

SENATE ACTION FORM

No. 1246

Subject: Core Initiative

Reference to Senate Minutes dated: February 27, 2023

Senate Action:

MOTION: APC – It is moved to approve the core initiative language.

VOTE: Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Response requested:

X Approval for placement in University Catalog, Undergraduate

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

2/28/2023

Faculty Senate Chair

Date

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

X Reviewed by VPAA/Provost. Check if comments attached

X Reviewed by General Counsel. Check if comments attached

Presidential action:

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

[Signature]

03/01/2023

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 #1246
Approved by the Faculty Senate
February 27, 2023

FACULTY SENATE POLICY PROPOSAL/MOTION

Subject: CORE Initiative – Recommended UG Policy Language

Originator: Charlie Couch, Registrar

Placement(s): Undergraduate Catalog

Approved by APC on 2/13/2023 and sent to Faculty Senate on 2/27/2023

Purpose/Rationale:

The Colorado Re-Engaged ([CORE](#)) Initiative enables four-year institutions in Colorado to award an earned associate degree to eligible students who have stopped-out from a baccalaureate program after earning at least 70 credit hours. In enacting the supporting legislation, the Colorado Legislature recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic forced many students – particularly those from low-income communities – to stop attending the state’s colleges and universities before attaining a bachelor’s degree. These stop-out students have invested a significant amount of time and money to advance their knowledge and skills through higher education, but do not have an academic credential to reflect this investment.

Data gathered by the Colorado Department of Higher Education indicates over 19,000 Coloradoans may be eligible for an associate degree under CORE. By offering qualifying stop-out students an earned associate degree for credits already completed, institutions participating in CORE can:

- Enable degree recipients to obtain higher paying jobs and more secure employment, which will improve economic prospects for these former students and their communities.
- Increase the number of Coloradoans with academic credentials and degrees, which will strengthen the state’s workforce and support the economic recovery of the business community.
- Better position degree recipients to return to higher education to complete a bachelor’s degree or higher.

UNC has agreed to support this initiative. As such, below is recommended UG catalog language.

Recommended UG Policy Language:

Colorado Re-Engaged (CORE) Initiative

The Colorado Re-Engaged (CORE) Initiative (HB 21-1330) enables four-year institutions in Colorado to award an earned associate’s degree to eligible students who have stopped-out of a baccalaureate program. Students may contact the Office of the Registrar if they believe they have fulfilled the eligibility requirements.

Eligibility

To be eligible for an associate’s degree under the CORE initiative, students must have:

- earned at least seventy (70) credit hours, including at least fifteen (15) credit hours of coursework satisfying statewide general education (i.e., Liberal Arts Curriculum (LAC)) requirements;
- been enrolled at UNC within the last ten (10) academic years;
- not been enrolled at UNC for at least two consecutive semesters;
- not earned fifteen (15) or more academic credits from a two-year institution in the Colorado Community College System before transferring to UNC; and
- not have earned a bachelor's degree.

Degrees Awarded

Students meeting all the CORE eligibility requirements will be awarded one of the following degrees:

- Associate of General Studies (A.G.S.) degree if they have completed between fifteen (15) and thirty (30) credits of the statewide general education requirements;* or
- Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree if they have completed all thirty-one (31) credits of the statewide general education requirements.

Learn more by visiting the Colorado Re-Engaged ([CORE](#)) Initiative website.

**Note: Students who are awarded the AGS degree and return to UNC to earn a bachelor's degree will be required to complete additional LAC coursework to bring their total general education credits to at least 31 and to fulfill UNC's International Studies and Multicultural Studies requirements . See Liberal Arts Curriculum.*