SYSTEM COUNCIL OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICERS
AGENDA

November 7, 2018
8:30 am – 9:30 am

The System Council of Chief Academic Officers will meet in KSN/Black & Gold (Room 250A) located in Memorial Union, 1 Kellogg Circle, Emporia, Kansas 66801. SCOCAO is co-chaired by Todd Carter, Seward County CC, and Lynette Olson, PSU.

I.   Welcome and Introductions   Lynette Olson, Co-Chair

    A.   Introductions

    B.   Approve Meeting Minutes from September 19, 2018   *p. 2*

II.   Update

    A.   Transfer and Articulation Council   Jon Marshall, Allen CC

    B.   Get Ahead Initiative   Tim Peterson, KBOR   *p. 4*

    C.   Reverse Transfer
       - *Communication Plan*   Samantha Christy-Dangermond, KBOR *p. 7*
       - *Best Practices: WSU & Butler CC*   Gina Crabtree, WSU
                                            Willow Dean, Butler CC

III.   Other Matters

    A.   Proposed Changes to the State Authorization   Jean Redeker, KBOR   *p.11*
          Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) Guidelines

    B.   *Proposed Changes to KBOR Policy Ch. III.A.9,*   David Cook, KU   *p.14*
          Definition of Baccalaureate Degree   Michael McCloud, JCCC
       - *History of Board Policy*   Tim Peterson, KBOR   *p.15*

IV.   Adjournment

System Council of Chief Academic Officers

MINUTES
Wednesday September 19, 2018

The September 19, 2018, meeting of the System Council of Chief Academic Officers was called to order by Co-Chair Todd Carter at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was held in Suite 530 located in the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 S.W. Jackson, Topeka, KS.

In Attendance:

Members:	Todd Carter, Seward County CC	Lynette Olson, PSU	Brad Bennett, Colby CC
	David Cordle, ESU	Jeff Briggs, FHSU	Michael Fitzpatrick, Pratt CC
	Charles Taber, KSU	Carl Lejuez, KU	Stephani Johns-Hines, SATC
	JuliAnn Mazachek, Washburn	Rick Muma, WSU	
Staff:	Jean Redeker	Karla Wiscombe	Sam Christy-Dangermond
	Tim Peterson	Max Fridell	Cynthia Farrier
Others:	Jon Marshall, Allen CC	Elaine Simmons, Barton CC	Kim Krull, Butler CC
	Steven Lovett, ESU	Michelle Schoon, Cowley CC	Lori Winningham, Butler CC
	Steve Loewen, FHTC	Adam Borth, Fort Scott CC	Ryan Ruda, Garden City CC
	Erin Shaw, Highland CC	Cindy Hoss, Hutchinson CC	Kara Wheeler, Independence CC
	Michael McCloud, JCCC	Rick Moehring, JCCC	Ed Kremer, KCKCC
	Matt Lindsey, KICA	Brian Niehoff, KSU	Spencer Wood, KSU
	Mike Werle, KUMC	Aileen Ball, KU	Betty Smith-Campbell, WSU
	David Cook, KU	Cliff Morris, PSU	Nancy Zenga-Beneda, Cloud CC
	Linnea GlenMaye, WSU		

Co-Chair Todd Carter welcomed everyone and started the introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rick Muma moved that the minutes of the June 20, 2018, meeting be approved. Following the second of Jeff Briggs, the motion carried.

UPDATES

A. Transfer and Articulation Council update was provided by Jon Marshall, Allen Community College. A handout with the 2018 Kansas Core Outcomes Groups' (KCOG) courses, faculty chairs, and TAAC Liaisons was distributed. KCOG conference will be held October 12th at the University of Kansas, Edwards campus. Registration will begin September 24th for faculty attending in person.

B. Developmental Education Working Group update was provided by Sam Christy-Dangermond, KBOR. A handout of the Recommended Scores by the Placement/Assessment Policy Committee was distributed. The recommended scores were updated to reflect the Next Generation Accuplacer exams. The recommended scores are on the Board's agenda for action this afternoon. The Committee will meet this year to discuss preliminary approach for a validity study over the next couple of years, using the new scores.

