

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 6 – E (3)

DATE: August 4, 2016

**SUBJECT: BOR Policy 2:26 Revisions – Associate General Education Requirements
(Second Reading)**

At the [March 2016](#) AAC meeting the council undertook steps to begin coordinating efforts for making the revisions to Board of Regents policy that would be necessary to move forward with the [General Education Redesign](#) that was presented to the Board during the April 2016 meeting. Institutional representatives selected from the various policy documents requiring modification and began to circulate a set of revisions that were then discussed at the May 2016 AAC meeting. Specifically, revisions to BOR Policy 2:26 Associate Degree General Education Curriculum were discussed.

Because of the extensive modifications being proposed, the document below provides background related to each set of major changes being considered. Additionally, a clean version of the Policy can be found in Attachment I, and the track changes version is available in Attachment II.

Section 1 – System General Education Requirements Course/Credit Distribution

Although the Associate Degree Graduation Requirements have been set at 18 credit hours for the AS and 30 credit hours for the AA for two decades, the proposed revisions seeks to provide each institution 6 credit hours of flexibility in how they distribute a total of 24 credit hours across the six common general education goals that are in place. Three credit hours would have to come from each of the 6 goals specified. Institutions would then have the flexibility to choose among the 6 goals for assigning the remaining 6 credits. Courses that meet these requirements are established in AAC guidelines. The distribution would have to be approved by the Board.

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. 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.

(Continued)

DRAFT MOTION 20160804_6-E(3): I move to approve the second and final reading of the revisions to BOR Policy 2:26 as presented.

Section 2 – Approved Courses to Meet System General Education Requirements

During the [December 2015](#) Board of Regents meeting the list of approved General Education courses were removed from Policy 2:7 and shifted to AAC guidelines. At the time, a set of course quotas were established in policy to ensure that growth of the approved set of courses did not occur without review and approval by the Board. These quotas are no longer necessary because revisions to General Education courses only occur annually during the Board of Regents December meeting. This formal approval process will continue to insure the level of oversight that the Board has sought with limiting the number of courses that students may select from. As a result, AAC is requesting the removal of the quotas for SGR's and additional language has been added to insure that the number of General Education courses will be limited.

~~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 and Institutional Graduation Requirements are approved by the Board of Regents each year during the December 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. will be maintained as guidelines managed by the Academic Affairs Council and reviewed by the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs during the June meeting each year. For the courses approved to meet system or institutional graduation requirements, each institution may not exceed the course allocations depicted in section I.A and I.B of this policy without formal approval by the Board of Regents.~~

~~A. System General Education Course Allocations~~

- ~~1. Black Hills State University: 92~~
- ~~2. Dakota State University: 85~~
- ~~3. Northern State University: 87~~
- ~~4. South Dakota School of Mines & Technology: 73~~
- ~~5. South Dakota State University: 138~~
- ~~6. University of South Dakota: 140~~

Section 3 – System General Education Goals & Requirements

When the most recent major revisions to Policy 2:26 were approved in 1999, a complete set of student learning outcomes were included in conjunction with the seven General Education goals. The new policy framework would move the learning outcomes from the policy to AAC guidelines to facilitate the development of new outcomes. Specifically, discipline councils and faculty groups for the areas of science and oral communication will be asked to review the existing learning outcomes and identify revisions/modifications that will then be solidified in AAC guidelines. The expectation that any approved General Education course be required to list the outcomes on the syllabus will be maintained. The proposed revisions below represent new language to emphasize the placement of the new outcomes in guidelines, and the removal of the

learning outcomes from the BOR policy document. An example using Goal 1 is provided below, and learning outcomes for all five other goals have been removed in Attachment I & II.

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.

~~*Student Learning Outcomes:* As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:~~

- ~~1. Write using standard American English, including correct punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure;~~
- ~~2. Write logically;~~
- ~~3. Write persuasively, with a variety of rhetorical strategies (e.g., expository, argumentative, descriptive), and~~
- ~~4. Incorporate formal research and documentation into their writing, including research obtained through modern, technology-based research tools.~~

~~Each course meeting this goal includes the following student learning outcomes:~~

~~Required: #1, #2, #3, and #4~~

~~*Credit Hours:* 6 hours~~

Section 4 – Transfer of System Associates Degree General Education Requirements

One of the primary rationales for the creation of SGR's was to allow for seamless transition across Regental institutions for students. This standard will be retained in the current policy framework; however additional explanation is needed to clarify that campus flexibility now available in Section 1 for distribution of coursework across the six goals does not adversely impact students who many transfer to another Regental institution. To address this concern, section 4 below is being proposed and future revisions to BOR [Policy 2:5 Transfer of Credit](#) will clearly articulate what occurs for: 1) students who transfer once SGR requirements have been completed; and 2) those who transfer prior to completion of all SGR requirements.

