

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
HANDBOOK REVISION: University Admissions Criteria

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

During the December 2005, January 2006, and March 2006, meetings of the Board information has been presented on the matter of university admissions criteria. The proposal currently before the Board would allow for the use of test scores as criteria in admitting university students, effective Fall 2007. In addition, effective Fall 2008 (rather than Fall 2010) students seeking admission to the universities must have a 3.00 grade point average in the required high school courses, or sufficient test scores.

Students who do not meet university or state college admission requirements may petition for special consideration under the alternative admission program. Under this program, the number of student admitted may not exceed 10 percent of the previous year's freshman enrollment. Criteria for the alternative admission program include 1.) a combination of test scores and grade point average that indicate a potential for success; 2.) special talents and/or abilities such as, but not limited to, the visual or performing arts or athletic abilities, 3.) other evidence of potential for success; 4.) improvement in the high school record; 5.) overcoming adversity or special hardship; or 6.) other special circumstances.

The Chancellor recognizes the importance of access and diversity, particularly in light of the increased university admission standards. The attached document titled "NSHE Presidential Commitments to Underrepresented Students" outlines the Chancellor's commitment to ensure that the success of underrepresented students is a matter of utmost priority for university presidents.

History

In 2001, the Regents approved increasing the university admissions requirements for new undergraduate students effective Fall 2006 to a 2.75 or above weighted grade point average in the 13 high school core courses. In addition, the Board approved higher admission standards for Fall 2010 with a 3.00 weighted grade point average or above in the required 13 high school core courses for new undergraduates. Further, the grade point average for transfer students was increase to 2.30 in Fall 2006 and 2.50 in Fall 2010.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend the various provisions of the Board *Handbook* concerning university admissions, including those found in Title 4, Chapters 14 and 16 (see attached amendment proposal). If this proposal is adopted by the Board, the implementation date for the requirement for a 3.0 grade point average for university admission will be moved forward to 2008 (instead of the current 2010), and test scores will be added as permissible admission criteria.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

Various factors have been considered in the timing of this requests, including the continued growth among undergraduates in the NSHE, the four-year programs available at NSC and GBC, the transfer articulation agreements among all system institutions, the NSHE goals to enhance excellence, the need to maximize efficiency in resource use, and the universities' goals to enhance research and graduate education.

Amending the Board's policy on admission criteria at this time would afford ample opportunity to inform students and school districts of the decision to accelerate the Regents' earlier decision and inform them of all educational alternatives existing within the NSHE.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Increasing admission standards supports the NSHE Master Plan that emphasizes efficiency by clear mission differentiation and educating students in the place that best matches their goals and abilities.
- The admission standards further support a student-focused system where all students have the opportunity to participate and succeed at every level of higher education.
- The admission standards support opportunity and access for all students, recognizing the unique educational needs of a highly diverse and non-traditional population.
- The admission standards follow recommendation of the Legislative Committee to Evaluate Higher Education Programs (AB 203, Chapter 443, *Statutes of Nevada 2003*):
 - Limit enrollment at the universities by becoming more selective and admit only students who are prepared and can take advantage of an academic institution focused on research and economic development;
 - NSC should accommodate the bulk of the growth in four-year enrollments; and
 - Community colleges should build student services and offer lower division courses for baccalaureate degrees for more students.
- The admission standards will establish the baseline of academic readiness required to be successful at UNR and UNLV.
- Student success will increase when admission standards direct students to the appropriate institution based on academic preparedness.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Perceptions that increased admission standards will negatively impact minority and low income students.

