

# ACADEMICS, NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGE SYSTEM

**POLICY: 4730**

**Delivery of Distance Education Courses**

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## **BOARD POLICY**

This policy is designed to encourage the development and use of distance education courses for educational purposes, where appropriate, while ensuring a level of quality equivalent to that of regular on-campus credit instruction.

The Chancellor will encourage, facilitate and coordinate the distance education activities of the Nebraska State Colleges by reviewing plans, monitoring progress, and evaluating results as specified under the current policy.

## **PROCEDURE**

1. An annual Online Programs Report pertaining to the preceding twelve months shall be filed by each institution with the Chancellor for review at the October or November Board meeting. The Chancellor shall provide guidelines for the format and content of this report.
2. Any institution that intends to obtain, purchase or lease telecommunications transmission equipment, or seeks to plan and enter into consortial relationships with other organizations and agencies that would provide access to telecommunications transmission that would alter its capacity to deliver or extend the range of its delivery equipment, must receive approval of the Board.

## **Standards and Conditions**

1. Instructors responsible for credit courses offered through distance education must be faculty members or must meet the standards and procedures used by the institution for the appointment of faculty responsible for on-campus resident credit courses. Provision must be made for the review and approval of faculty by the appropriate administrator in the field(s) affected.
2. Procedures for evaluation of faculty responsible for credit courses offered through distance education must be equivalent to those used by the institution for the evaluation of faculty teaching resident credit courses.
3. Procedures for the evaluation of the organization and content of courses offered through distance education must be equivalent to those used for resident instruction.
4. Each course offered through distance education must include procedures for monitoring and assessing student performance. Those procedures, such as written exercises, papers, and examinations, must be equivalent to those used in comparable resident courses. Standards for success or failure in distance education courses must be as rigorous as those for resident credit courses.
5. The colleges have the responsibility to ensure that the student who registers in a distance education course is the same student who participates in and completes the course and receives the academic credit. The Chief Academic Officer at each college will establish a distance learning assessment policy that will include, at a minimum, a substantial culminating experience that is proctored. (See Board Policy 4220).
6. Each instructor of record in a course offered through distance education must provide timely feedback to students regarding their progress and performance by methods equivalent to those used in resident courses.
7. Students enrolled in distance education courses must be provided with academic support services appropriate to the program.

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