

DRAFT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
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<i>BOARD ACTION</i>

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO POLICY 3.17 DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES AND AMENDMENT TO POLICY 3.25 DEGREE GRANTING AUTHORITY
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Introduction

Revisions are proposed to modify current Policy 3.17 Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates and current Policy 3.25 Degree Granting Authority. These policy changes add the criteria for a new associate degree, an Associate in Fine Arts (AFA) in Policy 3.17 Part 2. Subpart D and delegates the authority to grant the Associate in Fine Arts degree to designated classes of institutions in Policy 3.25 (4).

Background

The criteria for the proposed Associate in Fine Arts degree are based upon AFA degree models and recommendations discussed at faculty department/discipline meetings in art, music and theater held April 11, August 13, September 24 and October 10, 2003. The series of faculty meetings were jointly planned by representatives of the faculty unions and Office of the Chancellor staff. The proposed policy amendments were reviewed by chief academic officers on the Academic Program Approval and Review Unit Advisory Committee November 18, 2003.

Consultation

Consultation has occurred in several ways:

- Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Leadership Council, [planned for 12/2/03]
- Academic and Student Affairs Policy Council, [planned for 12/11/03]
- The Office of the Chancellor will disseminate drafts of the proposed amendment widely to a list of interested persons maintained by Academic Affairs via e-mail for review and comment in [planned for November and December, 2003].

Formal Approval Process

The proposed policy amendments are to be submitted to the Board of Trustees for review at their January, 2004 meeting (first reading) and for review and approval at the March 2004 meeting (second reading). All policies require two readings by the Board of Trustees prior to official action.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

Draft

BOARD POLICY

Chapter 3. EDUCATIONAL POLICIES

Section 17. DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

3.17 Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates

Part 1. Definitions.

Subpart A. Academic Program: An academic program (hereinafter referred to as a program) is a cohesive pattern of collegiate level credit courses and experiences leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate. Programs are designed to (1) prepare students for advanced study, (2) qualify students for an occupation or range of occupations, and/or (3) increase students' knowledge and understanding in a specific area/discipline. Accomplishment of program objectives requires a set of defined learning experiences in which a student must demonstrate competencies in a wide range of skills and knowledge that constitute a major or is certified by a credential. All programs shall be clearly within the scope of the mission of the institution.

Subpart B. Credit: A credit is the unit of measure normally associated with specific courses and experiential learning activities. While credits are the units of measure utilized in this policy, their use is not intended to limit nor reduce opportunities to certify skills and competency attainment through alternative student outcome assessment approaches. The goal of education is the attainment of specific knowledge, skills and values. Creative approaches to the awarding of credit in response to demonstrated student skills attainment, above and beyond credit for prior learning and credit through examination programs, are both encouraged and desired.

Part 2. Criteria.

Degrees, diplomas, and certificates awarded for program completion by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall meet the criteria specified under Subparts A-G.

Subpart A. Certificate. Certificates may be awarded after the successful completion of a specialized program of study. A certificate shall include 9 to 30 semester credits. A certificate program proposed with fewer than nine or greater than 30 semester credits requires special approval by the chancellor.

Subpart B. Diploma. A diploma may be awarded after the successful completion of a program intended to provide students with employment skills. A diploma shall include 30 to 72 semester credits. Program credit lengths proposed to exceed 72 semester credits require special approval by the chancellor. At least one third of the credits shall be taught by the faculty recommending the awarding of the diploma; this requirement may be decreased upon recommendation by the institution's faculty and approval by the president of the college.

Subpart C. Associate in Arts and Associate in Science Degrees.

1. An Associate in Arts or an Associate in Science degrees may be awarded after the successful completion of a program of 60 to 64 semester credits. Program credit lengths proposed to exceed 64 semester credits require special approval by the chancellor. The Associate in Science and Associate in Arts degrees are designed for transfer to a baccalaureate degree. At least 20 semester credits shall be

1 taught by the faculty recommending the awarding of the degree; this requirement may be decreased upon
2 recommendation of the institution's faculty and approval by the president of the college or university.

