



MINNESOTA STATE
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME: Academic and Student Affairs Committee

DATE: June 18, 2024

TITLE: Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 3.36 Academic Programs (First Reading)

Action

Review and Discussion

This item is required by policy

PRESENTERS

Satasha Green-Stephen, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

PURPOSE

Board Policy 1A.1 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Organization and Administration, Part 6. Board Policies and System Procedures requires board review and approval of proposed board policy changes and that each board policy is reviewed at least once every five years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The proposed amendment (1) deletes redundant language in Part 4, Subp. C, that refers to the 60 and 120 credit requirements in Minn. Stat. 135A.052. This information is already located in the associated system procedure with the other program credit requirements information, and (2) adds “or designee” after chancellor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION (FIRST READING DRAFT)

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees suspend the rules and adopt the proposed amendment to Policy 3.36.

Date Presented to the ASA Committee: 6/17/2024

Date Presented to the Board of Trustees: 6/18/2024

Date of Implementation: 6/18/2024

PROPOSED CHANGES (FIRST READING DRAFT)

~~Single Strikethrough~~ – proposed deletion of current language

~~Double Strikethrough~~ – proposed deletion and relocation of current language

Single Underlining – proposed new language

Double Underlining – proposed relocation of current language

1 **3.36 Academic Programs**

2

3 **Part 1. Purpose**

4 To direct decision-making regarding the development, approval, and management of credit-
5 based academic programs.

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7 **Part 2. Academic Program Goals**

8 Minnesota State ~~C~~olleges and ~~U~~niversities provide learning opportunities to develop
9 graduates who are:

- 10 a. prepared for work, life, and citizenship;
- 11 b. creative, innovative, and able to respond with agility to new ideas, new technologies,
12 and new global relationships;
- 13 c. able to lead their professions and adapt to the multiple careers they will have over their
14 lifetimes;
- 15 d. able to think independently and critically and resourcefully apply knowledge to new
16 problems;
- 17 e. able to embrace change and be comfortable with ambiguity; and,
- 18 f. able to communicate and work effectively across cultural and geographic boundaries.

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20 **Part 3. Definitions**

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22 **Academic award**

23 A certificate, diploma or degree.

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25 **Academic program**

26 A cohesive arrangement of college-level curricular requirements leading to an academic
27 award.

28

29 **Academic program inventory**

30 The official list of academic programs offered by colleges and universities.

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32 **Credit**

33 A unit of measure assigned to a college or university course or an equivalent learning
34 experience that takes into consideration achieved student learning outcomes and
35 instructional time.

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38 **Part 4. Authorized Academic Awards**

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40 **Subpart A. College and university award authority**

41 Colleges and universities have authority to confer academic awards only as specified below.

- 42 1. **Community colleges.** Community colleges have the authority to confer
43 undergraduate certificates, diplomas, and the following degrees: associate of arts,
44 associate of fine arts, associate of science, and associate of applied science.
- 45 2. **Consolidated colleges.** Consolidated colleges have the authority to confer
46 undergraduate certificates, diplomas, and the following degrees: associate of arts,
47 associate of fine arts, associate of science, and associate of applied science.
- 48 3. **Technical colleges.** Technical colleges have the authority to confer undergraduate
49 certificates, diplomas, and the following degrees: associate of science, and associate
50 of applied science.
- 51 4. **Universities.** Universities have the authority to confer undergraduate and graduate
52 certificates and associate of arts, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees.

53
54 Approval by the Board of Trustees is required for a college or university to confer an
55 academic award type for which specific authority is not granted in this policy.

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57 **Subpart B. Academic award characteristics**

58 The chancellor shall specify the characteristics of academic awards.

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60 **Subpart C. Academic program credit length limits**

61 ~~Academic programs that lead to an associate degree must be limited to 60 credits and~~
62 ~~academic programs that lead to a baccalaureate degree must be limited to 120 credits~~
63 ~~unless the chancellor grants a waiver based on industry or professional accreditation~~
64 ~~standards that require a greater number of credits.~~

65
66 The chancellor shall set program credit length requirements and waiver criteria for all
67 academic awards are set by statute and/or the chancellor. undergraduate certificates,
68 diplomas, and graduate-level awards.

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70 **Part 5. Authority to Establish Academic Program Locations**

71 Approval of the chancellor or designee is required for establishment of a location at which an
72 academic program may be offered.

73
74 **Part 6. Academic Program Approval**

75 Colleges and universities shall only offer academic programs that are approved by the
76 chancellor and recorded in the academic program inventory. Approval of tThe chancellor or
77 designee's approval is required for new academic programs, changes to existing academic
78 programs, suspension of academic programs, and closure of academic programs at colleges and
79 universities. ~~Colleges and universities shall only offer academic programs that are approved by~~
80 ~~the chancellor and recorded in the academic program inventory.~~

82 The chancellor or designee shall maintain the academic program inventory and annually report
83 to the board on the status of the inventory.

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85 **Part 7. Student Options When Academic Programs Are Suspended, Closed, or Changed**

86 A college or university shall provide a student admitted to an academic program an
87 opportunity, consistent with college or university policy, to complete the academic program
88 when it is suspended or closed or when the requirements have changed.

89
90 **Part 8. Academic Review**

91 Each college and university shall regularly review its academic programs for the purpose of
92 academic planning and improvement.

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94 The chancellor may conduct statewide or regional reviews of academic programs or program
95 clusters, report findings to the board and, when necessary, impose conditions on academic
96 programs.

Related Documents:

- [Board Policy 3.43](#) Accreditation
- [System Procedure 3.43.1](#) Accreditation
- [System Procedure 3.36.1](#) Academic Programs
- [Operating Instruction 3.36.1.1](#) - Course Numbering Convention
- [Operating Instruction 3.36.1.2](#) - Media Codes (pdf)

To view related Minnesota statutes, go to the Revisor's Web site (<http://www.revisor.mn.gov/>).
You can conduct a search from this site by typing in the statute number

- [Minn. Stat. 135A.052](#) Postsecondary Missions
- [Minn. Stat. 136F.12](#) Fond Du Lac Campas

Policy History:

Date of Adoption: 6/20/07

Date of Implementation: 8/01/07

Date of Last Review: 6/19/19

Date & Subject of Revisions:

Xx/xx/24 – Full review, deleted redundant language in Part 4, Subp. C, that refers to the 60 and 120 credit requirements in Minn. Stat. 135A.052 because it is in the associated system procedure with similar information on program credit requirements, added “or designee” after chancellor.

06/19/19 – In Part 2, updated the academic program goals, In part 6, added “Colleges and universities shall only offer academic programs that are approved by the chancellor and recorded in the academic program inventory.”, and applied the new writing and formatting styles.

Additional [HISTORY](#)