

SENATE ACTION FORM

No. 1236

Subject: UNC participation in the CORE Initiative

Reference to Senate Minutes dated: October 10, 2022

Senate Action:

MOTION: APC – It is moved to endorse the recommendation of the Undergraduate Council for UNC to participate in the CORE Initiative by awarding AGS and AA degrees according to the state minimum requirements.

VOTE: Approved by voice vote.

Response requested:

- Approval for placement in University Catalog
- Approval for placement in University Regulations
- Recommendation to Board for placement in Board Policy Manual
- None (sent as information item)**
- Other action requested/comments:

Davit Senbet

Faculty Senate Chair

10/19/2022

Date

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Administrative review of Senate action (unnecessary for information items):

Reviewed by **VPAA/Provost**. Check if comments attached

Reviewed by **General Counsel**. Check if comments attached

Presidential action:

Approve Reject Return to Senate for discussion/modification (comments attached)

President/Designated Administrative Officer

Date

Date of Board approval (if applicable): not applicable

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED ORIGINAL AND ATTACHMENT TO THE FACULTY SENATE OFFICE, CARTER HALL 2004, BOX 75.
Faculty.Senate@unco.edu

Attachment to Senate Action #1236
Approved by the Faculty Senate
October 10, 2022

Subject: UNC Participation in the CORE Initiative

Originator/Date: Office of the Provost, Summer 2022

APC charged UGC to determine which degrees to award, 8/29/2022

Purpose: HB 21-1330 enables four-year institutions to award but not deliver AA degrees. Under the bill, all degrees require 70 credits total and at least 15 from us, and all of the credits must have already been completed by the student (we cannot require them to take any additional credits to earn the associates degree), and the student must not have established residency at any community college. There are minimum requirements for each degree type; we have the option to set additional requirements.

Rationale: Participation is optional, but UNC has signaled through participation on state working group that we will participate. Participation is consistent with our focus on serving traditionally underserved populations and ensuring they earn a credential and supports career readiness. Most other state institutions have signaled definite interest in participating. Outreach to eligible students affords us with an opportunity to recruit them back to complete a four-year bachelor's degree. This is strongly supported by the CDHE, CCHE and Governor's office.

The state has arranged to submit (and pay for) a "batch" application to HLC on behalf of all participating 4yrs who need HLC approval to offer AA degrees. The state has additional one-time monies which they have promised to allocate to offset operational costs. Many students may be eligible to receive awards from more than one 4yr institution, so it makes sense to be on the front end if we participate.

To award Associate of General Studies (AGS) degrees, the state minimum requires 15 general education (LAC) credits in any category and 70 or more total credits. The point of an AGS is to document that a student has earned some general, college level education so extra requirements seem out of sync with the degree. Further, this will get a credential to as many students as possible. An AGS based on state minimums provides maximum flexibility and ensures we can support the highest number of students in this way.

To award Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Sciences (AS) degrees, the state minimum requires the student has completed the 31 credit general education requirements (our 6 base areas of the LAC) and 70 or more total credits. To determine whether the student would receive an AA or AS would require some mechanism for determining whether the non-LAC credits were more appropriately classified as 'Arts' vs. 'Sciences.' and even the simplest mechanism we can come up with would require a very manual process by the staff of the Office of the Registrar. However, if we award AA degrees in all cases, we only need to check LAC completion and sufficient credits, which can be automated within degree works. There is no obvious benefit of having an AA vs an AS degree in terms of transferability and career earnings (what matters is an associates credential). Thus, UGC recommends only offering the AA degree at this level.