Students who complete the System Associates 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 Associates 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.

Major Section Removed from General Education Policy

As a result of the changes recommended for the sections outlined above, AAC is recommending that the following major sections be removed from Board Policy.

Lower Division Credit Hour and Course Requirements/Student Proficiencies – One of the recommendations for the General Education Redesign was to allow for better special placement of the required coursework across the curriculum. To present this opportunity, the restrictions for completion of the 30 credit hours of SGR's within the first 60 credit hours has been removed. The new section 7 referenced above still retains this general principle with a goal of now having students complete these SGR requirements within the first 90 credit hours (or prior to the time a student earns senior status).

Credit Hour Distinctions Between AS and AA Degree – The existing Board policy makes a distinction between the credit hour requirements for both the AS and AA degree. The current language in section 2 seeks to align these two degree types and brings the AS and AA degree requirements to 24 credit hours for all students. As a result the need to distinguish the difference between the credit hours in Board Policy is no longer necessary.

Proficiency Examination – With the goal of removing BOR policy 2:28, the reference to the CAAP examination completion at the end of the current policy is no longer needed.

Placement into Initial Math and English Courses – Initial placement requirements are outlined in the System Placement Guidelines and the additional references here that are not currently outlined in those guidelines will be carried forward and continue to come forward for approval to the Board when modifications are made. The Board most recently reviewed revisions to these guidelines when the Math Index was adopted at the May 2016 meeting.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Associate Degree General Education Requirements

NUMBER: 2:26

The general education component of all associate of arts 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

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. 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.

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 December 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 Associates Degree General Education Requirements

Students who complete the System Associates 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 Associates 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.

SOURCE: BOR, June 1997; December 1997; December 1998; August 1999; January 2001; June 2001; October 2001; March 2005; June 2005; June 2007; December 2007; March 2008; December 2008; August 2009; December 2009; June 2010; December 2010; December 2011; March 2012; June 2012; December 2012; May 2013; December 2013; April 2014; October 2014; December 2014.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Associate Degree General Education Requirements

NUMBER: 2:26

1. Associate of Arts Degree

~~A.——~~The general education component of all associate of arts 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 2017academic year 2017-18.

1. System General Education Requirements Course/Credit Distribution

System General Education Requirements shall include 2430-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 612 credit hours of additional course work from the six goals. The distribution of courses/credits will be maintained as guidelines managed by the Academic Affairs Council and reviewedapproved by the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs.

2. Approved Courses to Meet System General Education Requirements

~~B.——~~Approved Courses.~~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 reviewedapproved by the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs. Proposed changes to the c~~Courses permitted to meet System General Education and Institutional Graduation Requirements are approved by the Board of Regents each year during the December meeting. The list of courses approved to meet each of the established system goals will be maintained as guidelines managed by the Academic Affairs Council and reviewed by the Committee on Academic and Student Affairs during the June meeting each 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. For the courses approved to meet system or institutional graduation requirements, each institution may not exceed the course allocations depicted in section I.B.1 of this policy without formal approval by the Board of Regents.

1. ~~System General Education Course Allocations~~
 - a. ~~Black Hills State University: 92~~
 - b. ~~Dakota State University: 83~~
 - c. ~~Northern State University: 87~~
 - d. ~~South Dakota School of Mines & Technology: 73~~
 - e. ~~South Dakota State University: 138~~

f. University of South Dakota: 140

32. System General Education Goals and Requirements

Course Requirements

The General Education Committee will specify student learning outcomes for each of the general education goals listed in this section ~~utilizing~~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.

