SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 8 – A
DATE: December 8-9, 2021

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SUBJECT
Revision to BOR Policy 2:5 – Transfer of Credit (First and Final Reading)

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY
BOR Policy 2:5 – Transfer of Credit

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION
As the Board of Regents develop their Strategic Plan, one of the essential goals will include Access. To facilitate this goal, the system academic staff have been reviewing policy needs related to transfer credits. The following BOR policies will require a review and update over the next few months.

• BOR Policy 2:5 – Transfer of Credit
• BOR Policy 2:7 – Baccalaureate General Education Curriculum
• BOR Policy 2:25 – Associate Degree General Education Curriculum
• BOR Policy 2:27 – Program to Program Articulation Agreements
• BOR Policy 2:31 – Articulation of General Education Courses: South Dakota Technical Colleges with a Memorandum of Agreement with the Board of Regents

To accommodate this timeline for policy revisions, the system academic staff will present to the Board a recommendation to streamline BOR Policy 2:5 with respect to transfer courses from technical and academic coursework. This initial change will allow more discretion at the campuses during the next six months when working with students based on current Board Policy and AAC Guidelines.

By Fall of 2022, a new policy will be developed for approval on transfer.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION
The Board of Regents academic staff supports the recommendations as a first and final review of the Board policy. This policy will provide additional campus discretion in the review of both technical and academic course work at the undergraduate level.

(Continued)

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DRAFT MOTION 20211006_8-A:
I move to (1) waive the two-reading requirement of By-Laws Section 5.5.1, and (2) approve the first and final readings of the proposed new BOR Policy 2:23, as presented.
The timeline for the activity related to future transfer policies outlined is as follows:

- Draft BOR Policy Revisions – First Reading March 2022 BOR Meeting
- Campus Communication – April through June 2022
- Draft BOR Policy Revisions – Tentative Second and Final Reading August 2022 BOR Meeting
- AAC Guideline Revisions – August 2022

ATTACHMENTS
Attachment I – Proposed Revisions to BOR Policy 2:5
SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Transfer of Credit

NUMBER: 2:5

A. PURPOSE

To establish the framework for the consistent transfer of credit among Regental institutions, and by students earning credit external to the six institutions managed by the South Dakota Board of Regents. Additionally, guidance is provided for the accepting credit through approved validation methods.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. Accredited Institution: An institution holding accreditation from one of the following regional accrediting bodies, unless otherwise specified: Middle States Commission on Higher Education, New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Higher Learning Commission, Northwest Accreditation Commission, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

2. Technical or General Education Academic Course: A course that is equivalent to a Regental general education requirement at the 100 or 200 level.

3. Course Evaluation: An Assessment completed by the appropriate institutional official at the time of admission to compare descriptions, content, and level of course completed from an accredited or non-accredited institution.

4. CR Grade: A grade used for a block of course credit hours.

5. External Block Transfer: Granting of credit to meet the General Education requirements outlined in BOR Policy 2:7 and 2:26 for students from approved institutions that enter with an earned Associates Degree (AA and AS) or Bachelor’s Degree (BA and BS).

6. Regental Internal Transfer: Process where an undergraduate course is used on a converted credit basis to meet graduate plan of study requirements at Regental universities or when graduate credit is used on a converted or actual credit basis to meet undergraduate degree requirements for a Regental accelerated program (refer to BOR Policy 2:8.).

7. Repeated Course: A course that an institution has determined to be repeated for credit from a receiving institution. All repeated course attempts will be entered on the transcript, but credit will not be given for the duplication of courses as only the last earned grade will be used in the calculation of the student’s grade point average.

8. Technical Course: A non-academic course that meets the technical program requirements for a diploma, certificate, or Associate of Applied Science degree.
C. POLICY

1. Transfer of Courses to Meet Degree Requirements

1.1. Academic courses will be transferred as meeting graduation requirements if the courses parallel the scope and depth requirements for the degree or if the courses meet electives required for the degree. Credit will not be given for duplication of courses.

1.2. Undergraduate courses considered for transfer are subject to all BOR policies and any conditions for validation that may be prescribed by the accepting institution. When a university evaluates and accepts the transfer of undergraduate credit under the provisions of this policy, these courses will be recorded and equivalencies granted using the following guidelines:

1.2.1. If there are specific undergraduate courses at the university evaluating the credit, these specific courses should be used when granting equivalencies.