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

Maintain the status quo so that the increase in admission standards (to 3.0 grade point average) will not take effect until Fall 2010 and test scores will not be permissible criteria for admissions.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #____ Chapter #____ Section #____
- Amends Current Board Policy: Title 4, Chapters 14 and 16
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes____ No____
Explain: _____

NSHE Presidential Commitments to Underrepresented Students

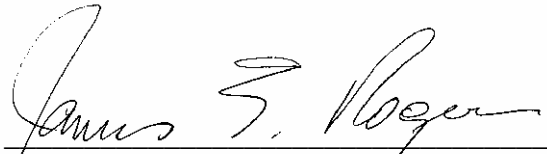
It is clear that more aggressive action is needed to respond more effectively to the Board of Regents' commitment to access and diversity. Without leadership by the Presidents of all Nevada colleges and universities, we will be unable to serve well this population and this will have immediate and long term negative effects on Nevada's quality of life and economic vitality. Education is the key for a better life for all underrepresented groups, and it is extremely important that all Presidents continue to commit to implementing actions that will improve significantly the success of our students at the universities, the community colleges, and the state college. Many of our institutions have made tremendous progress, but much remains to be done.

The universities are proposing to raise admission standards that will define the high school academic preparation necessary for success. However, many high school students still do not yet understand or have the opportunity to meet these requirements. In response to the concerns raised many community groups and individuals and our own faculty, staff, and students, a plan of action, currently in the process of being implemented, is now brought to the forefront. We commit to the following goals (within the bounds of any legal restrictions) and building on our past work in this area:

- Continue to increase scholarship funding for underrepresented groups through private fundraising, student partnerships, and state appropriations.
- Seek out and hire additional qualified minorities in administrative positions where they are underrepresented, particularly in institutional programs for diversity. Ensure that all Presidents' cabinets have minority representation. In every area of employment, including faculty, staff, and administrators, show continuous annual improvement in reaching the target of having the same percentage of employees of particular ethnic groups employed as are present in the regional population.
- Commit more staff and funding by fiscal year 2008 for outreach programs that will work with K-12 schools, their students, and families to support an excellent K-12 education for all students. Examples would be the Adopt-a School program and the MESA programs. A legislative request will be made to ask for assistance from the state of Nevada.
- Recruit and support more underrepresented groups to enroll in postsecondary education and focus on support for retention of these students.
- In collaboration with students, commit funding for appropriate programs and the use of available space for underrepresented students on campuses that will support their retention and success.
- Implement curricular changes and/or enhancements to the Teacher Preparation Programs to ensure that new teachers graduating from all NSHE teacher

preparation programs will be able to work effectively with underrepresented students. Given the nature of the population and demographic projections, it is especially important for classroom teachers to be able to work more effectively with second-language students and their families. Changes may also include required language training or ESL courses.

In hiring all new presidents, a sincere commitment to diversity is a key attribute sought by our search committees. This is still the case in the search for the presidents of the two universities. These presidents of both universities must have a clear mandate to make the success of our underrepresented students one of their highest priorities. The Presidents' annual evaluations include measures to demonstrate their success or failure in these areas, and they are held accountable for the institution's progress. Additionally, the Presidents of all NSHE institutions will be held to the same evaluation process and standard related to student success and commitment to underrepresented groups.



James E. Rogers, Chancellor

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTIONS 2 - 5**

Additions in *boldface italics*; deletions strikethrough

Section 2. ~~University Policies for Alternative Methods to Satisfy Course Admission Requirements~~
Section Deleted

~~Students who do not meet the minimum high school course requirements established by the Board of Regents may be admitted through Spring 2006 if they meet the following conditions: (B/R 1/02)~~

~~1. Waiver of High School Course Requirements—The high school course requirement is waived for each applicant who satisfies one of the following:~~

~~a. Graduation from high school with a grade point average of 3.0 (B) or higher in academic courses.~~

~~b. Graduation from high school with a grade point average of 2.5 (C+) or higher in academic courses and an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher or recentered SAT combined scores of 990 or higher.~~

~~c. Transfer applicants with 12 or more acceptable semester credits in transferable general education courses, from a regionally accredited institution, and a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher. These requirements are to be revised as follows: Effective Fall 2006 the minimum number of credits required is the equivalent of 24 semester credits. Effective Fall 2006 the minimum required overall grade point average is 2.30. Effective Fall 2010 the minimum required overall grade point average is 2.50. (B/R 12/01)~~

~~d. Students who have been officially excused from compulsory high school attendance on the condition of equivalent instruction outside the school (for example, home school) who have a high school diploma with either (1) a grade point average of 3.0 or higher in academic courses, (2) an enhanced ACT composite score of 21 or higher, or (3) a recentered SAT combined scores of 990 or higher. (B/R 1/99)~~

