

Dear Concurrent Enrollment Partner,

The recently clarified faculty qualifications requirements announced by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has caused a flurry of questions and concerns about implications for concurrent enrollment programs across Minnesota. While Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) understands that these HLC requirements present challenges for our state, we are confident that concurrent enrollment programming can continue and will grow as we transition to meet the clarified HLC faculty qualification guidelines.

We value deeply our partnership with your high school, students, and families. MnSCU's goal is to sustain and expand concurrent enrollment programs across the state. We are writing to assure that our concurrent enrollment programming with our secondary partners will not be put in jeopardy and that our service to students across our state will continue. We have been developing a clear course of action to support concurrent enrollment instructors and programs to meet the updated qualifications.

We believe that we have adequate time to meet the Higher Learning Commission guidelines without having to reduce or eliminate concurrent enrollment course offerings at your high school. In the Higher Learning Commission's [updated guidelines](#), provided October 1, 2015, they have clarified that the requirement does not go into effect until September 1, 2017. In addition, they have stated that postsecondary institutions will be evaluated on these guidelines at the time of their institution's regularly scheduled comprehensive evaluation as it occurs after September 2017. At the time of the postsecondary institution's comprehensive evaluation, the institution can receive an extension up to an additional two years as long as it has submitted an articulated plan to meet the requirements within the two-year period.

MnSCU is developing a state-wide response to support our concurrent enrollment instructors and programs during this transition to the recently adopted HLC faculty qualifications. We have work underway to address the following:

- Establish the scope and areas of credentialing needs for concurrent enrollment instructors.
- Offer opportunities for discipline-specific graduate-level coursework that will be available in formats to meet the needs of working professionals across the state.
- Explore other avenues that would enable concurrent instructors to demonstrate graduate-level expertise in the discipline.
- Identify options for Career Technical Education concurrent enrollment instructors to meet faculty requirements specific to their industry field.
- Develop policies and procedures for identifying when tested experience is applicable to determining faculty qualifications.
- Work collaboratively with Minnesota Department of Education, Governor's office, and state legislature to identify resources needed to support concurrent enrollment instructors and concurrent enrollment programs.

Along with our commitment to supporting concurrent enrollment instructors to meet minimum faculty qualifications, MnSCU has also been looking at our campus practices

surrounding concurrent enrollment. As our partnerships with high schools have continued to expand over time, concurrent enrollment practices have varied widely across our institutions due to locally developed partnerships. More uniform practices will provide an opportunity to better deliver and scale our high-quality programming with our secondary partners. In the next few months, therefore, we will be refining how MnSCU colleges and universities can implement more consistent practices system-wide.

We value our concurrent enrollment partnership with you and we are committed to working collaboratively together during this transition to ease any disruption to current or future plans for concurrent enrollment programming.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let us know.