

TRANSFERABLE GENERAL EDUCATION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
SOUTH DAKOTA'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES
March 2020

I. Introduction

- A) General education provides postsecondary students with a foundational knowledge base and a capacity for lifelong learning. Broadly speaking, general education courses provide students with the skills to communicate effectively, problem solve, analyze, locate and gather information, and think critically and logically along with other skills needed for conscientious citizenship and workplace success. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), the regional accrediting body recognized by the US Department of Education for South Dakota, requires a minimum of fifteen credits of general education for associate of applied science (AAS) degrees, twenty-four for associate of science (AS) and associate of arts (AA) degrees, and thirty for bachelor's degrees.
- B) The Board of Regents (BOR) maintains a common general education policy whereby earned general education credits apply to each of the six public universities. The technical colleges (TCs) have aligned the curriculum and learning outcomes of some general education courses to BOR general education courses. In such cases, it is agreed by TCs and the BOR that it is in the best interest of students that a full range of postsecondary opportunities are available and that students should not have to invest a second time in general education knowledge and competencies already acquired. Students who have completed transferable general education courses established under this agreement should have seamless, guaranteed transfer of such courses between TC and BOR institutions.
- C) This agreement replaces the "South Dakota Public Universities and South Dakota Technical Institute Program to Program Implementation Guidelines for Transfer General Education Courses" as adopted in 2005 and updated in 2006. This agreement shall be effective July 1, 2020 and remain in effect until a successive agreement is established.

II. Definitions

- A) *BOR*: The Board of Regents and the six public universities of South Dakota.
- B) *BOTE*: The Board of Technical Education
- C) *HLC*: The Higher Learning Commission, the regional higher education accreditation body recognized for South Dakota by the US Department of Education.
- D) *TC(s)*: The public technical colleges in South Dakota recognized in SDCL 13-39A-42.

III. Transferable Courses

- A) Courses identified in Appendix I are accepted as equivalent courses at the individual TCs and in the BOR common course catalog regardless of whether or not the student completes a TC or BOR degree program.
- B) Courses identified in Appendix I are accepted as transferable general education courses unless otherwise indicated.
- C) TC courses approved under this agreement shall have the same name, prefix, number, description, and learning outcomes as the corresponding BOR course.
- D) TC courses that are applied in nature (i.e., non-transferable under this agreement) shall not have the same name, prefix, and number as transferable general education courses identified in Appendix I.
- E) TC and BOR institutions shall receive notification when courses identified in Appendix I undergo curricular changes. Notification shall occur through the BOTE staff and BOR central office staff. Such changes may dictate a review of the course as qualifying under this agreement.

IV. Math and English Placement

- A) The TCs and BOR agree that placement into transferable Math and English courses should be appropriate for the student's ability and educational background.
- B) Both the BOR and TCs shall follow the Math and English placement process identified in the BOR's [AAC Guideline 7.6: English and Math Placement Guidelines](#). Students who do not qualify under the guidelines for courses in this agreement with the MATH and ENGL prefix shall not enroll in the course.

V. Addition of New Transferable Courses

- A) New courses may be approved for addition to the list in Appendix I upon mutual agreement between BOR and TC institutions.
- B) Institutions proposing additional courses to the list in Appendix I shall first work with their partner institutions (SDSU-LATC, USD-STC, DSU-MTC, BHSU-WDTC) to review proposed course equivalencies. If the proposed course equivalency is not offered at the BOR institution, the TC may work with another BOR institution that does offer the proposed course.
- C) Proposed courses shall be reviewed and approved according to processes established by individual institutions, the BOTE, and the BOR. The BOR and TCs shall develop a shared form to assist in the review process for proposed new courses added to this agreement.

VI. Faculty Qualifications

- A) BOR and TC institutions shall follow the standards for faculty qualifications in teaching courses approved under this agreement as established by the HLC in their Assumed Practices (HLC Policy CRRT.B.10.020).

VII. Freedom of Speech and Intellectual Diversity

- A) BOR and TC institutions shall teach transferable general education courses in compliance with the SDCL 13-53-50, including ensuring principles of free expression, encouraging timely and rational discussion of topics in an environment that is intellectually and ideologically diverse.

VIII. Tuition

- A) The tuition and fees received by a TC or BOR institution for teaching a course identified in Appendix I shall remain with the institution teaching the course. No additional exchange of funds between BOR and TC institutions shall be required under this agreement.
- B) The tuition and fee rates shall be based on the rates used by the institution teaching the course.
- C) Individual BOR institutions and TCs may establish tuition and/or faculty sharing agreements related to the teaching of courses identified in Appendix I as needed or requested. Such agreements shall require formal approval by the BOR and notification to the BOTE. Such agreements shall be added as appendices to this agreement.