~~e. Applicants who are admitted through the Alternative Admissions Program. (B/R 1/02)~~

~~2. Correcting High School Course Deficiencies—Applicants who are not admitted due to inadequate high school course preparation must successfully complete any deficient units as specified to receive additional consideration for admission. (B/R 5/95)~~

~~English : High school graduates with fewer than the four (4) required units must complete a university-level freshman English course with a grade equivalent to C or higher, or earn a score of at least 20 on the English subsection of the enhanced ACT or a verbal score of 500 on the recentered SAT. (B/R 5/95)~~

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Mathematics : High school graduates with fewer than three (3) required units must complete a course equivalent to intermediate algebra with a grade of C or higher, earn a score of 20 on the Mathematics subsection of the enhanced ACT, or 500 on the recentered SAT. (B/R 5/95)

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Social Studies : High school graduates with fewer than the three (3) required units must complete three (3) semester credits in an appropriate social science course with a grade of C or higher.

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Science : High school graduates with fewer than the three (3) required units must complete three (3) semester credits, or more (including laboratory) in a natural or physical science course with a grade of C or higher.

(B/R 1/02)

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High school unit deficiencies may be corrected during the university summer session, correspondence study as appropriate, or by enrollment in a regionally accredited institution. The University of Nevada, Reno enrollment during the Fall and Spring semesters for non-admitted students is limited to a maximum of six (6) credits each semester until the admission requirements are satisfied. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas enrollment during the Fall and Spring semesters for non-admitted students is limited to fifteen (15) credits each semester. (B/R 1/99)

Section 3. Grade Point Average Requirements for Admission to the Universities

1. Students seeking admission through the Spring of 2006 must have a 2.5 overall grade point average. *to a university must complete the high school course requirements pursuant to Chapter 16, Section 1.*

2. 2. Effective Fall 2006, students seeking admission to the universities must have a *at least a 2.75 (weighted)* grade point average in the required *high school* courses for admission.

3. *Effective Fall 2007, students seeking admission to the universities must have:*

a.) at least a 2.75 (weighted) grade point average in the required high school courses for admission; or

b.) a combined score from the SAT Critical Reading and SAT Math sections of at least 1040; or

c.) an ACT composite score of at least 22.

3. 4. Effective Fall 20102008, students seeking admission to the universities must have a:

a.) at least a 3.0 (weighted) grade point average in the required high school courses for admission; or

b.) a combined score from the SAT Critical Reading and SAT Math sections of at least 1040; or

c.) an ACT composite score of at least 22.

4. 5. Students who graduate from a NSHE community college with a transferable associate degree will be admitted into the universities or state college regardless of their grade point average at the community college.

(B/R 1/02)

Section 4. Simultaneous Admissions to the Universities ~~Fall 2006 and thereafter~~

1. ~~Effective Fall 2006, students~~ **Students** seeking admission to ~~the universities whose high school grade point average is between 2.5 and 2.75~~ **a university whose high school grade point average or test scores are insufficient for admission** will be offered enrollment ~~to~~ **at either** a NSHE community college **or state college** with a subsequent guarantee of admission to the universities **under the transfer criteria established in Title 4, Chapter 14.**

2. ~~Effective Fall 2010 students seeking admission to the universities whose high school grade point average is between 2.5 and 3.0 will be offered enrollment to a NSHE community college with a subsequent guarantee of admission to the universities upon completion of a minimum of 24 college transferable credits and a 2.5 grade point average on all college coursework.~~

(B/R 1/02)

Section 5. Alternative Admission Policies to the Universities **and State College** ~~Fall 2006 and thereafter~~

1. Students who do not meet **university or state college** admission requirements ~~to the universities~~ may apply **may petition** for special consideration under **procedures established by the university or state college for special consideration to** the alternative admission program. The number of students admitted under these criteria may not exceed 10 percent of the previous year's freshman enrollment.