C. Reverse Transfer update was provided by Sam Christy-Dangermond, KBOR. Handouts containing Reverse Transfer data and procedures were distributed. Registrars were convened last spring and updated the procedures document. Five distinct steps in Reverse Transfer were reviewed. Universities are asked to partner with a two year college and work on resolving issues in the procedures and

report to the Reverse Transfer group. Colleges will meet October 18th and Universities will meet October 29th. Reverse Transfer Data was analyzed, and the group will focus on identifying and informing eligible students. Discussion was held. Rick Muma suggested WSU and Butler CC present best practices at the November 7th meeting, and board staff will contact these institutions to ask them to present.

D. Get Ahead Initiative update was provided by Tim Peterson, KBOR.
    Handouts containing updates for the Get Ahead Initiative and GetAheadKansas.org website activity were distributed. Discussion was held. KCIA will discuss available online programs to list on the website at their meeting on September 20th.

E. Apply Kansas update was provided by Jean Redeker, KBOR.
    October is Apply Kansas month. April Cozine, WSU is leading the statewide campaign to increase the number of students who apply to college. Private colleges in Kansas waive application fees and Kansas public colleges utilize a waiver form. Volunteers work with high school counselors and students to complete college applications during the school day. There are currently 75 registered high school sites in Kansas. Jean Redeker will forward an e-mail with the Social Media information (#ApplyKS). More information available at: https://www.kacrao.org/applyks.

OTHER MATTERS

A. Jean Redeker presented the proposed changes to the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) Guidelines.
    A handout listing the 2017-2018 SARA enrollments was distributed. Discussion was held. Jean Redeker requested the institutions submit their feedback prior to the November 7th SCOCAO meeting.

B. Proposed Changes to KBOR Policy Ch. III.A.9, Definition of Baccalaureate Degree was presented. Carl Lejuez, KU introduced David Cook, KU. Michael McCloud, JCCC, and David Cook, conducted the presentation. A handout with the proposed policy change was distributed. Discussion was held. Institutions will discuss with faculty on their campus and provide feedback at the November 7th SCOCAO meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Brad Bennett moved to adjourn the meeting. Following the second of Michael Fitzpatrick, the motion passed. The Co-Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Get *AHEAD* in Kansas!

Adult Higher Education Accessible Degrees
Kansas Board of Regents
Lumina Foundation Strategy Labs
Technical Assistant Grant Summary
October 31, 2018

The Kansas Board of Regents received a $50,000 Lumina Foundation Strategy Labs technical assistance grant in October of 2017 for a statewide returning adult student initiative to support the Board's sixty percent attainment rate goal by 2020. More than 300,000 Kansas adults have some college but no degree, and approximately 37,000 of them have completed two or more years of college according to the National Student Clearinghouse.

An advisory council with representatives from the two-year and four-year institutions, the Kansas Department of Commerce, the Kansas National Guard, the State Library of Kansas, Leadership Kansas, KTWU, and Go Topeka was established in November to help guide the development and implementation of the Get AHEAD initiative. The advisory council met on January 17, February 15, April 18, and September 13. The System Council of Chief Academic Officers was updated on the initiative on November 15 and December 20, 2017, and on March 26 and September 19, 2018.

The Lumina Foundation grant funds supported the communication strategies listed below. A summary of the grant expenditures and the financial support provide by the Board is included with this report.

WEBSITE
Five Get AHEAD webpages were added to the Students section of the KBOR website and included information about seven featured online baccalaureate degree completion programs, reverse transfer, credit for prior learning, financial aid, and resources for adult students. The website also includes links to all of the online associate and baccalaureate degree programs offered by the public two and four-year institutions. Meetings with the featured program representatives were held via Skype on March 7 and 13, April 25, June 28, and September 11. They provided suggestions on the initiative along with updates on their respective website traffic and program inquiries. The website attracted 6,237 total page views and 4,748 unique visitors as of September 30, 2018.

TV/RADIO ADS
A 30 second and 15 second PBS video, and a 15 second NPR radio spot, began airing in late March and were run more than 100 times on KTWU, KPR, and KMUW through the end of August. The KSNT and WIBW television stations in Topeka also broadcast the video as a public service announcement. The radio spots were also run on the KMAJ and KFDI radio stations in Topeka and Wichita in October.

