

**Policy on Awarding Undergraduate Credit on the Basis of Advanced Placement Exam Scores**

I. Purpose. With substantial support from the state of North Carolina, students in the state's high schools have the opportunity to earn credit toward a postsecondary degree via Advanced Placement (AP) exams. AP exams and associated courses are developed by committees of college and university faculty and expert high school teachers to correspond to expectations in introductory-level courses at colleges and universities. Scores on these AP exams range from a low of one to a high of five; the developers of AP exams represent that a score of three on any AP exam signals that a student has "proven . . . capable of doing the work of an introductory-level course in a particular subject at college."<sup>1</sup>

It is in the best interest of North Carolina's students that the University of North Carolina's (UNC) constituent institutions award undergraduate credit on the basis of AP exam scores in a uniform manner, and that potential students and their families receive clear and consistent information regarding this awarding of undergraduate credit. Furthermore, it is in the best interest of students and the state that UNC undergraduate students who prove that they have completed college-level work via a national exam receive credit so that those students might complete a degree in a more timely manner.

Accordingly, the constituent institutions shall adopt policies governing the awarding of undergraduate credit on the basis of AP exam scores not inconsistent with this policy.

II. Awarding Credit for Advanced Placement Exam Scores. UNC System constituent institutions shall award appropriate credit to undergraduates who have earned a score of three or higher on one or more AP exams, as defined in the Regulation on Awarding Undergraduate Credit on the Basis of Advanced Placement Exam Scores, Section 700.1.10[R] of the UNC Policy Manual. An institution with compelling reasons as to why a score other than three must be required for a student to receive appropriate credit may petition to have an exception approved by its board of trustees. Compelling reasons must be based on analyses of academic outcomes as described in Section 700.1.10[R] of the UNC Policy Manual.

III. Report on Exceptions Granted. An institution must report any exceptions granted by its board of trustees, and the reasons and evidence for those exceptions, to the president by July 1, 2019, and annually thereafter. The president shall report a summary of these exceptions to the Board of Governors on an annual basis.

IV. Other Matters

A. Effective Date. The requirements of this policy shall be effective as of the 2019-20 academic year and thereafter; requirements are stipulated further in Section 700.1.10[R] of the UNC Policy Manual.

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<sup>1</sup> See "About AP Scores" from the College Board, the organization that develops and administers AP courses and exams (with substantial input from high-school and university faculty across the United States), at <https://apscore.collegeboard.org/scores/about-ap-scores/>, retrieved on June 21, 2018.

## APPENDIX Q

B.       Relation to Federal and State Laws. The foregoing policy as adopted by the Board of Governors is meant to supplement, and does not purport to supplant or modify, those statutory enactments which may govern or relate to the subject matter of this policy.

C.       Regulations and Guidelines. This policy shall be implemented and applied in accordance with such regulations and guidelines as may be adopted from time to time by the president.