2. The criteria for admission under the alternative admission program are:

- a.) A combination of test scores and grade point average that indicate potential for success;
- b.) Special talents and/or abilities such as, but not limited to, the visual or performing arts or athletic abilities;
- c.) Other evidence of potential for success;
- d.) Improvement in the high school record;
- e.) Overcoming adversity or special hardship; or
- f.) Other special circumstances.

(B/R 1/02)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 7**

Additions in *boldface italics*; deletions ~~stricken~~

Section 7. Admission Reporting

From Fall ~~2008~~***2007***, biennially until 2010, an admissions report will be made available to the Board of Regents for the purpose of evaluating the impact of the 2006 and ~~2010~~ ***2008*** admission standards.
(B/R 1/02)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, PART E (University of Nevada, Reno)
SECTIONS 3, 5 and 7

Additions in *boldface italics*; deletions ~~stricken~~

Section 3. General Admission Requirements

1. Baccalaureate Programs – Admission to freshman standing requires graduation from an accredited or approved high school with a minimum overall GPA as follows:

~~Effective prior to Fall 1993: 2.30 or above~~

~~Effective Fall 1993: 2.50 or above~~

- a.) Effective Fall 2006: *at least a 2.75 weighted GPA or above in the required 13 high school core courses;*
- b.) *Effective Fall 2007: at least a 2.75 weighted GPA in the required 13 high school core courses, or a combined score from SAT Critical Reading and SAT Math sections of at least 1040, or an ACT composite score of at least 22;*
- c.) Effective Fall ~~2010~~-2008: *at least a 3.00 weighted GPA or above in the required 13 high school core courses, or a combined score from SAT Critical Reading and SAT Math sections of at least 1040, or an ACT composite score of at least 22.*

(B/R 12/01)

2. Programs designated as limited entry require fulfillment of selective admissions criteria as contained in the institutional catalog and other appropriate college documents. Continuation in selective admissions programs is likewise contingent upon fulfillment of conditions specified by the institution and contained in official institutional documents. (B/R 10/81)

Section 5. ~~Section Deleted Alternative Admissions Program~~ (B/R 1/02)

~~1. Students who are denied admission to the University may petition, in writing, to the Director of Admissions and Records within 10 days of receipt of their denial letter. The Special Admissions Committee will review the petition and make a determination of admissibility. The maximum number of applicants who may be admitted each year under these special programs may not exceed six percent of the total freshman enrollment at UNR for the previous Fall semester, as published in the official enrollment report. The maximum number will increase to 10% starting Fall 2006. (B/R 1/02)~~

~~2. The criteria for admission under the Alternative Admission Program are:~~

- ~~a. A combination of test scores and grade point average that indicate potential for success;~~
- ~~b. Special talents and/or abilities such as but not limited to the visual or performing arts or athletic abilities;~~
- ~~c. Other evidence of potential for success;~~
- ~~d. Improvement in the high school record;~~
- ~~e. Overcoming adversity or special hardship; or~~
- ~~f. Other special circumstances.~~

(B/R 1/02)

~~3. Students admitted under these provisions shall be identified in the student information system as "Alternative Admissions." (B/R 1/02)~~

~~4. Students admitted under these provisions whose high school cumulative and/or academic grade point averages are less than 2.3 will be admitted "on probation" and identified as such in the Student Information System. (B/R 10/90)~~

Section 7. Admission to Advanced Standing

Admission with advanced undergraduate standing is granted to a student transferring from another accredited college or university provided:

1. The applicant is in good standing and eligible to return to the educational institution last attended, and

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~~2. Through Spring 2006 an official transcript has been presented to the Office of Admissions showing an overall C average or above on all acceptable or transferred credits, provided that if less than 15 acceptable transfer credits are involved, freshman entrance requirements shall also be satisfied. (B/R 1/02)~~

~~3. 2. Effective Fall 2006, students *Students* must have earned an overall 2.3 grade point average and a minimum of 24 college transferable credits to be considered for admission on the basis of advanced standing coursework. If less than 24 credits have been earned, freshmen entrance requirements must be satisfied. (B/R 1/02)~~