POSTERS
A full color poster was distributed across the state in May to the 32 public colleges and universities, 23 workforce centers, 375 public libraries, 103 county extension offices, 38 Kansas National Guard installations, 40 Leadership Kansas participants, 27 temp staffing agencies and 23 local chambers of commerce. Additional posters were distributed to Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth.

PRINT AND ONLINE ADS
A statewide media release about the Get AHEAD initiative was issued on Tuesday, May 8, by the Board office. A print and online Get AHEAD ad was run in the Emporia newspaper on Saturday, May 12, and in the Hays, Lawrence, Manhattan, Pittsburg, Salina, Topeka and Wichita newspapers on Sunday, May 13. An ad also ran in the August issue of Kansas Magazine, which has 36,000 subscribers and is available at 300 newsstands across the state, and in the Kansas Association of Community Foundations annual conference schedule in October.

POSTCARDS to POTENTIAL COMPLETERS
For the first time in its history, the National Student Clearinghouse provided the names and mailing addresses of approximately 37,000 Kansas "potential completers" who earned two or more years of college credit but no degree between 2008 and 2017. This was the primary Get AHEAD target audience, which includes over 15,000 adults who attended both a two-year and four-year institution and, thus, may be good candidates for reverse transfer. A postcard was mailed in October to the potential completers.
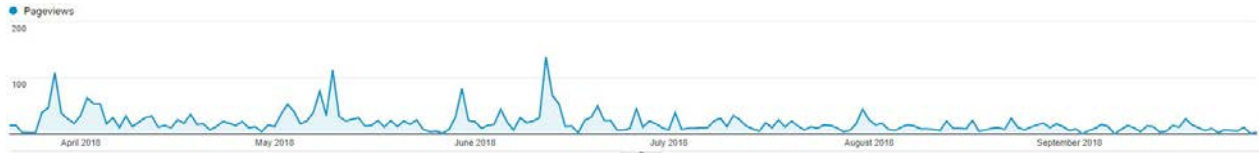
PRESENTATIONS
An overview of the Get AHEAD initiative was presented to the Achieve Kansas coalition in Wichita on February 13, to university and community college admissions personnel at the Kansas State University Olathe campus on June 8, and to academic and technology leaders at the annual Summer Institute on Distance Learning and Instructional Technology at Johnson County Community College on August 4.

EVALUATION
Dr. Sue Maes, Dean Emeritus of the K-State Global Campus, interviewed the seven baccalaureate degree program representatives and six of the advisory council members to assess the efficacy of the Get AHEAD initiative. Both groups were very positive about the initiative and provided recommendations for the future. A summary of each set of interviews are included with this report.

Get AHEAD Website Analytics

March 21 – September 30, 2018

	Pageviews	Unique Pageviews	Average Time on Page	Entrances
Homepage	3,849	2,701	00:01:10	2,235
Featured Programs	1,200	1,015	00:02:41	238
Financial Aid	461	432	00:01:19	62
Credit for Prior Learning	431	364	00:01:34	37
Reverse Transfer	236	194	00:01:06	42
Resources for Adult Students*	60	42	00:03:45	12
TOTAL	6,237	4,748	-	2,626

A total of 1,575 users (40.9 percent) accessed the Get AHEAD landing page directly or from the Kansas Board of Regents website. 1,541 (40.0 percent) accessed the homepage via an organic search through a search engine. 733 users (19.1 percent) accessed the Get AHEAD landing page by clicking from an external website. The following are the top external referrals:

Referral Page	Number of Referrals
wichita.edu	285
Kumed.sharepoint.com	72
Themercury.com	51
Facebook.com	36
Twitter.com	33
Thechungreport.com	20
Pittstate.edu	17
Salina.com	15
Kansas.com	11
Gannett-cdn.com	9
Emporiagazette.com	8

