



460.4.1 Credit by Challenge Examination

Purpose:

Bismarck State College (BSC) permits students to demonstrate college-level competency and establish college credits by successfully passing an institutional challenge examination.

Disclosures:

1. The student must be accepted into a BSC bachelor's, associate, diploma, certificate, or certificate of completion program to be awarded credits.
2. The student must be enrolled in a BSC course during the term for which credits are to be posted to the official BSC transcript.
3. The student will not be eligible for credit by examination if:
 - a. Student previously challenged course; or
 - b. Student is currently enrolled in course; or
 - c. Student previously enrolled in course (regardless of grade earned A-F, or S/U); or
 - d. Student earned transfer credit from an accredited institution; or
 - e. Students have previously earned Credit by Industry Training or Portfolio Development.
4. Credits by Challenge Examination may not transfer to other colleges. Review of the intended transfer institution for current transfer information is essential. BSC is not responsible for transferability of Credits by Challenge Examination.
5. Credits by Challenge Examination do not have letter grades assigned, thus, will not be used to compute a student's grade point average.
6. Credits by Challenge Examination, once recorded on a student's BSC transcript, become a permanent part of the academic record.
7. Credits by Challenge Examination will count toward BSC graduation requirements; however, they do not count toward the minimum institutional credit requirements.
8. A maximum number of non-traditional college credits may be earned within military training, AP, CLEP, DSST, IB, CIE, BSC challenge examination, portfolio development, industry training, Straighterline agreement and courses covered under high school articulation agreements.
 - a. Bachelor's – 60 non-traditional college credits.



- b. Associate or diploma – 40 non-traditional college credits.
 - a. Program certificate or Certificate of Completion – 50% of total degree credits.
- 9. Duplicate credit will not be awarded. Courses deemed equivalent to a BSC course are subject to BSC's repeat policy.
- 10. The number of credits awarded is equal to BSC course credits.
- 11. If the application is not completed within one year of submission, it will be removed, and the student will need to resubmit.

Procedure:

1. The student must complete the Credit by Challenge Examination application located on the BSC website, attach requested documentation of experience, and submit by email to the Dean of Distance Education and Learning Support Services at bsc.priorlearning@bismarckstate.edu.
2. The Dean of Distance Education and Learning Support Services will review the application for qualification and route to the appropriate Assistant Dean.
3. The Assistant Dean will collaborate with appropriate faculty to determine if Credit by Challenge Examination will proceed. If approved, the application will be routed to Student Finance for payment.
4. Student Finance will contact the student for payment. The student is responsible for 50% of the tuition for course credits. Tuition fees are based on residency coding. Fees must be paid prior to taking the exam. Students may also be charged for materials used as part of the challenge examination. Credit by Challenge Exam fee is non-refundable.
5. Student Finance will route to the Dean of Distance Education and Learning Support Services who will schedule the examination in collaboration with the BSC Testing Center.
6. The examination will be developed based on criteria established by the appropriate department and routed to the BSC Testing Center.
7. Once completed, the Challenge Examination will be sent to the appropriate Assistant Dean for evaluation.
8. The Assistant Dean will attach the documentation of the Challenge Examination to the Prior Learning Application form and route to Academic Records.



9. Academic Records will post credits to the student's official transcript if the student earns a minimum of 70%.
10. The Dean of Distance Education and Learning Support Services will share the results of the Challenge Examination by way of the student's campus email.

References:

[SBHE Policy 441 Degree Credit, Non-Degree Credit and Non-Credit Instructional Activity](#)
[NDUS Procedure 805.1 Tuition](#)

History of This Procedure:

First policy draft Spring, 1982. Revisions - June 18, 1982; September 20, 1982; October 26, 1982; July 18, 1990; August 24, 1993; June 6, 1998; May 17, 2008; November 19, 2008 (effective Spring Semester 2009); March 18, 2009; November 22, 2010; reviewed by the Operations Council on April 9, 2014 and approved by the Executive Council on April 24, 2014; approved by the Faculty Senate May 7, 2019, reviewed by the Operations Council June 12, 2019, July 2, 2019 and approved by the Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs July 30, 2025.