

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs
Consent

AGENDA ITEM: 6 – B (2)

DATE: August 2-4, 2022

SUBJECT

Revised BOR Policy 2:7 – Baccalaureate General Education Curriculum, and Repeal BOR Policy 2:26 – Associate Degree General Education Curriculum (Second Reading)

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 2:7](#) – Baccalaureate General Education Curriculum

[BOR Policy 2:26](#) – Associate General Education Curriculum

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The General Education Discipline council (faculty representation from each of the six universities) and the assessment committee (assessment representation from each of the six universities) have recommended that BOR Policy 2:7 and BOR Policy 2:26 be merged to one policy for Undergraduate General Education. This recommendation was forwarded to the Academic Affairs Council (AAC) for their review.

If found in the review that these policies cover the undergraduate general education curriculum and are duplicative, the recommendation will be to repeal BOR Policy 2:26 and move to one undergraduate general education policy.

The proposed changes that are reflected in Attachment I and II include the following:

1. Aligned the structure of the policy to include the more current formatting.
2. Addition of the definitional section.
3. Addition of the Policy Statements
 - a. Governance
 - b. Learning Outcomes
 - c. Seamless Transfer – To align with Internal Regental Transfer
4. System General Education Requirements
 - a. Baccalaureate Degree
 - b. Associates Degree
5. Approved Courses

(Continued)

DRAFT MOTION 20220802_6-B(2):

I move to approve the second and final reading to repeal BOR Policy 2:26 and the proposed revisions to BOR Policy 2:7, as presented.

6. System General Education Committee

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

AAC addressed each of the two policies and have recommended movement to one policy regarding Undergraduate General Education. Therefore, the recommendation is to repeal BOR Policy 2:26 (Attachment III) and approve the proposed revisions to BOR Policy 2:7.

This is the second reading of the policy. No other revisions have been made since the first reading at the June 2022 BOR meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – Proposed Revisions to BOR Policy 2:7 (with Track Changes)

Attachment II – Proposed Revisions to BOR Policy 2:7 (Clean Copy without Tracking)

Attachment III – Repeal BOR Policy 2:26

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Undergraduate General Education Requirements

NUMBER: 2:7

A. PURPOSE

To provide for the requisite oversight that the general education component of all baccalaureate and associate programs shall consist of the appropriate System General Education Requirements. Students may only select general education courses from an approved list to meet the System General Education Requirements.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. **Academic Program:** Academic program is defined as the degree program approved and offered at each of the Regental institutions.
2. **Accredited Institution:** Defined as one of the following institutional 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, WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).
3. **University Accreditation Institution:** Higher Learning Commission is the accrediting institution for each of the Regental institutions.
4. **General Education:** Curriculum defined to develop learners' general knowledge, literacy, skills, and competencies which equip students for success with advanced curriculum, program and major completion, and career competencies.
5. **General Education Committee:** A committee representing the institutions and the system on General Education curriculum and advising the Academic Affairs Council on policy, practices, curriculum, and other needs for general education.
6. **Learning Outcomes:** Defined as the gaining of knowledge in cognitive and content competencies, skills, and social-emotional competencies associated with academic learning.
7. **Receiving Institution:** The Regental university to which the student is transferring.
8. **Regental Internal Transfer:** Process where an undergraduate course is used to meet a plan of study requirement at any 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.).
9. **Seamless Transfer:** A framework based on the principles of serving student needs, using state resources efficiently, and expanding opportunities for post-secondary attainment in South Dakota in the process of students transferring into South Dakota.

10. Sending Institution: The institution from which a student is transferring.

C. POLICY STATEMENTS

1. Governance

- 1.1. Board of Regents Policy 1:0, 1:1 and SDCL § 13-49 through § 13-53 provides the authority to govern academic programming.
- 1.2. Each of the institutions must comply with the accrediting organization and will be evaluated by that organization.

2. General Education Goals

There are six (6) System General Education Goals for which general education has been designed for meeting student outcomes. The General Education Committee and Academic Affairs Council will review all general education requests in reference to these goals.

GOAL #1: Students will write effectively and responsibly and will understand and interpret the written expression of others.

GOAL #2: Students will communicate effectively and responsibly through listening and speaking.

GOAL #3: Students will understand the organization, potential, and diversity of the human community through study of the social sciences.

GOAL #4: Students will understand the diversity and complexity of the human experience through study of the arts and humanities.