*Page added August 30, 2018

Update to Reverse Transfer Communication Plan   **Sam Christy-Dangermond**

Summary

Kansas public postsecondary institutions have been collaborating on Reverse Transfer since 2014. Reverse Transfer is the process of retroactively granting associate degrees from the most recently attended community college or technical college by combining the credits a student earns at that college and the credits they earn after transferring to a Kansas public university. Recent data shared at the September 19, 2018 SCOCAO meeting showed there were 230 students who gave consent (opted in) for Reverse Transfer in 2017, out of a possible 1,467 who met eligibility requirements. Since students must opt in to the process to be considered for a Reverse Transfer degree, getting this consent is key to this initiative. There was discussion about developing common language reflecting the value of the associate degree to encourage more students to opt in. The Reverse Transfer Communication Plan has been updated to include this language and is being presented to SCOCAO for feedback.   *11/7/18*

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

Reverse Transfer

Students Transferring from Community Colleges and Technical Colleges Without an Associate Degree - Academic Year 2017

Institution	1+ Transfer	30+ Transfer	45+ Transfer	Opt-Ins
Emporia State University	204	132	106	3
Fort Hays State University	545	316	209	0
Kansas State University	818	409	253	43
Pittsburg State University	256	167	104	27
University of Kansas	688	414	273	19
University of Kansas Medical Center	56	36	29	0
Washburn University	378	211	148	11
Wichita State University	828	507	374	127
Total:	3,773	2,192	1,496	230

Source: KHEDS AY Collection

Notes:

Transfers Hours columns represent students who were reported as degree-seeking transfer students by a university in Academic Year 2017, who earned at least one credit from any Kansas community college or technical college during semesters prior to attending the university, and who did not already earn an associate degree or higher in KHEDS Academic Year collection. Includes credit for   remedial coursework and for grades of PASS, A, B, C, or D.

Opt-Ins column represents unduplicated count of students who opted in to Reverse Transfer after being contacted by the university about their eligibility.

REVERSE TRANSFER
COMMUNICATION PLAN

Created for Institution staff (public information officers, communications directors, designers, webmasters) responsible for messaging to promote Reverse Transfer on institution websites and other marketing materials.

September 2018

★ LEADING HIGHER EDUCATION ★

OVERVIEW

This document contains agreed upon language to be used online and in digital and print communication resources, as well as a shared visual identity to support the clear and consistent messaging for Reverse Transfer. Additionally, to support clarity of Reverse Transfer, a "micro-logo" may be added to both digital and print course catalogs across the system, as institutions are able.

EXPLAINING REVERSE TRANSFER

Depending on audience and format, select one of the following descriptions; use font style, size, color, layout and alignment to be consistent with your Graphic Standards.

Short – Appropriate for all audiences

Suggested text:
What is Reverse Transfer?
Reverse Transfer allows students to earn the associate degree from the most recently attended community college or technical college by combining credits earned there and credits earned after transferring to a Kansas public university.

Why do Reverse Transfer?
On average, associate degree holders earn about $200,000 more over a lifetime than individuals with some college but no degree.

Visit http://www.kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/reverse-transfer [OR institution website] for more information.

Long – Intended for student audience

Suggested text:
What is Reverse Transfer?
Reverse Transfer allows you to receive your associate degree from your most recent community college or technical college by combining the credits you earned there and the credits you earn after transferring to a Kansas public university.

Within your first year, if you transfer coursework from a community college or technical college to a public university, you will be notified if you are eligible to be considered for Reverse Transfer. You are eligible if you have completed 45 credit hours at one or more colleges and if you consent to the release of your academic records. If you consent (also known as "opting in") your academic records will be evaluated for degree completion and your degree will be conferred based upon a satisfactory evaluation. Opting in is the first step.

Why do Reverse Transfer?
A college degree is key to economic opportunity. Research shows that on average, people with more education make more money than those with less. Associate degree holders average about $200,000 more over a lifetime than individuals with some college but no degree, while bachelor's degree holders average over $720,000 more.

The associate degree represents an educational achievement, a credential for career advancement, and a building block to additional academic accomplishments. Further, research shows that students who earn the associate degree via reverse transfer are more likely to continue their education and complete a bachelor's degree.

If you've earned it, don't you deserve it?

Contact the Registrar's Office for more information.

