

HB 1220
House Education Committee
January 20th, 2025

Dear Chair Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

We, the North Dakota State University (NDSU) General Education Committee, wish to express our serious concerns regarding House Bill 1220. We strongly urge the House Education Committee to vote in opposition to this bill.

All 11 North Dakota University System (NDUS) campuses under the control of the State Board of Higher Education are also accredited through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). This accreditation requires a substantive change to reduce the number of credits required for a bachelor's degree program.

In the HLC Guidelines for Evaluating Reduced-Credit Bachelor Degree Programs Core [Component 3.B](#), it states that institutions must demonstrate “policies and processes for adequately incorporating general education, and the associated breadth and depth of student learning, into the reduced-credit bachelor's degree program.” This clearly does not encourage the removal of all general education requirements. HB 1220 would create direct non-compliance with HLC requirements to offer a reduced-credit bachelor's degree.

In addition, the HLC requires institutions to closely review and ensure quality in fairness between reduced-credit format (accelerated) and traditional length programs. This bill would be only for high-demand occupations and could potentially create inequities in programs offered within the NDUS.

“The purpose of general education at NDSU is to ensure that students acquire knowledge, perspectives, and skills basic to a university education. The program is designed so that students will be able to adapt to and anticipate changes in their profession and in society. Students also will be able to integrate and use the knowledge and perspectives they have gained to live productive, intellectually rewarding, and meaningful lives.” ([NDSU General Education Overview](#))

General Education provides students with the skills needed to learn, to think, to solve problems, and to work with others. These are all attributes that employers say they are looking for and qualities that make for better neighbors, colleagues, and citizens.

We urge your committee to NOT PASS HB 1220.

Respectfully submitted,

NDSU General Education Committee