



To: Superintendents, Secondary Principals, Curriculum Directors; NDUS VPs and Provosts

From: Kirsten Baesler, State Superintendent, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction

Dr. Mark Hagerott, Chancellor, North Dakota University System

Date: September 16, 2016

RE: Application Approved

The North Dakota State University System (NDUS) and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) worked together in April 2016 to draft a joint memo asking the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for an extension for enforcement of credential requirements for dual-credit instructors. The following is according to the [HLC's Faculty Roles and Qualifications](#):

Faculty teaching general education courses, or other non-occupational courses, hold a master's degree or higher in the discipline or subfield. If a faculty member holds a master's degree or higher in a discipline or subfield other than that in which he or she is teaching, that faculty member should have completed a minimum of 18 graduate credit hours in the discipline or subfield in which they teach.

The North Dakota University System successfully received an extension on dual-credit faculty qualifications from its accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission. By the end of that extension, all dual credit instructors will have 18 graduate credit hours (or equivalent) in the subject they are teaching. NDUS staff said the extension would help ensure that instructors were qualified to serve the increased role that dual credit courses have in students' academic careers. "With the extension, we have started a vigorous plan to make sure that all of the dual credit instructors meet the highest qualification standards," said Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Richard Rothaus. "Dual credit is a critical part of helping our students, especially in rural areas, get a head-start in higher education."

State Superintendent, Kirsten Baesler says "the extension gives our teachers the necessary time to meet the requirements set forth by the Higher Learning Commission while keeping needed opportunities for students."

Dual-credit courses are offered in high schools and meet high school requirements and also count as college credits that count toward general education requirements. All 11 public colleges and universities within NDUS accept all dual credit courses from Minnesota and North Dakota. Historically, the Bank of North Dakota has helped underwrite the tuition of dual credits for students on free and reduced meal plans."

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the North Dakota University System or the Office of Academic Support at NDDPI.

The extension will last until August 31, 2022.