for students who complete the 4-year, supplemental Honors curriculum and who complete and international research or study-abroad experience.

Eligibility criteria:

- Eighteen credits of honors-level general education courses
• Two semesters of non-English language
• Six credits of honors colloquia/seminars
• Three credits of capstone research
• Significant international experience involving studying, teaching, researching, and/or serving
• Self-directed research/creative scholarship project
• Honors-caliber capstone project with defense

2.1.3. **Research Scholar Graduate**: Designation for students who wish to pursue Honors-caliber work later in their academic careers.

Eligibility criteria:
• Six credits of Honors colloquia/seminars
• Three credits of capstone research
• Self-directed research/creative scholarship project
• Honors-caliber capstone project with defense

2.1.4. **Graduated Posthumously**: Designation for students who pass away just prior to completion of all graduation requirements.

2.2. **Dakota State University**

2.2.1. **Center of Excellence Graduate**: Designation for students who pursue honors course work in conjunction with the Center of Excellence.

Eligibility criteria:
• Minor in CEX
• Service learning project
• Formal approval conferred by the Center of Excellence Administrators

2.3. **Northern State University**

2.3.1. **Graduated in Honoribus**: Designation for students who complete the Honors Program

Eligibility criteria:
• Approved enrollment in the Honors Program
• Eighteen credits of honors course work
• Honors thesis/project
• Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher at the time of graduation

2.4. **South Dakota School of Mines & Technology**

2.4.1. **Graduated Posthumously**: Designation for students who pass away just prior to completion of all graduate requirements.
2.5. **South Dakota State University**

2.5.1. **Honors College:**

Eligibility Criteria:

- Twenty-four credits of honors course work including:
  - Minimum of three credits honors colloquium/topics
  - Minimum of two credits honors capstone research
  - Honors course work, experiential learning, or honors enrichment course work
- GPA (cumulative) of 3.5 or higher at the time of graduation

2.5.2. **Graduated Posthumously:** Designation for students who pass away just prior to completion of all graduation requirements.

2.6. **University of South Dakota**

2.6.1. **University Scholar Graduate:** Designation for students who enter as first-time freshmen and continue with the program throughout the entirety of their undergraduate work.

Eligibility criteria:

- Honors Core Curriculum
- Two honors seminars
- Honors thesis with defense
- GPA of 3.25 or higher at the time of graduation

2.6.2. **Thesis Scholar Graduate:** Designation for students who pursue honors work later in their academic careers or who transfer and pursue honors work.

Eligibility criteria:

- Two honors seminars
- Honors thesis with defense

2.6.3. **USDSM Alumni Student Scholars:** Designation for students enrolled in the MD program at Sanford School of Medicine.

Eligibility criteria:

- Selection for Alumni Student Scholarship Program (an early acceptance program offered by the Sanford School of Medicine; four first-time freshmen at USD are chosen each year).
  - Graduate of a South Dakota high school
  - ACT composite score of 28 or higher (or SAT combined score of 1240 or higher)
  - Expressed interest in establishing a primary care practice in the state of South Dakota
• Baccalaureate degree earned at USD:
  o Any major
  o Honors Curriculum
  o Sanford School of Medicine admission requirements
  o Graduation within four years of full-time undergraduate study
  o GPA of 3.5 or higher at the time of graduation
• MD or MD/PhD degree earned at Sanford School of Medicine

2.6.4. Scholarship Pathway Scholar: Designation for students enrolled in the MD program at USD’s Sanford School of Medicine.

   Eligibility criteria:
   • Completion of an elective track in education, research, or service

2.6.5. Sterling Honor Graduate: Designation for students enrolled in the JD program at USD’s School of Law.

   Eligibility criteria:
   • Academic ranking in the top 10% of the graduating class

2.6.6. Graduated Posthumously: Designation for students who pass away just prior to completion of all graduation requirements.

SOURCE:
AAC November 2017; November 2018 (Clerical); AAC February 2022.