

DIN: 3500-1-01
Title of Policy: Regional Curriculum Alignment

Policy

The MnSCU two-year colleges of northwestern Minnesota are committed to providing educational access to the citizens of the region. The colleges will, therefore, work to maximize curriculum alignment of academic programs where practical and cost effective. To achieve this goal, the Academic Affairs and Standards Councils of Northwest Technical College, Minnesota State Community and Technical College, and Northland Community and Technical College will establish and follow curriculum processes that assure a regional focus in accordance with the following Guiding Principles:

1. It is recognized that the regional colleges need to be able to offer programs that meet the needs of their respective learners, industry, business and community stakeholders.
2. General Education courses are aligned through the MN Transfer Curriculum goals, therefore, general education program requirements will be determined by each college from their inventory of courses.
3. Where programs are currently aligned, an attempt will be made to keep them aligned. Faculty will present rationale for differing viewpoints to the local AASC councils to determine if the changes are appropriate and necessary.
4. Distance Education programs are considered seamless aligned programs.
5. Joint programs that include distance education and/or ITV delivery will remain aligned.
6. To facilitate communication and planning, regional AASC chairs will meet with regional Academic Leadership Team once each semester.

Purpose

To facilitate curriculum alignment and assure a regional focus on curriculum decisions, in addition to (not in place of) the college focus.

Responsibility

The table below describes responsibilities for this policy:

Group/Individual	Responsibility
Presidents	Communicate commitment to regional alignment where possible.
Provosts	Support and facilitate regional communication among academic officers and Academic Affairs and Standards Councils.
Academic Deans	Encourage that regional communication and collaboration is pursued and regional alignment policies are followed. Support and facilitate conversations and collaboration among faculty of the various colleges to the extent practical.
Academic Affairs and Standards Local Chairs	Encourage that regional alignment processes are followed when making curriculum decisions. Meet with other college AASC chairs to mutually discuss regional academic issues.

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Approved: Dr. Quistgaard	Date: 5-18-04	Check here if policy should appear in campus handbook:	

Supporting References

Listed below are college document(s) that support this policy:

Compliance References:

Listed below are references to compliance requirements (e.g. MnSCU policy, federal regulations).

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