~~*Student Learning Outcomes:* As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:~~

- ~~1. Write using standard American English, including correct punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure;~~
- ~~2. Write logically;~~
- ~~3. Write persuasively, with a variety of rhetorical strategies (e.g., expository, argumentative, descriptive), and~~
- ~~4. Incorporate formal research and documentation into their writing, including research obtained through modern, technology-based research tools.~~

~~Each course meeting this goal includes the following student learning outcomes:~~

~~Required: #1, #2, #3, and #4~~

~~*Credit Hours:* 6 hours~~

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

~~*Student Learning Outcomes:* As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:~~

- ~~1. Prepare and deliver speeches for a variety of audiences and settings;~~
- ~~2. Demonstrate speaking competencies including choice and use of topic, supporting materials, organizational pattern, language usage, presentational aids, and delivery, and~~
- ~~3. Demonstrate listening competencies by summarizing, analyzing, and paraphrasing ideas, perspectives, and emotional content.~~

~~Each course meeting this goal includes the following student learning outcomes~~

~~Required: #1, #2, and #3~~

~~*Credit Hours:* 3 hours~~

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

~~Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:~~

- ~~1. Identify and explain basic concepts, terminology, and theories of the selected social science disciplines from different spatial, temporal, cultural, and/or institutional contexts;~~
- ~~2. Apply selected social science concepts and theories to contemporary issues, and~~
- ~~3. Identify and explain the social or aesthetic values of different cultures.~~

~~In addition, as a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of at least one of the following:~~

- ~~4. The origin and evolution of human institutions;~~
- ~~5. The allocation of human or natural resources within societies, and~~
- ~~6. The impact of diverse philosophical, ethical, or religious views.~~

~~Each course meeting this goal includes the following student learning outcomes:~~

~~Required: #1, #2 and #3~~

~~At least one of the following: #4, #5, or #6~~

~~Credit Hours: 6 hours (in 2 disciplines)~~

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

~~Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:~~

- ~~1. Demonstrate knowledge of the diversity of values, beliefs, and ideas embodied in the human experience, and~~
- ~~2. Identify and explain basic concepts of the selected disciplines within the arts and humanities.~~

~~In addition, as a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will be able to do at least one of the following:~~

- ~~3. Identify and explain the contributions of other cultures from the perspective of the selected disciplines within the arts and humanities;~~
- ~~4. Demonstrate creative and aesthetic understanding;~~
- ~~5. Explain and interpret formal and stylistic elements of the literary or fine arts, and~~
- ~~6. Demonstrate foundational competency in reading, writing, and speaking a non-English language.~~

~~Each course meeting this goal includes the following student learning outcomes:~~

~~Required: #1, #2~~

~~At least one of the following: #3, #4, #5, or #6~~

~~Credit Hours: 6 hours (in 2 disciplines or a sequence of foreign language courses)~~

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

~~Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:~~

- ~~1. Use mathematical symbols and mathematical structure to model and solve real world problems,~~
- ~~2. Demonstrate appropriate communication skills related to mathematical terms and concepts, and~~
- ~~3. Demonstrate the correct use of quantifiable measurements of real world situations.~~

~~Each course meeting this goal includes the following student learning outcomes:~~

~~Required: #1, #2, and #3~~

~~Credit Hours: 3 hours~~

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

~~Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:~~

- ~~1. Demonstrate the scientific method in a laboratory experience,~~
- ~~2. Gather and critically evaluate data using the scientific method,~~
- ~~3. Identify and explain the basic concepts, terminology and theories of the selected natural sciences, and~~
- ~~4. Apply selected natural science concepts and theories to contemporary issues.~~

~~Each course meeting this goal includes the following student learning outcomes:~~

~~Required: #1, #2, #3, and #4~~

~~Credit Hours: 6 hours~~

GOAL #7: ~~Students will recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, organize, critically evaluate, and effectively use information from a variety of sources with intellectual integrity.~~

~~Student Learning Outcomes: Students will:~~

- ~~1. Determine the extent of information needed,~~
- ~~2. Access the needed information effectively and efficiently,~~
- ~~3. Evaluate information and its sources critically,~~
- ~~4. Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and~~
- ~~5. Use information in an ethical and legal manner.~~

Each course meeting this goal includes the following student learning outcomes:

Required: #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5

Credit Hours: 0 hours

B. Proficiency Examination

Each student enrolled in an Associate of Arts degree program must take the Proficiency Examination after the completion of 32 passed credit hours or prior to graduation. The student must have completed, or be enrolled in courses required to complete, the 18 credit hours specified below. Students who do not complete the proficiency exam requirements cannot continue registration at the university.

Credit Hours	Course Requirement
3	Written Communication (Goal #1)
3	Oral Communication (Goal #2)
3	Social Science (Goal #3)
3	Humanities and Fine Arts (Goal #4)
3	Mathematics (Goal #5)
3 (6 Recommended)	Natural Science (Goal #6)
18 (21 Recommended)	Required General Education Credit Hours

1. 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.