VISUAL IDENTITY

To assist our students in understanding Reverse Transfer information, each community college, technical college, and university will have correlated visual "logos" branding the communication of information related to Reverse Transfer in a shared way, which will serve to underscore the unified approach of our public postsecondary system.

Logos have been developed for **Reverse Transfer** and are presented below.

Logo – Created for each Institution

For use on websites communicating Reverse Transfer (required), and any other digital or print spaces that discuss Reverse Transfer (optional).

Emporia State University:

COURSE ▶ TRANSFER
REVERSE ◀ TRANSFER

Wichita State University:

COURSE ▶ TRANSFER
REVERSE ◀ TRANSFER

Kansas State University:

COURSE ▶ TRANSFER
REVERSE ◀ TRANSFER

University of Kansas:

COURSE ▶ TRANSFER
REVERSE ◀ TRANSFER

Fort Hays State University:

COURSE ▶ TRANSFER
REVERSE ◀ TRANSFER

Pittsburg State University:

COURSE ▶ TRANSFER
REVERSE ◀ TRANSFER

Contact Matt Keith, Director of Communications at the Kansas Board of Regents, for necessary graphic files: mkeith@ksbor.org or 785-430-4237.

Discuss Proposed Changes to State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) Guidelines

Summary

SARA allows accredited degree-granting institutions to offer distance education in other member states without having to seek individual authorization from those states. The Board, serving as the State Portal Entity for Kansas, accepts applications from degree-granting institutions of all sectors and approves their participation in SARA. Staff recommends the Board establish guidelines that detail when it will limit or prohibit the distance education enrollments of institutions provisionally participating in SARA and seeks institutional feedback on the proposed recommendations.   *November 7, 2018*

Background

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a voluntary agreement among member states and U.S. territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. It is intended to make it easier for students to take online courses offered by institutions based in another state.

The Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) serves as the State Portal Entity for all institutions domiciled in Kansas. KBOR accepts applications from degree-granting institutions of all sectors and approves their participation in SARA in compliance with policy established by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).

Institutions and Participation

The State Portal Entity determines whether an institution in its state is eligible for participation in SARA. Institutions participating in SARA must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be a degree-granting institution, awarding associate degrees or higher;
2. Be physically located in the United States;
3. Hold proper authorization from Congress, a U.S. state or a federally recognized tribe to award degrees; and
4. Hold accreditation as a single entity from an accrediting association recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education, and which has formal recognition to accredit distance education programs[1].

NC-SARA policy allows for the provisional admission or renewal of an institution in the following circumstances when an institution is:

1. On provisional status or the equivalent with its accrediting body;
2. Using a letter of credit or is operating with a cash management agreement with the U.S. Department of Education; or
3. Under investigation for issues related to its academic quality, financial stability, or student consumer protection[2].

Additional oversight measures may be added by the State Portal Entity to institutions participating in a provisional status to ensure SARA requirements are met regarding program quality, financial stability, and consumer protection.

On March 12, 2018, NC-SARA granted additional oversight mechanisms which included measures that allow a State Portal Entity to limit or prohibit distance education enrollments for institutions on provisional status.

Proposal

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[1] SARA Manual, Policy, Section 3.1
[2] SARA Manual, Policy, Section 3.2

In response to the additional oversight mechanisms granted on March 12, 2018, staff seek guidance from the Board as to when KBOR will limit or prohibit the distance education enrollments of institutions provisionally participating in SARA. During BAASC's June 20, 2018 meeting, staff recommended the Board adopt the following guidelines, and seeks institutional feedback on these recommendations.

- Institutions will not be allowed further enrollments under SARA if one the following conditions apply:
    o An institution is placed on probation, or its equivalent status, with its <u>regional/national</u> accrediting body.
    o An institution is under <u>public</u> investigation for issues related to its academic quality, financial stability, or student consumer protection.

- Institutions will be allowed to continue enrollments under SARA if they are using a letter of credit or operating under a cash management agreement with the U.S. Department of Education and meet the following standard.

    For the most recent fiscal or calendar year or for the two most recent fiscal or calendar years combined, an institution must demonstrate:
    o A minimum ratio of current assets to current liabilities of at least 1:1;
    o A positive net worth in which the total assets exceed the total liabilities; or
    o A profit earned or positive change in net assets.