1.2.2. If the academic discipline is available at the university evaluating the credit, but there is no discipline equivalent course, use the discipline prefix and the appropriate course level (100 for Freshman level, 200 for Sophomore level, 300 for Junior level, and 400 for Senior level).

1.2.3. If the academic discipline is not available at the university evaluating the credit, use the ELEC prefix and the appropriate course level (100 for Freshman level, 200 for Sophomore level, 300 for Junior level, and 400 for Senior level).

1.3. Total Transfer of Credit Limit

1.3.1. Total transfer credit for work at a two-year technical or community college may not exceed one-half of the hours required for completion of the baccalaureate degree at the accepting institution unless an approved program-specific waiver exists.

1.3.2. The System Vice President for Academic Affairs may approve program-specific waivers of up to seventy-five (75) total transfer credit hours at the accepting institution.

1.3.3. Board of Regents approval is required:

1.3.3.1. For baccalaureate program-specific waivers of seventy-six (76) total transfer credit hours up to a maximum of ninety (90) total transfer credit hours at the accepting institution.

1.3.3.2. For graduate accelerated program-specific waivers of thirteen (13) total transfer credit hours up to a maximum of twenty-five (25) total transfer credit hours at the accepting institution.

1.3.4. Students who have completed more than the acceptable semester hours of junior, community or technical college work may apply completed, transferable courses to specific course requirements and thereby may not be required to repeat the courses. The semester hours of credit for those additional courses may not be applied toward the minimum credit hours required for the degree.
1.4. **Student Appeals for Transfer of Credit Decisions**

1.4.1. Each institution will develop and maintain a procedure for the appeal of transfer credit decisions.

2. **Transfer of General Education Coursework**

2.1. **Internal Transfer of General Education Coursework**

2.1.1. A student who has completed the general education requirements outlined in Policy 2:7 and 2:26 at the sending Regental institution will have completed the equivalent degree level requirements at the receiving institution regardless of the course distributions or approved course lists. In any subsequent evaluation of any transfer or non-course work, equivalencies for system common courses and system general education courses will not be changed.

2.1.2. A student who has not completed all general education requirements at the sending institution will be required to complete additional coursework consistent with the course requirements at the receiving South Dakota Regental institution.

2.2. **External Block Transfer of General Education Coursework**

2.2.1. A student who has completed General Education requirements that are consistent with the six (6) goals and credit hour requirements outlined in Policy 2:7 and 2:26 will enter the Regental system having fulfilled the General Education program requirements. Students will be expected to meet all degree program requirements including course prerequisites.

2.2.2. When considering whether undergraduate transfer of academic courses received from non-Regental accredited institutions shall qualify to meet the System General Education credit hour requirements outlined in Policy 2:7 and 2:26, a Regental institution shall:

2.2.2.1. Evaluate the general education goals and student learning outcomes rather than specific course equivalencies;

2.2.2.2. Ensure that a minimum of three (3) credit hours of coursework is required for each of the six general education goals and that a total of at least twenty-four (24) credit hours of general education coursework are required by the sending institution for associate degree students and thirty (30) for bachelor’s degree students.

2.2.2.3. Request a general education transfer agreement be approved for students entering from the institution.

2.2.3. When it is determined that the goals and credit hour requirements from a non-Regental accredited institution do not align with Policy 2:7 and 2:26, a Regental institution may request a partial general education transfer agreement be approved where goal consistency does exist.
3. **Transfer of Credit from Accredited United States Colleges, Universities & Technical Colleges**

3.1. **General Requirements**

3.1.1. All grades transferred will be calculated into grade point averages according to the Regental grade scheme, and recorded on the student’s academic transcript.

3.1.2. Transfer grades not existing in the Regental grading scheme will be equated to the Regental grading system. (Refer to BOR 2:10, Use of Grade Point Averages).

3.1.3. The university-specific degree or plan of study requirements determine if the courses transferred are applicable to the student’s degree program at that university and if they meet the minimum grade criteria.