C. Transfer

- Students who have earned an Associate of Arts degree at any of the Regental campuses who then transfer to another Regental campus will be deemed to have fulfilled the general education requirements of both. Such students must fulfill all college, major, minor, certificate, and other degree requirements of the receiving campus. Any course not determined to meet a specific requirement will be accepted as an elective. CLEP and AP credit accepted by one Regental institution will transfer to all Regental institutions.
- Students transferring from a non-regental campus to a Regental campus who have previously earned an Associate of Arts degree will not automatically be judged as

~~having fulfilled the general education requirements of the receiving campus. Such students must fulfill all college, major, minor, certificate, and other degree requirements of the receiving campus.~~

- ~~3. Students transferring from a South Dakota technical institute to a Regental campus who have previously earned an Associate of Applied Science degree will not automatically be judged as having fulfilled the general education requirements of the receiving campus. Such students must fulfill all college, major, minor, certificate, and other degree requirements of the receiving campus.~~

~~2. Associate of Science Degree~~

~~The general education component of all associate of science programs shall consist of a minimum of 18 credit hours as specified in BOR policy 2:7(3).~~

~~A. Required Courses~~

Credit Hours	Course Requirement
3	Written Communication (Goal #1)
3	Oral Communication (Goal #2)
3	Social Science (Goal #3)
3	Humanities and Fine Arts (Goal #4)
3	Mathematics (Goal #5)
3 (6 Recommended)	Natural Science (Goal #6)
18 (21 Recommended)	Required General Education Credit Hours

~~B. Proficiency Examination~~

~~Each student enrolled in an Associate of Science degree program must take the Proficiency Examination after the completion of 32 passed credit hours or prior to graduation. The student must have completed, or be enrolled in courses required to complete, the 18 credit hours specified above in 2(A). Students who do not complete the proficiency exam requirements cannot continue registration at the university.~~

~~C. Transfer~~

- ~~1. Students who have earned an Associate of Science degree at any of the Regental campuses who then transfer to another Regental campus will be deemed to have fulfilled the general education requirements specified above in 2(A) of both the sending and accepting campus. Such students must fulfill all college, major, minor, certificate, and other degree requirements of the accepting campus.~~
- ~~2. Students transferring from a non-regental campus to a Regental campus who have previously earned an Associate of Science degree will not automatically be judged as having fulfilled the general education requirements of the accepting campus. Such~~

~~students must fulfill all college, major, minor, certificate, and other degree requirements of the accepting campus.~~

- ~~3. Students transferring from a South Dakota technical institute to a Regental campus who have previously earned an Associate of Applied Science degree will not automatically be judged as having fulfilled the general education requirements of the receiving campus. Such students must fulfill all college, major, minor, certificate, and other degree requirements of the receiving campus.~~

~~D. Placement into Initial Math and English Courses~~

~~Entering students must show evidence of their level of academic preparation prior to their enrollment into their initial mathematics and English courses. All entering students seeking an associate or baccalaureate degree must provide valid Enhanced ACT scores (within the last five years) or must take the ACT COMPASS or the College Board Accuplacer examination in the areas of writing skills, mathematics, and reading. All non-degree seeking students enrolling in English and mathematics courses must provide Enhanced ACT scores or must take the ACT COMPASS or the College Board Accuplacer examination in the areas of writing skills and mathematics.~~

~~In addition to scores on these assessments, other information such as high school GPS and curriculum completed may also be considered as placement decisions are made.~~

~~Transfer students who have completed equivalent general education coursework in English and mathematics are exempt from this requirement.~~

~~Students transferring will be allowed to transfer their placement test scores and/or relevant course credits and continue their sequence of courses in English and/or mathematics.~~

~~Each institution shall give students prior notice that it will provide reasonable accommodations for test takers in keeping with institutional practices implementing the South Dakota Human Relations Act of 1972, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (refer to Board Policy 1:19).~~

SOURCE: BOR, June 1997; December 1997; December 1998; August 1999; January 2001; June 2001; October 2001; March 2005; June 2005; June 2007; December 2007; March 2008; December 2008; August 2009; December 2009; June 2010; December 2010; December 2011; March 2012; June 2012; December 2012; May 2013; December 2013; April 2014; October 2014; December 2014.