- Institutions will be allowed to continue enrollments under SARA if they are placed on notice, or its equivalent status, with their <u>regional/national</u> accrediting body.

2017-2018 SARA Enrollments (nc-sara.org/content/enrollment-reports)

SARA Members (KS)	Sector	SARA Enrollments	
Grantham University	private, for-profit	8623	
Baker University	private, not-for-profit	201	
Barclay College	private, not-for-profit	45	
Benedictine College	private, not-for-profit	0	
Central Baptist Theological Seminary	private, not-for-profit	24	
Friends University	private, not-for-profit	40	
Kansas Christian College	private, not-for-profit	55	
Kansas Wesleyan University	private, not-for-profit	22	
MidAmerica Nazarene University	private, not-for-profit	169	
Newman University	private, not-for-profit	23	
Ottawa University	private, not-for-profit	1032	
Saint Paul School of Theology	private, not-for-profit	0	
Southwestern College	private, not-for-profit	334	
Sterling College	private, not-for-profit	2	
Tabor College	private, not-for-profit	29	
University of Saint Mary	private, not-for-profit	249	
Cleveland University-Kansas City	private, not-for-profit	3	
subtotal		**10851**	57% of total enrollments
Allen Community College	public, coordinated	81	
Barton Community College	public, coordinated	543	
Butler Community College	public, coordinated	245	
Cloud County Community College	public, coordinated	43	
Colby Community College	public, coordinated	145	
Cowley Community College	public, coordinated	92	
Dodge City Community College	public, coordinated	185	
Flint Hills Technical College	public, coordinated	6	
Fort Scott Community College	public, coordinated	33	
Garden City Community College	public, coordinated	43	
Hutchinson Community College	public, coordinated	243	
Independence Community College	public, coordinated	7	
Johnson County Community College	public, coordinated	578	
Kansas City Kansas Community College	public, coordinated	200	
Labette Community College	public, coordinated	3	
Neosho County Community College	public, coordinated	13	
Pratt Community College	public, coordinated	78	
Seward County Community College	public, coordinated	51	
Washburn University	public, coordinated	156	
subtotal		**2745**	14% of total enrollments
Emporia State University	public, governed	586	
Fort Hays State University	public, governed	2721	
Kansas State University	public, governed	889	
Pittsburg State University	public, governed	194	
University of Kansas	public, governed	892	
Wichita State University	public, governed	155	
subtotal		**5437**	29% of total enrollments
AY 2018 TOTAL Enrollments		**19033**	

Proposal to Enhance Student Transfer Pathways and Collaborations Between Johnson County Community College (JCCC) and the University of Kansas (KU)

JCCC and KU jointly seek to change KBOR Policy Manual Chapter 111.A.9 Degrees B. 2a-d.

Problem: Serving transfer learners is an essential practice for four-year institutions and warrants a fresh review of policy definitions. Currently KBOR Policy Manual Chapter Ill.A.9 statement (b) indicates bachelor degrees must include 60 credit hours from institutions with a majority of degree offerings that are at the baccalaureate level.

This measure is a common hurdle for transfer students who often end up having to retake courses they have already completed at a community college to stay in compliance with the policy. This update ensures KU students do not need to find work arounds for freshman and sophomore level courses when they are over their 60 credit hour limit. Removing the 60 hour language, and maintaining the 45 hours of upper division credit hours, also ensures that we maintain the rigor of our degree programs at KU.

- When the policy was updated to sum baccalaureate hours to 120 (see (2.a), it appears (2.b-d) were not adjusted.
- Current definitions are not competitive with Missouri four-year institutional policy.
- Transfer students currently experience credit loss or forced non-Kansas school enrollment options.
- Definition adjustment proposed below does not compromise degree rigor.

Solution: JCCC and KU jointly seek to modify the definition of a baccalaureate degree (Ch. III.A.9) as follows:

(2) "Baccalaureate degree" means a degree:

(a) Requiring the equivalent of at least four academic years of full-time postsecondary study consisting of courses totaling a minimum of 120 semester credit hours in the liberal arts, sciences or professional fields.

