



Members of the Minot State University Community -

The North Dakota State Board of Higher Education recently approved the proposed Pathways to Student Success proposal (initially titled the 3-Tier Access plan). The original proposal has undergone some changes resulting from feedback prior to the approval. At this point, the North Dakota University System and members of the three tier groups are meeting to discuss and confirm the implementation details of the plan.

The approved plan envisions improvements in student success in the North Dakota University System through differentiating three types of institutions admission standards reflective of the missions and accessible through a criteria-based admission index for prospective students. Monitoring student and institutional performances and increasing need-based aid is intended to increase college success. To improve learning and academic success and performance, all remedial courses will be handled by the two-year colleges allowing four-year schools to redirect resources to improve retention and graduation rates. All dual-credit courses will be improved through more uniform standards for teaching, learning, and assessment. This plan seeks to make uniform tuition models in the tiers, limit tuition waivers to a uniform amount across the system, make transparent the cost of fees and tuition, and develop a uniform per-credit tuition model across all delivery types.

The review and revision process for the implementation of the plan is still ongoing. At this point, the three tiers are:

- 1) Discussing admission standards and working to set an automatic admission score based on a formula with the ACT composite (x 3), the high school GPA (x 20), and required core courses (x 5). Additional points can be awarded with North Dakota residency.
- 2) Planning to use the College Readiness Report to inform others about student and institutional performances.
- 3) Expanding need-based aid and pursuing a project for adult learners.
- 4) Moving all remedial course-work to two-year colleges.
- 5) Authorizing the community colleges and approved four-year universities to offer dual-credit courses with improved standards.
- 6) Reviewing a per-credit, revenue-neutral, tuition model, differentiated among tiers and consolidating fees for improved transparency.
- 7) Establishing standard and uniform tuition rates assigned by residency status (in-state, out-of-state, and contiguous states). Although not current confirmed, the most recent considerations are 175% for international and out of state, 125% for contiguous states and provinces, and rates set for special agreements, such as WICHE, WUE, and Minnesota. The potential for grandfathering current students for an identified term of years is under consideration and will be announced following the next executive board meeting.
- 8) Limiting tuition waivers for institutions to a maximum of 5% of the total undergraduate tuition collected in the previous year. Student athletic waivers and spouse&dependent waivers are considered outside the cap. Native American and Veteran waivers will be considered inside the cap.
- 9) Schedules of implementation are now under consideration.

The review and discussion of these details have revealed a willingness to negotiate and revise key implementation details. There has been a notable interest on the part of the NDUS to support these discussions and to entertain suggestions and changes. While a lot of work remains to be completed, I am hopeful that the agreed-upon details will be confirmed soon and distributed to the campuses.

We realize that many students are eager to hear about the outcome of the discussion regarding grandfathering and the new tuition models. Please note that any tuition changes described in this draft plan will not go into effect until the fall of 2014. I do pledge to you that as soon as I get the final word from the NDUS that I will inform the campus immediately in writing.

Thank you for your patience.