~~4. 3. Effective Fall 2010 **2008**, students must have earned an overall 2.5 grade point average and a minimum of 24 college transferable credits to be considered for admission on the basis of advanced standing coursework. If less than 24 credits have been earned, freshmen entrance requirements must be satisfied. (B/R 1/02)~~

PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, PART F (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)
SECTIONS 3, 5 and 7

Additions in *boldface italics*; deletions ~~stricken~~

Section 3. General Admission Requirements

~~1. Associate Degree Programs - The admission requirements to associate degree programs are the same as for baccalaureate programs.~~

2. **1.** Baccalaureate Programs - Admission to Freshman Standing requires graduation from an accredited or approved high school with a minimum overall grade point average (*GPA*) as follows:

~~Effective prior to Fall 1993: 2.30 or above~~

~~Effective Fall 1993: 2.50 or above~~

a.) Effective Fall 2006: ***at least a 2.75 weighted GPA or above in the required 13 high school core courses;***

b.) ***Effective Fall 2007: at least a 2.75 weighted GPA in the required 13 high school core courses, or a combined score from SAT Critical Reading and SAT Math sections of at least 1040, or an ACT composite score of at least 22;***

b.) ~~Effective Fall 2010-2008:~~ ***at least a 3.00 weighted GPA or above in the required 13 high school core courses, or a combined score from SAT Critical Reading and SAT Math sections of at least 1040, or an ACT composite score of at least 22***

(B/R 12/01)

~~3. Students enrolled in high school as of the Spring 1992 and who graduate by the Spring 1996 will not be denied admission if they meet the admissions criteria in place as of the Spring 1992. (B/R 4/93)~~

4. **2.** Programs designated as limited entry require fulfillment of selective admissions criteria as contained in the institutional catalog and other appropriate college documents. Continuation in selective admissions programs is likewise contingent upon fulfillment of conditions specified by the institution and contained in official institutional documents. (B/R 10/81)

Section 5. ~~Section Deleted~~ Alternative Admission Program (B/R 1/02)

~~1. Students who are denied admission to the University may petition, in writing, to the Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management/Dean of Admission within 10 days of receipt of their denial letter. The Alternative Admissions Committee will review the petition and make a determination of admissibility. The maximum number of applicants who may be admitted each year under these special programs may not exceed six percent of the total freshman enrollment at UNLV for the previous Fall semester, as published in the official enrollment report (*waived by the Board of Regents for 1989-90 and 1990-91 academic year*). The maximum number will increase to 10 percent~~

starting Fall 2006. (B/R 1/02)

~~2. The criteria for admission under the Alternative Admission Program are:~~

- ~~a. A combination of test scores and grade point average that indicate potential for success;~~
- ~~b. Special talents and/or abilities such as but not limited to the visual or performing arts or athletic abilities;~~
- ~~c. Other evidence of potential for success;~~
- ~~d. Improvement in the high school record;~~
- ~~e. Overcoming adversity or special hardship; or~~
- ~~f. Other special circumstances.~~

~~3. Students admitted under these provisions shall be identified in the Student Information System as "Alternative Admissions."~~

~~4. Students admitted under these provisions who do not meet the entrance requirements will be admitted "on probation" and identified as such in the Student Information System.~~

~~(B/R 1/02)~~

Section 7. Admission to Advanced Standing

Admission with advanced undergraduate standing is granted to a student transferring from another accredited college or university, provided:

1. The applicant is in good standing and eligible to return to the educational institution last attended.

~~2. Through Spring 2006 an official transcript has been presented to the Office of Admissions showing an overall C average or above on all acceptable or transferred credits, provided that if less than 12 acceptable transfer credits are involved, freshman entrance requirements shall also be satisfied. (B/R 1/02)~~

~~3. 2. Effective Fall 2006, students *Students* must have earned an overall 2.3 grade point average and a minimum of 24 college transferable credits to be considered for admission on the basis of advanced standing coursework. If less than 24 credits have been earned freshmen entrance requirements must be satisfied. (B/R 1/02)~~