(b) Incorporating in its program design ~~the equivalent of two or more academic years of full-time study consisting of courses totaling a minimum of 60 semester credit hours from institutions that have a majority of degree conferrals at or above the baccalaureate level, and~~ a minimum of 45 semester credit hours in upper division courses <u>from institutions that have a majority of degree conferrals at or above the baccalaureate level</u>. ~~Institutions are not permitted to make programmatic exceptions.~~ Institutions may make a limited number of exceptions from the 60-hour requirement for individual students, up to a maximum of 6 hours.

(c) The degree shall require distinct specialization, i.e., a "major," which should entail approximately the equivalent of one academic year of work in the main subject plus one academic year in related subjects, or two academic years in closely related subjects within a liberal arts interdisciplinary program.

(d) The equivalent of the first two academic years of full-time study (associate degree programs ~~ordinarily require 64, but in some cases may extend up to~~ <u>may vary from 60-</u>72~~,~~ <u>or more</u> semester credit hours) may be from institutions that have a majority of degree conferrals below the baccalaureate level.

Review of the Board's Policy on the Baccalaureate Degree Definition

> *The University of Kansas and Johnson County Community College are requesting a change to the definition of Baccalaureate Degree that appears in the Degree Definitions and Standards Policy adopted by the Board in May 2002. At its September 2018 meeting, SCOCAO requested a history of the policy.*

Background

At the September 2000 Council of Chief Academic Officers (COCAO) meeting, Washburn University announced a new 2+2 baccalaureate degree completion program in which students could transfer up to 84 credits hours from participating community colleges. There was no Board policy or standard at the time limiting the number of credit hours that could be transferred from a community college and counted toward completion of a baccalaureate degree at a public university.

The chief academic officers of the state universities, at their retreat in June 2001, proposed that no more than two academic years of instruction (i.e., 64 credit hours) should be from schools that do not offer baccalaureate degrees. After several months of discussion by the Council of Chief Academic Officers, the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents, and the Council of Presidents, the Board adopted a baccalaureate degree definition in November 2001 that stated, "at least 54 semester hours shall be in upper division courses."

At the April 2002 Board meeting, Dr. Amanda Goldbeck, the Board's Vice President for Academic Affairs, reported the "standard is implementable, but it would be a struggle and several councils have discussed alternatives." The Board directed staff to craft a final recommendation to replace the requirement that baccalaureate degrees have at least 54 upper division hours. COCAO recommended baccalaureate degrees have a minimum of 60 credit hours from institutions that have a majority of degree conferrals at the baccalaureate level and 45 upper division hours. The COCAO recommendation was adopted as policy by the Board in May 2002 with the "intent that institutions are encouraged to provide students maximum flexibility within the parameters of this policy to assure degree completion in a timely and economical manner."

Neighboring State Policies

The Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education policy on credit transfer states that "students may transfer more than 64 credit hours for lower division courses from either Missouri associate degree-granting or baccalaureate degree-granting institutions. Any additional lower division course credits above 64 credit hours will be accepted in transfer if the credits are applicable to the baccalaureate degree or are prerequisites for an upper division course in the major." A baccalaureate degree normally requires no more than 120 semester credit hours unless necessary for accreditation or licensure.

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education statewide transfer articulation agreements allow students to "complete the bachelor's degree in no more than 60 credits at the receiving four-year institution (for a total of 120 credits)," except where the degree program received a waiver from the Commission to exceed 120 credits.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education policy states that, "baccalaureate degrees shall be based upon a minimum of 60 hours, excluding physical education activity courses, at a baccalaureate degree-granting institution, 40 hours of which must be upper-division course work excluding physical education activity courses." A baccalaureate degree requires completion of at least 120 credit hours.

The Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education has no statewide policy for baccalaureate degree standards. The University of Nebraska system does not have a systemwide policy, and allows individual campuses (Lincoln, Omaha, Kearney) to set their own policies. The Nebraska State College system will accept a total of 66 hours in transfer from a two-year college unless otherwise accepted by agreement, and their board policy limits baccalaureate degrees to 120 credit hours.