GOAL #5: Students will understand and apply fundamental mathematical processes and reasoning.

GOAL #6: Students will understand the fundamental principles of the natural sciences and apply scientific methods of inquiry to investigate the natural world.

3. Seamless Transfer

- 3.1. All internal Regental general education courses will be accepted regardless of the receiving institutions course offering (all undergraduate) as well as if the student fulfilled or partially fulfilled the general education requirements.
- 3.2. All internally transferred general education coursework will continue to count toward the designated goal areas from the sending institution even if the receiving institution has different approved course lists for those goals.
- 3.3. All prerequisites for associate and baccalaureate programs must be completed as determined by the student's academic degree plan. See SDBOR policy XXX for additional guidance on transfer of credits.

D. SYSTEM GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Baccalaureate Degree Course/Credit Distribution

System General Education Requirements shall include 30 credits of course work. At least three (3) credit hours shall be earned from each of six (6) goals (total of 18 credits) set out in section three (3) below. Each institution shall identify 12 credit hours of additional course work from the six (6) goals. The distribution of courses/credits will be maintained as guidelines managed and approved by the Academic Affairs Council and approved by the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs.

<i>System Goal</i>	<i>BHSU</i>	<i>DSU</i>	<i>NSU</i>	<i>SDSM&T</i>	<i>SDSU</i>	<i>USD</i>
<i>Goal #1: Written Communication</i>	6	6	6	6	6	6
<i>Goal #2: Oral Communication</i>	3	3	3	3	3	3
<i>Goal #3: Social Sciences</i>	6	6	6	6	6	6
<i>Goal #4: Arts and Humanities</i>	6	6	6	6	6	6
<i>Goal #5: Mathematics</i>	3	3	3	3	3	3
<i>Goal #6: Natural Sciences</i>	6	6	6	6	6	6
	30	30	30	30	30	30

2. Associate Degree Course/Credit Distribution

System General Education Requirements shall include 24 credits of course work. At least three (3) credit hours shall be earned from each of six (6) goals (total of 18 credits) set out in section 3 below. Each institution shall identify six (6) credit hours of additional course work from the six goals. For those institutions that allow it, students have the flexibility to select an additional three (3) credit hours from Goals three (3), four (4) or six (6) with courses selected from different disciplinary prefixes. The distribution of courses/credits will be maintained as guidelines managed **and approved** by the Academic Affairs Council **and approved by the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs**.

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<i>Goal #3, #4, #6 Flexibility</i>	3	3	3	0	3	3
	24	24	24	24	24	24

3. Approved Courses Meeting System General Education Requirements

The finite list of courses approved to meet each of the established system goals will be maintained in the Academic Affair Guidelines. Proposed changes to the courses permitted to meet System General Education Requirements are approved by the Board of Regents each year during the March meeting impacting the next academic year. The list of courses

approved to meet each of the established system goals will be closely monitored by the System General Education Committee and Academic Affairs Council to ensure course relevance, program coherence, and breadth of student choice.

4. System General Education Committee

Each university shall appoint at least one representative to the System General Education Committee. Additional representatives may be drawn from all SDBOR universities as needed. Two members of the System Assessment Committee will also serve on the System General Education Committee. A system academic affairs staff member and a member of the Academic Affairs Council (or designee) will serve as ex officio members. The Committee shall:

- 4.1. Review the AAC Guidelines related to the project charter as new members are added to this committee.
- 4.2. Advise the Academic Affairs Council on matters related to general education, including student learning outcomes, curriculum, policy, guidelines, and processes to ensure faculty oversight of the general education curriculum.
- 4.3. Specify student learning outcomes with faculty input for each of the general education goals identified in section C.
- 4.4. Partner on best practices and working together to understand the needs of each institution and the system.
- 4.5. Report as applicable according to BOR Policy 2:11.

FORMS / APPENDICES:

[BOR Policy 2:5 Seamless Transfer of Credit](#)

[BOR Policy 2:11 Assessment](#)

[AAC Guidelines General Education](#)

SOURCE:

BOR January 1985; BOR June 1992; BOR March 1995; BOR May 1996; BOR December 1997; BOR August 1999; BOR January 2000; BOR January 2001; BOR June 2001; BOR October 2001; BOR March 2003; BOR June 2003; BOR March 2005; BOR December 2005; BOR March 2006; BOR October 2006; BOR December 2006; BOR June 2007; BOR December 2007; BOR March 2008; BOR December 2008; BOR August 2009; BOR December 2009; BOR June 2010; BOR December 2010; BOR December 2011; BOR March 2012; BOR June 2012; BOR December 2012; BOR May 2013; BOR December 2013; BOR April 2014; BOR October 2014; BOR December 2014; BOR December 2015; BOR March-April 2016; BOR August 2016; BOR May 2017; BOR May 2019; [BOR August 2022](#).