~~4. 3. Effective Fall 2010 **2008**, students must have earned an overall 2.5 grade point average and a minimum of 24 college transferable credits to be considered for admission on the basis of advanced standing coursework. If less than 24 credits have been earned freshmen entrance requirements must be satisfied. (B/R 1/02)~~

PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, PART G (Nevada State College, Henderson)
SECTION 5

Additions in *boldface italics*; deletions ~~stricken~~

Section 5. ~~*Section Deleted*~~ ~~Alternative Admissions Program~~

~~1. Students who are denied admission to the college may petition, in writing, to the Director of Financial Aid and Enrollment Management within 10 days of receipt of their denial letter. The Admissions Review Committee will review the petition and make a determination of admissibility. The maximum number of applicants who may be admitted each year under these special conditions may not exceed six percent of the total freshman enrollment at NSC for the previous Fall semester, as published in the enrollment report. The maximum number will increase to 10 percent starting Fall 2006.~~

~~2. The criteria for admission under the alternative admission program are:—~~

- ~~a. A combination of test scores and grade point average that indicated potential for success;~~
- ~~b. Special talents and/or abilities such as, but not limited to, the visual or performing arts;~~
- ~~c. Other evidence of potential for success;~~
- ~~d. Improvement in the high school record;~~
- ~~e. Overcoming adversity or special hardship; or~~
- ~~f. Other special circumstances.~~

~~3. Students admitted under these provisions shall be identified in the Student Information System as “Alternative Admissions.”~~

~~4. Students admitted under these provisions whose high school cumulative and/or academic grade point averages are less than 2.0 will be admitted “on probation” and identified as such in the Student Information System.~~

~~(B/R 3/03)~~

PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 14, SECTION 13 (in part)

Additions in *boldface italics*; deletions ~~stricken~~

Section 13. Transfer and Admissions

4. Non-Associate Degree Admissions

a. Approved baccalaureate level credits, which have been completed, shall be transferable to the state college and universities at a minimum as general elective credit.

~~b. The state college and universities require an overall "C" average in all completed transfer courses attempted as a minimum standard for admission from a community college. The grade of "D" is accepted for transfer (provided the overall grade average does not drop below the prescribed "C" level) and counts toward a bachelor's degree in the same way as "D" grades obtained by students enrolled in the lower division of the state college or universities. Credits in courses transferred with "D" grades count towards credit earned for a baccalaureate. However, it is at the discretion of the department or college at the state college or university offering the major as to whether courses with "D" grades in the major satisfy requirements in the major field.~~

~~e.b.~~ Community college students should be strongly encouraged to complete their lower-division programs before transfer, but qualified students may apply for transfer at their own discretion.

~~d.c.~~ An applicant who does not satisfy ~~state college or~~ university admission requirements upon graduation from high school must complete the equivalent of ~~12~~ **24** semester credits in baccalaureate level courses with an overall "C" average ~~or above~~ **grade point average of at least 2.30** at a community college or other accredited institution to qualify for **university** admission as a ~~freshman~~. ~~These requirements are to be revised at the universities as follows: Effective Fall 2006, the minimum number of credits required is the equivalent of 24 semester credits. Effective Fall 2006, the minimum required overall grade point average is 2.30. Effective Fall 2010~~ **2008**, the minimum required overall grade point average is 2.50.

d. An applicant who does not satisfy state college admission requirements upon graduation from high school must complete the equivalent of 12 semester credits in baccalaureate level courses with an overall grade point average of at least 2.00 at a community college or other accredited institution to qualify for state college admission.

e. A course with a "D" grade (1.00 grade points) may be accepted for transfer provided the institution specific overall grade point average established in subsections c. and d. above is maintained. Transfer courses with a "D" grade will count towards a bachelor's degree in the same manner as "D" grades obtained by students enrolled in the lower-division at a state college

or university. Credits from courses transferred with a “D” grade count towards credit earned for a baccalaureate; however, it is at the discretion of the department or college offering the major as to whether courses with “D” grades in the major satisfy requirements in the major field.

e.f. Any student under academic suspension from a state college or university may attend a community college, and appropriate credits and grades earned are applicable toward satisfying the requirements for readmission to a state college or university.

(B/R 12/02)