



NDSA-09-2526

A Resolution in Opposition to 90 Credit Reduced Bachelor's Degrees

¹**WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) represents the voice of North Dakota's 45,000 public college and university students; and,

²**WHEREAS**, the purpose of NDSA is to represent all students enrolled in the North Dakota University System (NDUS) and advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience; and,

³**WHEREAS**, in September of 2024, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) released new guidelines regarding 90 Credit Reduced bachelor's degrees offered by institutions of Higher Education across the United States ^[1]; and,

⁴**WHEREAS**, the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education is looking at changing State Board policy to allow institutions within the state of North Dakota to offer reduced bachelor's programs; and,

⁵**WHEREAS**, while this may allow for students to enter the workforce faster, there could be negative effects that could occur because of the implementation of reduced bachelor's degrees; and,

⁶**WHEREAS**, at the present time, many graduate degree programs do not accept students with reduced bachelor's degrees, which would make it harder for students who take the reduced bachelor's degree route to advance into a professional program; and,

⁷**WHEREAS**, the pursuit of a bachelor's degree represents not only the development of technical knowledge within the classroom, but also the development of critical thinking, communication, leadership, and life skills through experiences and opportunities; and,

⁸**WHEREAS**, offering 90 credit bachelor's degrees would also reduce the number of course specific classes as opposed to general education classes, which are all necessary for students to gain specialized training for their degrees; and,

⁹**WHEREAS**, there is no clear plan presented for the delineation between those students receiving a 90-credit degree and a standard 120-credit degree, even with more specialized education; and,



¹⁰**WHEREAS**, there are currently no established or standardized guidelines within the NDUS ensuring consistency, quality, and accountability in the structure and delivery of accelerated bachelor's degree programs; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the North Dakota Student Association opposes offering 90-credit bachelor programs within the institutions of the North Dakota University System.

*Approved by the North Dakota Student Association General Assembly
Saturday, October 4th, 2025*