3 2. An Associate in Science (AS) degree may be awarded after the successful completion of a program in a
4 designated field or area which transfers to a baccalaureate major in a related scientific, technical, or non-
5 liberal arts professional field. An Associate in Science degree must have one or more articulation
6 agreement(s) between the institution awarding the Associate in Science degree and an institution
7 awarding a related baccalaureate degree. An AS degree may also be designed to prepare students for
8 employment. An Associate in Science program shall include a minimum of 30 semester credits in general
9 education credits. An Associate in Science degree is designed to provide a substantial general education
10 component. General education courses shall be selected from at least six of the ten goal areas of the
11 Minnesota Transfer Curriculum. An Associate in Science degree may include the entire Minnesota
12 Transfer Curriculum.

13 3. An Associate in Arts (AA) degree may be awarded after the successful completion of a liberal arts and
14 sciences curriculum designed to constitute the first two years of a baccalaureate degree. An Associate in
15 Arts degree shall include the entire Minnesota Transfer Curriculum.

16 **Subpart D. Associate in Fine Arts Degree.**

17 1. An Associate in Fine Arts (AFA) degree may be awarded after the successful completion of a program
18 of 60 to 64 semester credits. Program credit lengths proposed to exceed 64 semester credits require
19 special approval by the chancellor. At least 20 semester credits shall be taught by the faculty
20 recommending the awarding of the degree; this requirement may be decreased upon recommendation by
21 the institution's faculty and approval by the president of the college or university.

22 2. An Associate in Fine Arts degree may be awarded after the successful completion of a program in a
23 designated discipline in Fine Arts. An Associate in Fine Arts degree may be designed for transfer. The
24 transfer would be to a related baccalaureate major. An Associate in Fine Arts degree must have at least
25 one articulation agreement between the institution awarding the Associate in Fine Arts degree and an
26 institution awarding a baccalaureate degree in a related Fine Arts discipline. At least one articulation
27 agreement must be with a Minnesota State University, except as permitted by the Chancellor. An
28 Associate in Fine Arts program shall include a minimum of 24 semester credits in general education.
29 General education courses shall be selected from at least six of the ten goal areas of the Minnesota
30 Transfer Curriculum. An Associate in Fine Arts degree may include the entire Minnesota Transfer
31 Curriculum.

32
33 **Subpart D. E. Associate in Applied Science Degree.**

34 1. An Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees may be awarded after the successful completion of a
35 program of 60 to 72 semester credits. Program credit lengths proposed to exceed 72 semester credits
36 require special approval by the chancellor. At least 20 semester credits shall be taught by the faculty
37 recommending the awarding of the degree; this requirement may be decreased upon recommendation by
38 the institution's faculty and approval by the president of the college.

39 2. An AAS degree may be awarded after the successful completion of a program primarily intended to
40 prepare students for employment. An AAS degree may be designed to transfer to a related baccalaureate
41 major. An AAS program shall include a minimum of 25 percent of the total semester credits in general
42 education credits. General education courses shall be selected from at least three of the ten goal areas of
43 the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum. At least 30 semester credits shall be program related occupational or
44 technical credits.

1 **Subpart ~~E~~. F. Baccalaureate Degree**

2 1. A Baccalaureate degree may be awarded after the successful completion of a program of 120 to 128
3 semester credits. At least 40 semester credits of the required credits for the degree shall be in non major
4 areas of general education, including the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum. At least 40 semester credits of
5 the required credits for the degree shall be upper division credits. At least 30 semester credits shall be
6 taught by the faculty recommending the awarding of the degree; this requirement may be decreased upon
7 recommendation by the institution's faculty and approval by the president of the university. Program
8 credit lengths proposed to exceed 128 semester credits require special approval by the chancellor.

9 2. The Bachelor of Arts (BA) shall represent a general liberal arts degree with a major in the liberal or
10 fine/performing arts areas.

11 3. The Bachelor of Science (BS) shall represent a degree with a major in a professional area other than the
12 liberal or fine/performing arts.

13 4. The chancellor may also consider programs culminating in a more specified baccalaureate degree such
14 as the Bachelor of Music (BMus), the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), the Bachelor of Elective Studies
15 (BES), the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), the Bachelor of Nursing (BSN), the Bachelor of Applied
16 Science (BAS), or another more specified baccalaureate degree.

