

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

Handbook Revision, State College Requirements for Graduation
March 4-5, 2021

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

The Board of Regents' *Handbook* (Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 36) specifies that students must "complete at least 32 upper-division credits in residence" to graduate. Nevada State College requests approval for changing the residency requirement level for the College from 32 hours to 30 hours. The number was not reduced after Board policy was revised reducing the total number of credits necessary for graduation to 120 credits. Current transfer students, particularly incoming seniors, are often obligated to take an extra upper-division elective to meet the current residency requirement of 32 hours. The College would like to keep with the original intent of the policy. This revision aligns with the structure of the current majors which all adhere to the 120-credit protocol. The change also would be in alignment with the current implementation at UNLV and UNR, which both require 30 upper division credits in residency per Board policy.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Revise the Board policy at Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 36 to specify that students must complete at least 30 upper-division credits in residence to graduate.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This change will provide a lower cost and easier pathway to graduation for students who need to meet the residency credit requirement. When the number of required credits for a degree in NSHE was reduced from 128/124 credits to 120, the residency hour requirement was not reduced proportionately to equal a quarter number of credits.

CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- Success (Increase student success)
- Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Lower cost burden on the student to meet graduation requirements and will align with current Board policy generally limiting bachelor's degrees to 120 credits.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

The credit threshold was not reduced after the total number of credits necessary for graduation was reduced to 120 credits in Board policy. Current transfer students, particularly incoming seniors, are often obligated to take an extra upper-division elective to meet the current residency requirement of 32 hours.

The College would like to keep with the original intent of the policy. This change aligns with the structure of the current majors, which all adhere to the 120 credit rule.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

No arguments against have been brought forward.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

Take no action.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

The Chancellor's Office and the Academic Affairs Council support the revision as presented.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section# _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 36*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X
Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 36
State College Requirements for Graduation

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 36. State College Requirements for Graduation

....

7. Candidates for a bachelor's degree at the state college must complete at least **30** [32] upper-division credits in residence [~~as defined by the institution~~].