3.1.4. Except for the conditions outlined for graduate transfer, during any subsequent evaluation, equivalencies for system common courses and system general education courses will not be changed. Equivalencies for unique courses may be changed, re-evaluated, or inactivated. In subsequent evaluations, grades previously recorded cannot be changed.

3.2. **Undergraduate Transfer**

3.2.1. All undergraduate transfer courses and all transfer grades (whether the grades are passing or not passing) must be recorded and an equivalency specified by the Regental university.

3.2.2. Courses of a vocational/technical nature are generally not transferable. However, if such work is judged to be pertinent to the needs of a particular curriculum or program, credit will be granted upon the recommendation of the department offering the course.

3.2.3. Remedial courses (as identified on the sending institution’s transcript) received in transfer are recorded, transcribed, and assigned an equivalency at the receiving university but do not calculate into grade point averages.

3.2.4. Orientation, Life Experience, an approved high school equivalency examination, and high school level courses are not recorded in Banner as transfer credit nor are they granted equivalent credit.

3.2.5. High school courses for which students received college credit will not be entered as transfer credit, or given equivalent credit, unless one of the following conditions are met:

3.2.5.1. Validated by an Advanced Placement or CLEP score that meets Board of Regents guidelines for acceptance of credit;

3.2.5.2. The college credit is granted by a university with which the Board has a dual credit agreement; or

3.2.5.3. The college credit is granted by an institution meeting the accreditation standards of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP).
3.3. **Technical Course Transfer from Colleges and Universities**

3.3.1. University discretion is permitted in acceptance of courses. Courses considered for transfer are subject to all BOR policies and any conditions for validation that may be prescribed by the accepting institution.

3.3.2. When the courses are accepted for transfer, equivalent courses are recorded on the transcript, but the grade earned at the technical college is not recorded or calculated into the grade point averages.

3.3.3. The General Education Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Technical Education shall be followed when managing general education transfer.

3.3.4. The transfer of courses through an articulation agreement occur as a block of credit hours upon completion of requirements for the university articulated program.

3.4. **Course Transfer from Technical Colleges**

3.4.1. **South Dakota Technical Colleges**

3.4.1.1. Transfer of academic courses from South Dakota postsecondary technical colleges is governed by BOR policies 2:25, 2:26, 2:27, and 2:31.

3.4.1.2. Transfer of technical course credit hours from South Dakota postsecondary technical colleges occurs as part of a program to program articulation agreement or specific program approved by the Board of Regents and South Dakota Board of Education Standards, unless an institution determines a course equivalency consistent with the process outlined in this policy.

3.4.1.3. The transfer of technical course credit hours occurs as a block of credit hours upon completion of requirements for the university articulated program for which a CR grade will be assigned.

3.4.1.4. Academic courses taken under articulation agreements in effect between July 1, 1999 and June 30, 2005 will be transferred according to those agreements.

3.4.2. **Other Technical Colleges**

3.4.2.1. University discretion is permitted in acceptance of academic courses. Academic courses considered for transfer are subject to all BOR policies and any conditions for validation that may be prescribed by the accepting institution.

3.4.2.2. Transfer of technical course credit hours from non-South Dakota postsecondary technical colleges occurs as part of a program to program articulation agreement or specific program approved by the Board of Regents.
3.4.2.3. The transfer of technical course credit hours occurs as a block of credit hours upon completion of requirements for the university articulated program.

3.4.2.4. When the academic courses are accepted for transfer, equivalent courses are recorded on the transcript.

4. Graduate Transfer Courses Received from Accredited United States Colleges and Universities

4.1. All graduate transfer courses and transfer grades judged to be acceptable by the evaluating university, are recorded and evaluated by the Regental university, calculated into grade point averages according to the Regental grade scheme, and recorded on the student’s academic transcript.

4.2. If transfer credits are judged acceptable; these courses will be recorded, and equivalencies granted, using the following guidelines:

4.2.1. If there are specific equivalent graduate courses at the university evaluating the credit, these specific courses should be used when granting equivalencies.

4.2.2. If there are no equivalent graduate courses at the university evaluating the credit, these courses will be recorded, and equivalencies granted, using the following guidelines:

4.2.2.1. If the academic discipline is available at the university evaluating the credit, but there is no discipline equivalent course, use the discipline prefix and the appropriate course level (500/600 for master’s programs and 700/800 for doctoral programs).