17 **Subpart ~~F~~. G. Master's Degree**

18 1. A Master's degree may be awarded to a holder of a baccalaureate degree or equivalent after the
19 successful completion of 30 to 54 semester credits in a coherent program of study which indicates
20 mastery of specified knowledge and skills substantially beyond those required by a baccalaureate in the
21 particular field. At least one half of the required credits, exclusive of thesis or starred paper requirements,
22 shall be credits restricted exclusively to graduate student enrollment.

23 2. The Master of Arts (MA) shall represent completion of a course of graduate studies in the liberal or
24 fine/performing arts, which does not include a professional component.

25 3. The Master of Science (MS) shall represent completion of a course of graduate studies in science,
26 business, industry, nursing, or education, or studies in the liberal or fine arts which includes a professional
27 component.

28 4. The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) shall represent completion of a course of graduate studies in
29 education by persons without prior certification as teachers.

30 5. The chancellor may also consider programs culminating in a more specified master's degrees such as
31 the Master of Fine Arts (MFA), the Master of Business Administration (MBA), the Master of Public
32 Administration (MPA), or the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN).

33 **Subpart ~~G~~. H. Specialist Degree.** A Specialist degree is designed to prepare specialists in a professional
34 area for which a master's degree is not sufficient. The Specialist degree may be awarded to a holder of a
35 master's degree or equivalent after the successful completion of a course of graduate study of at least 30
36 semester credits. The Specialist degree may be awarded to a holder of a bachelor's degree after the
37 successful completion of a course of study of at least 60 semester credits.

38 *Date of Implementation: 7/01/99*

39 *Date of Adoption: 12/18/96,*

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41 *Date of First Reading: January 21-22, 2004*

42 *Date Planned for Second Reading: March 16-17, 2003*

POLICY CONTENT FORMAT:

Single underlining represents proposed new language.

~~Strikeouts~~ represent existing policy language proposed to be eliminated.

Words not underlined represent existing policy language that is proposed to remain in policy.

Note: This document must be opened in word format and then printed in order for **strikeout, underlining and line numbering to appear correctly.**

Comments:

Please provide any comments on this proposed policy amendment to JoAnn Simser, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, 500 Wells Fargo Place, 30 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101, phone: 651-297-2285, or e-mail:

joann.simser@so.mnscu.edu. **Comments must be received by _____ 2004 to be reviewed prior to the January 21-22, 2004 Board of Trustees meeting.** Policies require two readings by the Board of Trustees.

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BOARD POLICY
Chapter 3. EDUCATIONAL POLICIES
Section 25. Degree Granting Authority

3.25 Degree Granting Authority

RECOGNITION

The Board of Trustees recognizes four broad classes of institutions within MnSCU: community colleges, community/technical college, technical colleges, and state universities.

AUTHORITY DELEGATION

The Board of Trustees delegates authority to the colleges and universities to award degrees, diplomas, and certificates and to offer the educational programming required to support these awards.

Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates

(1) Authority to award a specific degree/type of degree is explicitly granted in this policy. An institution may petition to offer a degree for which specific authority is not granted in this policy by successfully completing a detailed proposal/plan.

(2) Baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate or graduate degree programs may be delivered and degrees conferred by state universities;

(3) Associate in Arts (AA) degree programs may be delivered and these degrees conferred by any community or community/technical college or state university.

(4) Associate in Fine Arts (AFA) degree programs may be delivered and these degrees conferred by any community or community/technical college or state university.

(5) Associate in Science (AS) degree programs may be delivered and these degrees conferred by any community, community/technical, technical college or state university.

(6) Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree programs may be delivered and the degree conferred by any community, community/technical or technical college.

(7) Diploma programs may be delivered and the award conferred by any community, community/technical or technical college.

(8) Certificates/Certificate programs, except for Graduate Certificates, may be delivered and the award conferred by any institution. Graduate Certificates may be awarded only by state universities.

Date of Implementation: 7/01/99,

Date of Adoption: 6/16/99,

Date of First Reading: January 21-22, 2004

Date Planned for Second Reading: March 16-17, 2003

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