



To: South Dakota Board of Technical Education
From: Nick Wendell, Executive Director
RE: Proposed Change to the General Education Requirements
Date: 3/27/18

Over the past several months, the chief academic officers from each of the four technical institutions have collaborated to develop potential new language for the administrative rule related to general education requirements (24.10.43.03). The proposed change is designed to better meet student and industry needs, and to strengthen the opportunity for articulation agreements with the six universities in the Board of Regents system. The proposed change to current administrative rule regarding general education requirements for an Associate of Applied Science degree in the technical institute system is outlined below.

Current Rule

Currently, rule 24.10.43.03 states:

Each associate of applied science degree program must include one or more general education courses in each of the following areas:

- (1) *Communications;*
- (2) *Behavioral sciences;*
- (3) *Social sciences;*
- (4) *Mathematics; and*
- (5) *Computer literacy.*

Proposed Change to Rule

Academic leaders recommend the following update:

Each associate of applied science degree program must include a minimum of 15 credit hours of general education courses from a minimum of 4 categories:

- (1) *Communications;*
- (2) *Computers*
- (3) *Social sciences;*
- (4) *Arts and Humanities;*
- (5) *Mathematics;*
- (6) *Natural Sciences.*

This proposed change provides flexibility for programs at each technical institute, retains important general education requirements, and better aligns with the Board of Regent System Graduation Requirements which will allow students to transfer more easily between the two state systems.

Tech Institute Goal	BOR Alignment
#1 Communications	#1 Written Communication or #2 Oral Communication
#2 Computers	None
#3 Social Sciences	# 3 Social Sciences
#4 Arts/Humanities	#4 Arts/Humanities
#5 Mathematics	#5 Mathematics
#6 Natural Sciences	#6 Natural Sciences

The four institution presidents considered and endorsed the proposed change during their roundtable call on Friday, March 16, 2018.