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Policy Manual

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FORMS / APPENDICES:

BOR Policy 2:5 Seamless Transfer of Credit

BOR Policy 2:11 Assessment

AAC Guidelines General Education

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SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**Policy Manual****SUBJECT:** ~~Associate Degree General Education Curriculum~~**NUMBER:** ~~2:26~~

A. PURPOSE

~~To provide for the requisite oversight that the general education component of all associate degree programs shall consist of the System General Education Requirements. Students may only select general education courses from a limited approved list to meet the System General Education Requirements. These requirements are effective for students entering Fall 2017.~~

B. DEFINITIONS

None

C. POLICY**1. System General Education Requirements Course/Credit Distribution**

~~System General Education Requirements shall include 24 credits of course work. At least 3 credit hours shall be earned from each of 6 goals (total of 18 credits) set out in section 3 below. Each institution shall identify 6 credit hours of additional course work from the six goals. For all institutions, students have the flexibility to select an additional three credit hours from Goal #3, #4 or #6 with courses selected from different disciplinary prefixes. The distribution of courses/credits will be maintained as guidelines managed by the Academic Affairs Council and approved by the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs.~~

<i>System Goal</i>	<i>BHSU</i>	<i>DSU</i>	<i>NSU</i>	<i>SDSM&T</i>	<i>SDSU</i>	<i>USD</i>
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<i>Goal #3, #4, #6 Flexibility</i>	3	3	3	0	3	3
	24	24	24	24	24	24

2. ~~Approved Courses to Meet System General Education Requirements~~

~~The limited list of courses approved to meet each of the established system goals will be maintained as guidelines managed by the Academic Affairs Council and approved by the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs. Proposed changes to the courses permitted to meet System General Education Requirements are approved by the Board of Regents each year during the March meeting. The list of courses approved to meet each of the established system goals will be closely monitored by the System General Education Committee and Academic Affairs Council to ensure course relevance, program coherence, and breadth of student choice.~~

3. ~~System General Education Goals and Requirements~~

~~The General Education Committee will specify student learning outcomes for each of the general education goals listed in this section using appropriate faculty input. The specific student learning outcomes will be maintained as guidelines and managed by the Academic Affairs Council in consultation with the System General Education Committee and approved by the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs. The six System General Education Goals are:~~

~~GOAL #1: Students will write effectively and responsibly and will understand and interpret the written expression of others.~~

~~GOAL #2: Students will communicate effectively and responsibly through listening and speaking.~~

~~GOAL #3: Students will understand the organization, potential, and diversity of the human community through study of the social sciences.~~

~~GOAL #4: Students will understand the diversity and complexity of the human experience through study of the arts and humanities.~~

~~GOAL #5: Students will understand and apply fundamental mathematical processes and reasoning.~~

~~GOAL #6: Students will understand the fundamental principles of the natural sciences and apply scientific methods of inquiry to investigate the natural world.~~

4. ~~Transfer of System Associate Degree General Education Requirements~~

~~Students who complete the System Associate Degree General Education Requirements at any SD Board of Regents institution and then transfer to another SD Board of Regents institution will have fulfilled the System Associate Degree General Education Requirements at the new institution even if the receiving institution has different credit/course distribution and approved course lists. All prerequisites for associate and baccalaureate programs must be completed as determined by the student's degree plan. See SDBOR policy 2:5 for additional guidance on transfer of general education credits.~~

FORMS / APPENDICES:

None

SOURCE:—

~~BOR June 1997; BOR December 1997; BOR December 1998; BOR August 1999; BOR January 2001; BOR June 2001; BOR October 2001; BOR March 2005; BOR June 2005; BOR June 2007; BOR December 2007; BOR March 2008; BOR December 2008; BOR August 2009; BOR December 2009; BOR June 2010; BOR December 2010; BOR December 2011; BOR March 2012; BOR June 2012; BOR December 2012; BOR May 2013; BOR December 2013; BOR April 2014; BOR October 2014; BOR December 2014; BOR August 2016; BOR May 2017; December 2017 (Clerical); BOR May 2019.~~