

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, University Admissions – High School Credit by Examination

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Existing Board policy sets forth the minimum high school course admission requirements for freshman admission at a university (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 3*). Pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 389.171, Nevada high school students may be granted credit for many of these required courses by performance on an examination in lieu of course attendance. To be granted such credit, the high school student must demonstrate proficiency to meet the objectives of the course through performance on an examination. In addition, *Nevada Administrative Code* (NAC) 389.670 sets forth requirements governing such credit by examination, including requiring that local school boards ensure that the examinations are based on the standards of content and performance prescribed for the course and curriculum for the course adopted by the district.

Because Board policy governing university admissions does not specifically recognize high school credit by examination for courses required for admissions, System staff recommends revising Board policy to recognize such credit if it meets the requirements of NRS 389.171 and the regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 3* to authorize universities to evaluate high school transcripts to determine if credit by performance on an examination pursuant to NRS 389.171 and NAC 389.760 meets the course requirements for university admissions.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

The 2011 Legislature amended NRS 389.171 to expand and strengthen the authorization for credit by examination in lieu of attendance. Local school districts are now offering credit by examination for many courses required for university admissions, and high school students may apply for university admissions with such credit by examination on their high school transcripts. This policy revision is recommended to clarify that universities have the authority to accept such credit for admission purposes.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- This revision is consistent with existing Board policy requiring that high school students have passed courses in specific subject areas in high school to be eligible for university admission: English – 4 units; Mathematics – 3 units; Natural Science – 3 units; and Social Science/Studies – 3 units (Total 13).
- The requirements of NRS 389.171 and NAC 389.670 ensure that students who pass these examinations and receive credit for the high school course have demonstrated proficiency in the course content.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

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

None have been presented.

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 X _____
- Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 3
 University Admissions – High School Credit by Examination

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

Section 3. High School Course Requirements for University Admission

The following minimum high school course admission requirements apply to freshman admission at a university, in addition to the specific admission requirements for those institutions that appear elsewhere in this Chapter:

<u>High School Course(s)</u>	<u>Units</u>
English: Emphasis on composition, rhetoric, and American, English and world literatures	4
Mathematics: Algebra I and higher level mathematics – higher level mathematics may include Algebra II, geometry, trigonometry, pre-calculus, calculus, probability and statistics and other advanced mathematics	3
Natural Science: (lab or simulation) including biology, chemistry or physics, with at least two years in a laboratory science	3
Social Science/Studies: Including world history and geography, U.S. history, economics, government, or law	3
Total:	13

The universities may evaluate high school transcripts to determine if the course content *or, in lieu of course content, the credit by performance on an examination pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 389.171 and Nevada Administrative Code 389.670* appropriately meets the course requirements under this section.