

BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

System General Education Requirements

February 29, 2024

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Existing Board policy provides for associate of applied science general education requirements in *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 25*, Community College Certificate and Degree Requirements. The associate of applied science graduate must complete general education requirements, similar to general education requirements for associate and baccalaureate programs; yet, the applied programs' general education requirements differ in that the content may be embedded into applied coursework within the program. Additionally, Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 16*, NSHE Transfer and Admissions) provides for the transfer of a Board-approved associate of applied science general education requirements to a bachelor of applied science. The policy also provides a guarantee to a student with a Board-approved associate of applied science seeking a bachelor of applied science junior status upon transfer to another applicable NSHE institution. However, the recognition of the applied programs' general education requirements is absent from language in *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20*. Therefore, a student currently admitted to a bachelor of applied science program is often required to complete additional lower division general education courses to meet System general education requirements rather than upper division courses specific to the applied program.

The proposed revision to *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20* will bring existing general education policies concerning the associate of applied science and the bachelor of applied science into alignment with existing applied program general education requirements and transfer policies in the *Handbook*. The proposed revision was initially recommended by Truckee Meadows Community College and is supported by the Academic Affairs Council.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Approval of a revision to *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20* to bring it into alignment with existing applied program general education requirements (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 25*) and transfer policies (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 16*).

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This concern was brought forward by Truckee Meadows Community College as they were developing a bachelor of applied science program proposal.

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

- Access (Increase access to higher education)
- Success (Improve student success)
- Close Institutional Performance Gaps
- Workforce (Meet workforce needs in Nevada)
- Research (Increase solutions-focused research)
- Coordination, Accountability, and Transparency (Ensure system coordination, accountability, and transparency)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Alignment of Board policy concerning applied degrees supports the goals of Access, Success, Closing Institutional Performance Gaps, and Workforce by providing NSHE students options to pursue applied or non-applied degrees in a variety of disciplines.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

(ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE 02/29/24) Ref. ARSA-7, Page 1 of 4

Form Revised: 3/2023

- The proposed revision to *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20* would bring it into alignment with existing applied program general education requirements (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 25*) and transfer policies (*Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 16*).
- The proposed alignment would make room in bachelor of applied science programs for a greater number of applied courses.
- This proposal is supported by the Academic Affairs Council, a systemwide body comprised of provosts and vice presidents of academic affairs.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented at this time.

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

None have been presented at this time.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

The Chancellor's Office supports approval.

11. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 20*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No **X**
- Explain: _____

**POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 14, SECTION 20**

System General Education Requirements

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

Section 20. System General Education Requirements

1. *Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, [A]associate of arts, associate of science, associate of business, and baccalaureate graduates must complete a minimum program of general education requirements defined as follows:*

General Education Courses	Credits	
English	3-6	Freshman level English Composition including English 102
Mathematics	3	Three credits of lower-division coursework
Natural Science	6	Six credits of lower-division coursework to include at least one laboratory experience
Social Sciences or Humanities/Fine Arts	9	Nine credits of lower-division coursework in either the social sciences or humanities/fine arts
TOTAL	21-24	

Associate of applied science and bachelor of applied science graduates must complete a minimum program of general education requirements defined as follows:

<i>General Education Courses</i>	<i>Credits</i>	
<i>Communications/English</i>	<i>6</i>	
<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Mathematics may be included as a course or clearly identified as content in other required courses</i>
<i>Human Relations</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Human Relations must be included as a course or be clearly identified as content included in other required courses</i>
<i>Science</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Science may be included as a course or clearly identified as content in other required courses</i>
<i>Social Sciences or Humanities/Fine Arts</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Three credits of lower-division coursework in either the social sciences or humanities/fine arts</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>18</i>	

2. Instruction must be given in the essentials of the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nevada, including the origin and history of the Constitutions and the study of and devotion to American institutions and ideals pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* 396.500 for all associate and baccalaureate degrees. If clearly identified, this content may be included in coursework defined in Subsection 1. Institutional course catalogs must identify courses that meet this requirement.
3. Courses taken toward the System general education requirements shall not be applied to more than one general education requirement defined in Subsection 1. Credits earned by examination may apply toward any of the general education requirements defined in Subsections 1 and 2.
4. Students earning a second associate of arts, associate of science, associate of business, *associate of applied science*, or baccalaureate degree from an NSHE institution are not required to repeat the System requirements for general education.

Evidence of completion of U.S. and Nevada Constitutions is required of all second-degree students whose first degree is not from an NSHE institution.

5. NSHE institutions are encouraged to exchange ideas in the development and improvement of specific courses to meet NSHE requirements, particularly to increase the likelihood of transfer student success; however, each institution is responsible for determining the character of its own program.