

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Graduation Requirements – Catalog Selection

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Existing Board policy specifies the catalogs under which a student may elect to graduate from a university or the state college. (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Sections 17 and 37*) For example, a student enrolled at a university or the state college may elect to graduate under the catalog of the year of enrollment in a baccalaureate-level program or the year of graduation. Students who change majors must choose the catalog of the year of the latest change of major or the year of graduation. Case-by-case exceptions may be made for transfer students as determined by the appropriately designated institution official. As required by NRS 396.560, the catalog selected cannot be more than 10 years old at the time of the student’s graduation.

System staff, with the support of the Academic Affairs Council, recommends extending the option for an exception on case-by-case basis to all students, not just transfer students, in an effort to provide institutions additional flexibility that will support student success.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Revise Board policy under *Title 4, Chapter 16, Sections 17 and 37* to delete the limitation to transfer students and authorize case-by-case exceptions to the policy governing catalog selection for university and state college graduation requirements for any students, as determined by the appropriately designated institution official. (See the attached policy proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

UNR is currently updating its general education requirements and would like the option to offer a different catalog year (such as the year in which these requirements were updated) to the broader student population, not just transfer students. This revision will broaden the exception language for all 4-year institutions.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Revising Board policy to expand the opportunity for institutions – on a case-by-case basis – to offer alternative catalog options for graduation will benefit students and facilitate the pathway to graduation.
- Retaining the requirement for approval by the appropriately designated university official will ensure any exceptions are evaluated and are not capricious.
- Per NRS 396.560, none of the catalogs selected can be more than 10 years old at the time of the student’s graduation.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

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

Retain existing policy.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- X Amends Current Board Policy: Title 4, Chapter 16, Sections 17 and 37
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- X Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No X _____
- Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTIONS 17 and 37
University and State College Requirements for Graduation

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

Section 17. University Requirements for Graduation

1. A student enrolled at a university may elect to graduate under the catalog of the year of enrollment in a baccalaureate-level program or the year of graduation.
2. A university student who changes his or her major must choose the catalog of the year of the latest change of major or the year of graduation.
3. The catalog selected for the purpose of university graduation may not be more than 10 years old at the time of graduation.
4. Exceptions to this policy may be made on a case-by-case basis [~~for NSHE transfer students~~] as determined by the appropriately designated university official.

Section 37. State College Requirements for Graduation

1. A student enrolled at the state college may elect to graduate under the catalog of the year of enrollment in a baccalaureate-level program or the year of graduation. However, college core curriculum requirements for graduation are determined by the year of admission to the college as a regular degree-seeking student.
2. A state college student who changes his or her major must choose the catalog of the year of the latest change of major or the year of graduation.
3. The catalog selected for the purpose of state college graduation may not be more than 10 years old at the time of graduation.
4. Exceptions to this policy may be made on a case-by-case basis [~~for NSHE transfer students~~] as determined by the appropriately designated state college official.
5. In order to graduate students are required to have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0, including all postsecondary course work attempted.
6. Candidates for a bachelor's degree at the state college must complete at least 32 upper-division credits in residence as defined by the institution.