IX. State Subsidized Dual Credit Program

- A) Students enrolled in courses identified in Appendix I that are offered as high school dual credit under SDCL § 13-28-37.1 must meet one of the following initial eligibility requirements:

1) High school junior eligible to enroll in a high school in South Dakota who meets one of the following requirements:

- a) earn an ACT composite or superscore score of 24 reflective of the 70% percentile; or
- b) rank in upper one-third of their graduating class; or
- c) earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.50 on a 4.0 scale;

2) High school senior eligible to enroll in a high school in South Dakota who meets one of the following requirements:

- a) earn an ACT composite or superscore score of 21 reflective of the 50% percentile; or

- b) rank in the upper one-half of their graduating class; or
- c) earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 on a 4.0 scale;

3) High School junior or senior eligible to enroll in a high school in South Dakota who meets all of the following requirements:

- a) ACT composite or superscore score of 18; and
- b) Successful completion of high school coursework (Four years of English, three years of advanced mathematics, three years of laboratory science, three years of social studies, one year of fine arts);

4) High School junior or senior eligible to enroll in a high school in South Dakota who meet the benchmark scores on one of the assessments listed below:

- a) Smarter Balanced – Score Level 3 or higher on the English Language Arts AND Mathematics 11th Grade Assessments.
- b) 10th Grade ACT Aspire Summative Assessment – (Score 434 or higher)
- c) ACCUPLACER Classic (Sentence Skills – Score 86 or higher AND Elementary Algebra – Score 76 or higher). Note: Students must take both the Sentence Skills and Elementary Algebra exams and meet the required scores. These exams cannot be mixed and matched with other parts of the first three sections of admissions criteria.
- d) ACCUPLACER Next Generation (QAS – Score 255 or higher AND Writing Score 263 or higher)

This agreement is hereby entered into by the Board of Technical Education, the technical colleges, and the Board of Regents on behalf of the unified system of public universities.

President, Board of Technical Education

Date:

President, Board of Regents

Date:

President, Lake Area Technical College

Date:

President, Mitchell Technical College

Date:

President, Southeast Technical College

Date:

President, Western Dakota Technical College

Date:

Appendix I

**BOR & TC
TRANSFERABLE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES**

COURSE			LATC	MTC	STC	WDTC	BOR General Education Goal
ENGL	101	Composition I	X	X	X	X	GOAL 1
SPCM	101	Fundamentals of Speech	X	X	X	X	GOAL 2
ECON	201	Principles of Microeconomics	X				GOAL 3
ECON	202	Principles of Macroeconomics	X			X	GOAL 3
PSYC	101	General Psychology	X	X	X	X	GOAL 3
SOC	100	Intro to Sociology	X	X		X	GOAL 3
SOC	150	Social Problems			X		GOAL 3
SOC/CJUS	201	Intro to Criminal Justice				X	GOAL 3
SOC	250	Courtship & Marriage			X		GOAL 3
HIST	151	US History I	X				GOAL 3
POLS	100	American Government	X				GOAL 3
ENGL	210	Introduction to Literature	X				GOAL 4
HUM	100	Intro to Humanities				X	GOAL 4
MATH	114	College Algebra	X		X	X	GOAL 5
MATH	120	Trigonometry				X	GOAL 5
CHEM	106	Chemistry Survey/Lab	X		X	X	GOAL 6
CHEM	108	Organic & Biochemistry/Lab	X				GOAL 6
CSC	105	Introduction to Computers	X				NA*

*Note – approved for transfer but not a general education course at BOR institutions.

BOR System General Education Goals

GOAL #1 Written Communication: Students will write effectively and responsibly and will understand and interpret the written expression of others.

GOAL #2 Oral Communication: Students will communicate effectively and responsibly through listening and speaking.

GOAL #3 Social Sciences: Students will understand the organization, potential, and diversity of the human community through study of the social sciences.

GOAL #4 Arts & Humanities: Students will understand the diversity and complexity of the human experience through study of the arts and humanities.

GOAL #5 Mathematics: Students will understand and apply fundamental mathematical processes and reasoning.

GOAL #6 Natural Sciences: Students will understand the fundamental principles of the natural sciences and apply scientific methods of inquiry to investigate the natural world.