



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: April 7, 2016

RE: Application for extension for dual-credit faculty credentials to be filed this spring

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) and the North Dakota University System (NDUS) have been working together regarding the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) increased focus on credentials for dual-credit instructors. According to the HLC's Faculty Roles and Qualifications available at http://download.hlcommission.org/FacultyGuidelines_2016_OPB.pdf :

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.

NDUS is submitting an application for an extension on behalf of all public North Dakota colleges and universities that offer dual credit. The application for the extension is due by December 15, 2016, but NDUS is preparing the materials now, and plans to submit the application this spring.

If NDUS's application is approved by the HLC, an extension of up to September 2022 could be granted. This application is only for dual-credit programs. The qualification standards for faculty teaching career and technical education courses are unaffected by these guidelines.

Information will be provided as it becomes available. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the college or university that your school has been working with, North Dakota University System or the Office of Academic Support at NDDPI.