4.2.2.2. If the academic discipline is not available at the university evaluating the credit, use the ELEC prefix and the appropriate course level (500/600 for master’s programs and 700/800 for doctoral programs).

4.3. Transfer grades not existing in the Regental grading scheme will be equated to the Regental grading system.

4.4. In subsequent evaluation, all equivalencies may be re-evaluated, inactivated, or changed. Additional equivalencies may be added and evaluated. In subsequent evaluations, grades previously recorded cannot be changed.

4.5. The university-specific plan of study requirements determines if the courses transferred are applicable to the student’s degree program at that university and if they meet the minimum grade criteria.

5. Credits Received from United States Colleges or Universities Located Outside the United States or Not Accredited

5.1. General Requirements

5.1.1. University discretion is permitted in acceptance of courses. Courses considered for transfer are subject to all BOR policies and any conditions for validation that may be prescribed by the accepting institution.
5.1.2. In any subsequent evaluation, equivalencies for system common courses and system general education courses will not be changed. Equivalencies for unique courses may be changed, re-evaluated, or inactivated. Additional equivalencies may be added and evaluated.

5.1.3. The university-specific degree requirements determine if the courses transferred are applicable to the student’s degree program at that university and if they meet the minimum grade criteria.

5.1.4. When the courses are accepted for transfer, equivalent courses are recorded on the transcript but the grade earned at the institution is not recorded or calculated into the grade point averages using the following guidelines:

5.1.4.1. If there are specific equivalent courses at the university evaluating the credit, these specific courses should be used when granting equivalencies.

5.1.4.2. If there are no equivalent courses at the university evaluating the credit, these courses will be recorded, and equivalencies granted, using the following guidelines:

5.1.4.2.1. If the academic discipline is available at the university evaluating the credit, but there is no discipline equivalent course, use the discipline prefix and the appropriate course level (500/600 for master’s programs and 700/800 for doctoral programs).

5.1.4.2.2. If the academic discipline is not available at the university evaluating the credit, use the ELEC prefix and the appropriate course level (500/600 for master’s programs and 700/800 for doctoral programs).

5.2. Postsecondary Institutions Outside the United States

5.2.1. At the discretion of the institution’s chief academic officer, grades may be recorded and used to determine the transfer and cumulative GPAs.

5.3. Technical College

5.3.1. Courses submitted in transfer from postsecondary technical colleges that are not accredited will not be accepted.

6. Credit Received Through Validation Methods & Prior Learning Assessment

6.1. Credit earned through validation methods other than nationally recognized examinations is limited to a maximum of thirty (30) hours of credit for baccalaureate degrees and fifteen (15) hours of credit for associate degrees. Credits may be earned through established procedures for prior learning assessment, including but not limited to assessment of military training and education. Each campus may determine appropriate course equivalencies as warranted and consult equivalencies established by the American Council on Education (ACE) when making final decisions.

6.1.1. Validation of military credit is limited to an additional thirty (30) hours of credit for baccalaureate degrees and an additional fifteen (15) hours of credit for associate degrees.
6.1.2. University discretion is permitted in acceptance of validated military credit for graduate programs, limited to a maximum of twelve (12) credit hours.

6.2. Credit for college level courses granted through nationally recognized examinations such as CLEP, AP, DSST, etc., will be evaluated and accepted for transfer if equivalent to Regental courses and the scores are consistent with Regental policies. Such credits are only valid if transcripted by a university within five years of the student taking the examination. Regental institutions shall honor credits from nationally recognized examinations transcripted to meet degree requirements at a non-Regental institution.

6.2.1. If credit received through validation is applied as elective credit, it may only be applied at the 100 or 200 level.

6.2.2. Credit received through validation may apply to System General Education Requirements.

6.3. When validation credits are accepted, equivalent courses are recorded on the transcript but are not calculated into the grade point averages.

6.4. In any subsequent evaluation, equivalencies for system common courses and system general education courses will not be changed. Equivalencies for unique courses may be changed, re-evaluated, or inactivated. Additional equivalencies may be added and evaluated.

6.5. The university-specific degree requirements determine if the validation credits accepted also are applicable to the student’s degree program at that university.

FORMS / APPENDICES:
None

SOURCE: