

THE NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM TRANSFER AGREEMENT (GERTA)

Students who attend colleges and universities in the North Dakota University System are guaranteed that approved general education requirements successfully completed at one of the NDUS institutions will transfer to other NDUS institutions. This practice was made possible when the State Board of Higher Education adopted the General Education Requirements Transfer Agreement (GERTA).

BSC students who complete the general education course requirements for either the Associate in Arts or the Associate in Science degree and who accumulate 36 semester hours of course work in the areas of communications; arts and humanities; social sciences; and mathematics, science and technology will be exempt from taking any additional lower division general education courses at any NDUS institution to which they transfer.

The following stipulations apply:

1. Requirements must be met through completion of BSC courses. Credits obtained through CLEP exams, military training, challenge exam credits or other similar programs do not apply.
2. Courses must be completed at colleges or universities in the North Dakota University System.
3. Students must have obtained a grade of C or above for the course to meet GERTA requirements.

Students who plan to transfer to other NDUS institutions and who have met the requirements (referred to as GERTA Paragraph One requirements) should contact the BSC Student Records Office. An NDUS General Education Requirements (GER) verification form will be completed by the BSC Registrar and provided to, or on behalf of, the student making the request. GER verification forms document the fact that a student has completed NDUS GERTA Paragraph One requirements and is exempt from additional general education requirements.

The complete text of the State Board of Higher Education's General Education Transfer Agreement and the NDUS "Student Guide to Transfer Within the North Dakota University System" are available for reference purposes in administrative offices on campus, in the BSC Library and online at www.ndus.edu/students/ccn/gerta/default.asp.

Statement of Philosophy

The role of Enrichment is to explore areas of interest that lie beyond traditional textbook-bound course work. Many of the Enrichment courses provide opportunities for hands-on learning. Others provide experiences which may translate into life-long interests or pursuits. Enrichment courses give students opportunities to grow in ways that enhance their personal and community lives.

Intended Student Outcomes

- To broaden one's life experiences.
- To develop new skills including less hesitancy when engaging in new/novel experiences.
- To experience personal growth or change.

For courses that will satisfy the enrichment requirement for the AA and AS degrees, see the matrix on pages 47-49.

DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT

The diversity requirement is designed to enhance the overall educational experience. As part of – but not in addition to – the existing Requirements for Associate in Arts Degree (AA) and Requirements for Associate in Science Degree (AS), students must earn three credits from a designated list of courses that focus in a central and substantial way on issues, theories, and methods relevant to analyzing and understanding inter-group dynamics and diversity in its broadest sense.

Statement of Philosophy

Liberal education today must include preparation for effective citizenship in a diverse multicultural society and in a pluralistic global setting. The diversity requirement helps to ground students in the realities of a multicultural, transnational, and/or global society, and provides tools for studying the complexity of diverse communities defined by characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic background, religion, sexual orientation, age, and/or others.

Intended Student Outcomes

Bismarck State College has established a Cultural Diversity Course Requirement to enable students to:

1. gain knowledge of cultural diversity including races, religions, subcultures or ethnicities;
2. gain exposure to the concept that all individuals and cultures are not alike;
3. address multi-cultural issues; and/or
4. recognize and think critically about the ideas and perspectives of others.

For courses that will satisfy the diversity requirement, see pages 49-50.