

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

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Educational Policy
Board of Trustees

Date of Meeting: March 21, 2007
April 18, 2007

Agenda Item: Proposed Amendment to Policy 3.16 International Baccalaureate Credit (Second Reading)

Proposed Policy Change Approvals Required by Policy Other Approvals Monitoring

Information

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Linda L. Baer, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs
Cyndy Crist, System Director

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

The policy requires all Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to grant credit for scores of 4 or higher on International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations as specified by MS120B.13. This reflects two changes from current policy, which specifies a score of 5 or higher for credit awards and only recognizes Standard Level examinations for credit when included in an IB diploma. Significant research and discussion about appropriate practices for awarding credits for some individual Standard Level examinations has informed the proposed policy changes and development of a new procedure to guide implementation of the revised policy.

Background Information:

These policy revisions were made to comply with MS120B.13 and to ensure that the language of the policy was clear and precise.

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:

This is the second reading of a revised policy for granting credit for students who complete IB examinations. The policy assures consistency of credit awards for all students in our system and complies with MS120B.13 for eligible high school students.

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

Second Reading

BOARD ACTION

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO POLICY 3.16 INTERNATIONAL
BACCALAUREATE CREDIT**

1 INTRODUCTION

2
3 The Office of the Chancellor is submitting a revised policy for granting credit for students who complete
4 an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma or individual IB examinations.

**5
6 BACKGROUND**

7
8 The Minnesota 2005 K-12 omnibus bill included a provision directing the Minnesota State Colleges and
9 Universities to grant credit to students who achieve a score of 4 or higher on “the International
10 Baccalaureate (IB) examination.” This requires a change in Board Policy 3.16, which specifies that a
11 score of 5 or higher is required in order for a student to receive college/university credit and that credit
12 shall not be awarded for individual Standard Level examinations.

13
14 The IB program is relatively small in Minnesota, and many of our institutions have never been asked to
15 award IB credits. In addition, the IB program is a complex one, consisting of two levels of courses and
16 tests (Higher Level and Standard Level) and including an option for students to combine six tests to earn
17 an IB diploma.

18
19 Revisions to Policy 3.16 and development of a new Procedure 3.16.1 were delayed in order to conduct
20 research into the two levels of examinations; policies and practices of other colleges and universities; and
21 the expectations and experiences of secondary IB teachers. While this research was being conducted, all
22 colleges and universities in the system were advised to comply immediately with the statutory provisions
23 regarding IB.

24
25 The revision of current IB policy and development of a new procedure to guide its implementation have
26 taken place as part of a broader effort to ensure consistency throughout the system in granting credit for
27 prior learning to our students.

**28
29 CONSULTATION**

30
31 Consultation has occurred or will occur as follows:

- 32 • Meetings of Chief Academic Officers, Chief Student Affairs Officers, and Deans, 10/27/05,
33 5/24/06
- 34 • Academic and Student Affairs Policy Council, 11/15/05; 1/25/06; 2/7/07; 4/5/07.
- 35 • Reviewed at MSCF Meet and Confer, 12/8/05; 3/22/07.
- 36 • Reviewed at IFO Meet and Confer, 12/8/05; 3/3/06, 4/07/06; 2/23/07.
- 37 • Reviewed at MSUAASF Meet and Confer, 2/9/07.
- 38 • Reviewed at System Student Affairs Conference, 3/02/06.

- 1 • Reviewed at Leadership Council, 3/7/06; 3/6/07; 4/3/07.
- 2 • Reviewed by Minnesota IB Coordinators, 3/16/06
- 3 • Review of standard level math tests by a sample of two-year and year mathematics faculty, 7/06–
- 4 9/06

5
6 **FORMAL APPROVAL PROCESS**

7
8 The proposed policy amendment is being submitted for a second reading to the Board of Trustees at the
9 April 2007 meeting.

10
11 **RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION**

12
13 The Educational Policy Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

14
15 **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

16
17 The Board of Trustees approves the amendment to Policy 3.16 International Baccalaureate Credit.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

BOARD POLICY
Chapter 3. EDUCATIONAL POLICIES
Section 16. INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE CREDIT

1 **3.16 International Baccalaureate Credit**

2
3 **Part 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this policy is to establish ~~common~~ consistent practices among
4 all Minnesota State Colleges and Universities for ~~awarding~~ granting credit based on ~~to~~ students
5 performance on who have completed an International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations or
6 completion of an IB diploma in high school.

7
8 **Part 2. Definitions.**

9
10 **Subpart A. The International Baccalaureate (IB) program.** The IB program is an
11 internationally recognized program through which a secondary students completes a
12 comprehensive curriculum of rigorous study and demonstrates performance on IB
13 examinations. The examination for the diploma covers six subjects, three or four of
14 which must be at the higher level and others at the subsidiary level. A Sstudents may
15 present a full IB diploma or a certificate recognizing specific higher level or subsidiary
16 standard level test examination scores.

17
18 **Subpart B. Higher level IB examinations.** Higher level IB examinations assess work
19 for higher level courses which generally involve significant breadth and depth of
20 learning. They represent a recommended 240 teaching hours.

21
22 **Subpart C. Standard level IB examinations.** Standard level IB examinations assess
23 work completed at a narrower or less rigorous level than the higher level examinations.
24 They represent a recommended 150 teaching hours.

25
26 **Subpart D. IB Diploma.** The IB diploma covers six subjects and is awarded to students
27 who achieve specified scores on three higher level and three standard level examinations
28 or four higher level and two standard level examinations.

29
30 **Part 3. Credits for International Baccalaureate Policy.** Minnesota State Colleges and
31 Universities shall grant credit for scores of 4 or higher on individual IB examinations or
32 successful completion of the IB diploma according to Procedure 3.16.1 International
33 Baccalaureate Credit.

- 34
35 1. ~~Students who complete an IB diploma with a score of 30 or higher shall be offered 12~~
36 ~~quarter or 8 semester credits for each of three higher level examinations, plus 3 quarter or~~

- 1 ~~2 semester credits for each of the subsidiary exams, for a total of 45 quarter or 30~~
2 ~~semester credits.~~
- 3 ~~2. Credits shall be transcribed according to the same rules as those used for Advanced~~
4 ~~Placement (AP) exams. Where a test covers material that is substantially similar to an~~
5 ~~existing university course, credit for the course shall be awarded. Where a test covers~~
6 ~~material that is deemed to be college level but is not substantially similar to an existing~~
7 ~~course, elective credits shall be awarded in appropriate departments.~~
- 8 ~~3. No credit shall be given for subsidiary level exams other than those included as part of~~
9 ~~the IB diploma as described above, but students may receive credits as above for any~~
10 ~~higher level exams with a score of 5 or higher.~~

Date of Implementation: 7/17/96,

Date of Adoption: 7/17/96,

Date & Subject of Revisions: