

Student Policy - Challenge Examinations

Policy:

Bismarck State College will permit students to demonstrate college level competency and establish college credits by successfully passing an institutional challenge examination as provided for in the following limits, regulations, and procedures.

Limits and Regulations:

1. Students may challenge selected courses to establish college level credit at Bismarck State College.
2. Students must be currently accepted into a degree seeking, certificate, or diploma program to earn challenge credit.
3. A student must be enrolled in any BSC course during the term for which the request is made in order for challenge credits to be posted to the official BSC transcript.
4. Student will not be granted challenge credit for courses:
 - a. In which they have previously challenged OR
 - b. In which they are currently enrolled OR
 - c. In which they were previously enrolled (regardless of grade earned) OR
 - d. In which they have earned transfer credit from any accredited institution OR
 - e. In which they were enrolled but dropped with record on an official transcript OR
 - f. In which there is a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST).
5. Students should be aware that challenge credits may not transfer to other colleges. Students are urged to check the intended transfer institution for current transfer information. BSC is not responsible for transferability of challenge credits.
6. Challenge examination credits, once recorded on a student's BSC transcript, become a permanent part of the academic record.

7. The fee for challenging a course is 50% of the regular per credit hour tuition charge based on resident and non-resident and course offering. Fees must be paid in advance. Students may also be charged for materials used as part of the challenge examination. Challenge exam fees are non-fundable.
8. Credits earned through challenge examination will count toward BSC graduation requirements; however, they do not count toward the minimum institutional credit requirements.
9. A maximum of 45 semester hours of non-traditional college credit (i.e., AP, CLEP, DSST, military training, BSC challenge examination credit, portfolio development, industry credit training, and courses covered under high school articulation agreements) may be applied to an associate's degree, diploma, or certificate at BSC. A maximum of 60 semester hours of non-traditional college credit may be applied to a bachelor of applied science degree at BSC.
10. Academic Departments shall determine if challenge exams will be administered for specific courses. Challenge examinations will be developed based on criteria established by the appropriate department. Grades for challenge examinations shall be recorded on a "S" satisfactory and "U" unsatisfactory basis, thus will not be used to compute a student's grade point average.

Procedures:

[BSC Alternative Learning](#)

References:

[SBHE Policy 403.6](#) – Course Challenges and Prior Learning Credit

[NDUS Procedure 441](#) – Degree Credit, Non-Degree Credit, Developmental Coursework, and Non-Credit Instructional Activity

History of This Policy:

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.