

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER

Agenda Item Title: Handbook Revision: University Admissions

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

At their April 2008 meeting, the Student and Academic Affairs Committee directed staff to bring a proposal back for consideration that would grant university admission if Nevada high school students completed a Nevada Advanced High School Diploma. This discussion began at the Nevada P-16 Advisory Council under the leadership of Regents Steve Sisolak and Bret Whipple. The Nevada P-16 Advisory Council asked that the Board of Regents consider this action as an additional route to university admission.

The Advanced Diploma affords high school students with a rigorous high school curriculum that exceeds the standard diploma. For the high school class of 2009, in order to receive the Advanced Diploma, high school students must meet the standard district and state graduation requirements, maintain a 3.25 GPA on a 4.0 scale, weighted or unweighted, and complete four years (units) of mathematics, and three years (units) of Science within a total of 18 units of required coursework. High school students graduating with an Advanced Diploma will have completed a rigorous high school curriculum that better prepares them for academic success in college.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Board policy, Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 3, effective Fall 2009, to grant Nevada high school students graduating with an Advanced Diploma automatic admission to NSHE universities.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This is a recommendation of the Nevada P-16 Advisory Council and fulfills a request by the Student and Academic Affairs Committee to bring forward this policy for potential Board action.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- This increases the transparency of university admissions and provided a clear pathway from Nevada high schools to NSHE universities.
- This pathway supports the efforts of K-12 to give an incentive to students to complete the Advanced Diploma, a rigorous high school curriculum, and maintain a high GPA.
- This request is supported by the Nevada P-16 Advisory Council.
- UNLV and UNR support this proposal.
- The 3.25 overall GPA is a high standard, although not as high as the current university admissions requirements for a 3.0 GPA calculated in only the core required courses.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- There is no guarantee that the recipients of the Advanced Diploma will have completed Algebra II and higher math courses, as well as laboratory sciences, although the two largest school districts have put in place a default curriculum that would support this.
- Since the Advanced Diploma does not specify that Algebra II must be completed and since successful completion of Algebra II is an important indicator of future success in college, this additional pathway may not serve students well.

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

Do not approve the proposal.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #_____ Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- X Amends Current Board Policy: Title # 4 Chapter # 16 Section # 3
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No _____
Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 3
Requirements for Admission to the Universities

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

Section 3. Requirements for Admission to the Universities

1. Students seeking admission to a university must complete the high school course requirements pursuant to Chapter 16, Section 2.
2. 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. Effective Fall 2008, students seeking admission to the universities must have:
 - 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. *Effective Fall 2009, students seeking admission to the universities must have:***
 - 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; or***
 - d.) a Nevada Advanced High School Diploma.***
- [4.] 5. A student who does not meet the university admission requirements established in subsections 1 through 3 may, under procedures established by the university, be admitted through other criteria. The requirements for admission under this provision 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.

The number of students admitted under these criteria may not exceed 15 percent of the previous year's admissions.

[5] **6.** 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 10/07)

**Graduation Requirements for Advanced Diplomas per Nevada Administrative Code
(NAC)**

Effective October 15, 2008

**NAC 389.663 Units and grade point average required to receive advanced diploma.
[Effective October 15, 2008.] ([NRS 385.080](#), [385.110](#), [388.360](#), [389.018](#))**

1. To receive an advanced diploma evidencing graduation from high school, a pupil must, in addition to having passed the high school proficiency examination required by [NRS 389.015](#), have:

(a) Earned a minimum of 18 units of credit for required courses and 6 units of credit for elective courses for a total of at least 24 units of credit; and

(b) Maintained at least a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale, weighted or unweighted, for all units of credit applicable toward graduation.

2. The units for the required courses must be earned in accordance with the following table:

<u>Required Course</u>	<u>Minimum Number of Units</u>
American Government	1
American History	1
Arts and humanities, or career and technical education	1
Social studies	1
English, including reading, composition and writing	4
Health education	1/2
Mathematics	4
Physical education	2
Use of computers	1/2
Science	3
TOTAL:	18

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Education by R091-99, eff. 1-14-2000; A by R025-01, 11-1-2001; R061-02, 9-6-2002; A by Bd. for Career & Tech. Educ. by R172-05, 2-23-2006; A by Bd. of Education by R059-07, 10-31-2007, eff. 10-15-2008)

Comparison of Advanced Diploma Requirements per NAC Code and University Admission Requirements

	NAC Advanced Diploma Requirements Effective 10/15/2008	University Admission Requirements Effective Fall 2008
Required Course	Required Units	
American Government	1	3
American History	1	
Social Studies	1	
Arts & Humanities, or Career & Technical Education	1	
English, including reading, composition, and writing	4	4
Health Education	0.5	
Mathematics	4	3 (Algebra & higher)
Physical Education	2	
Use of Computers	0.5	
Science	3	3 (2 labs required)
Electives	6	
Total	24	13
GPA	Overall 3.25 weighted or unweighted on 4.0 scale	3.0 weighted in core courses