

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Co-Admissions

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

The purpose of this request is to permit the universities and colleges to establish a “co-admission” category for admission of students. Co-admission will allow students who begin their academic program at a community college, to establish an uninterrupted pathway from the associate’s degree to the bachelor’s degree, through early identification and structured advisement opportunities at both the community college and at the institution offering the bachelor’s degree. Further, co-admission will facilitate continuous academic advising and the monitoring of progress toward final degree attainment.

Community college students enrolled full-time and in good academic standing who have completed between 12 and 30 credits at the community college and at least one college-level English and one college-level mathematics course will be eligible for co-admission status. Community college students will complete a co-admission application, authorizing both the community college and the four-year institution to share academic transcript information each semester for the purpose of academic advising and establishing a clear pathway to both the associate’s and bachelor’s degrees. The four-year institution will maintain an active student record for each student in this category, supporting continuous transfer credit evaluation and assessment of progress toward the bachelor’s degree.

The home institution of the co-admitted student will be the community college. Program requirements for full-time student status are met through enrollment at the home institution. Co-admission students are expected to remain at the community college until they have earned credits available to students in the co-admission program. The community college is responsible for the payment of fees at both institutions.

Community college students will maintain good academic standing and complete the requirements for progression as outlined in the community college policy. Upon completion of the associate’s degree at the community college, the student will be granted full enrollment at the four-year level.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 5*) to authorize a co-admission program whereby qualified students may be co-admitted at a community college and four-year institution under certain circumstances. (See Policy Proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

NSHE institutions have made a substantial commitment to the “Complete College America” initiative. National data indicate that of community college students who intended to earn a bachelor’s degree, 66% actually transferred to a four year institution and only 14% earned the bachelor’s degree. (Source: NSHE Presentation to the Board of Regents, December 2009).

The Fall 2004 NSHE community college cohort of degree seeking students numbered 1,968. Of this number, 751 had earned an NSHE degree by December 2010. Specifically, 442 earned the Associate’s degree and 309 earned the Bachelor’s degree. (Source: NSHE 2009 Completions Indicator Report)

Individuals most seriously effected in volatile economic times are those who have not earned the associate's or bachelor's degrees. The average unemployment rate in 2010 was 8.2% overall. For those who had an associate's degree, the average unemployment rate was 7%. For those who had earned a bachelor's degree, the average unemployment rate was 5.4%.(NSHE Report , September 2011, Committee on Access and Affordability)

The rate of bachelor's degree attainment at an NSHE institution for the 2004 NSHE community college degree seeking cohort was 16%. This program is intended to improve the attainment of the both the associate's degree and the bachelor's degree at NSHE institutions.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

Students will receive coordinated advising each semester from both the community college and the four-year institution, ensuring a clear pathway to degree attainment.
Coursework taken at the community college will be transferred to the four-year institution each semester, allowing for timely and accurate advisement reporting and counseling.
Co-admission creates an expectation of degree completion at both the community college and four-year institution.
Co-admission supports an early commitment to bachelor's degree completion.
Students will have formalized opportunities to become familiar with the four-year institution through advisor contact and structured events designed to ease the transition from the two-year to the four-year institution.
Community college advisors will have access to the four-year institution's advising reports to assist students through their academic program.
Co-admitted students will be monitored by advisors both at the community college and four-year institution.
Both NSHE community colleges and universities may seek to improve degree attainment while optimizing resource availability through academic planning. The continuous assessment of academic progress toward degree attainment through academic advisement and degree audit reporting supports this effort.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

Students may not be interested in participation and may accomplish the same goals on their own if so motivated.

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

Current policies and procedures, such as transfer agreements and reverse transfer, may accomplish the same objectives through a less structured approach.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
X Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 5*
Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
Other: _____
X Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No **X** _____
Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 5
Simultaneous Admission to the Universities

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

Section 5. Simultaneous Admissions [~~to the Universities~~]

1. ***Admission Guarantee.*** Students seeking admission to a university whose high school grade point average or test scores are insufficient for admission will be offered enrollment at either a NSHE community college or state college with a subsequent guarantee of admission to the universities under the transfer criteria established in Title 4, Chapter 14.
2. ***Co-Admission.*** *A university or college may establish a program to co-admit a degree-seeking NSHE community college student if the student:*
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