



Academic & Student Affairs Committee

December 1, 2020

Roaden University Center, Room 282

This meeting will be conducted permitting Trustees' participation by electronic or other means of communication. If, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an in-person meeting is not advisable, the meeting will be conducted via electronic means only and will be streamed live via link found on the Board of Trustees' web page at <https://www.tntech.edu/board/>. Please check <https://www.tntech.edu/board/> for updates.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- II. Approval of Minutes**
- III. Provost's Report**
- IV. Update on New Academic Programs**
- V. Revisions to TTU Policy 260 (Requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree and Graduation)**
- VI. Counseling Center Update on Mental Health Services**
- VII. Other Business**
- VIII. Adjournment**



**Board of Trustees
Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting
September 29, 2020
Roaden University Center, Room 282**

MINUTES

AGENDA ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on September 29, 2020, in Roaden University Center, Room 282. Chair Rose called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Chair Rose asked Lee Wray, Secretary, to call the roll. The following members were present:

- Daniel Hines
- Rhedona Rose
- Barry Wilmore

Trustee Fred Lowery participated remotely. He confirmed he could simultaneously hear and speak to the Board members, he received the Board materials in advance of the meeting, and he was the only person present in the location from which he was calling.

Tennessee Tech faculty, staff, and members of the public were also in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Rose asked if there were any recommendations or changes to the minutes. With no recommendations or changes, Trustee Wilmore moved to approve the minutes from June 23, 2020. Trustee Lowery seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – REVIEW AND UPDATES REGARDING CAMPUS COVID-19 RESPONSE

A. President Oldham

President Oldham stated his preference to use this time to update the Board on the campus' response to Covid-19.

B. Enrollment Management and Career Placement

Dr. Brandon Johnson stated enrollment is slightly up, though the number of international students is down. While Tech has limited access to high school seniors, they have found creative ways to contact them. Preview Day was expanded from just one event into three separate events to accommodate students and their families.

C. Academic Affairs

Dr. Lori Bruce stated her focus has been on student success instead of enrollment. She shared photos of classrooms and how the spaces were augmented to accommodate students and faculty during the pandemic. Almost 500 new laptops and 200 cameras have been placed in classrooms. Two major surveys were shared and had outstanding response rates from students and faculty. Academic Affairs has focused on what they have done well and what they can enhance.

D. Athletics

Mark Wilson shared about the academic success of student athletes once sports were cancelled in the spring. Athletics is celebrating their highest grade point average in history. All fourteen teams scored above a 3.0 for the first time. Mr. Wilson stated they will follow the NCAA guidelines for the resocialization of sports to determine how Tech can compete in the coming months.

E. Student Affairs

Dr. Rob Owens shared about the use of the new Marc L. Burnett Fitness Center. He also shared about the enhancements being made to the West Patio of the Roaden University Center and improvements at the Cooper-Dunn dormitory. He spoke about the new Racial Equity Task Force that has met several times. The Diversity Scholarship Initiative has raised \$1.3 million of its \$2 million goal.

F. University Advancement

Dr. Kevin Braswell shared a gift table for the new engineering building. Sixty-four percent of the \$8.25 million goal has been raised. Dr. Braswell also shared the fundraising progress of the last five years. Tennessee Tech Tomorrow elevated fundraising overall. University Advancement continues to think about the future and ways to increase donor involvement.

G. Research

Dr. Jennifer Taylor shared about current projects at Tech including the use of electric vehicles in the region, educating children with deficiencies to better develop Tennessee’s future workforce, the Veteran’s Connect project that helps military veterans earn their engineering degree, and Project Awaken.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Approved,

Lee Wray, Secretary

DRAFT



Agenda Item Summary

Date: December 1, 2020

Agenda Item: Provost's Report

Review

Action

No action required

PRESENTER(S): Provost Bruce

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS: Updates provided by Provost Bruce regarding Academic Affairs.



Agenda Item Summary

Date: December 1, 2020

Agenda Item: Update on New Academic Programs

Review

Action

No action required

PRESENTER(S): Provost Bruce

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS: Provost Bruce is providing updates on new academic programs recently approved by the Board of Trustees.



Agenda Item Summary

Date: December 1, 2020

Agenda Item: Revisions to TTU Policy 260 (Requirements for Baccalaureate Degree and Graduation)

Review

Action

No action required

PRESENTER(S): Provost Bruce

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS: The purpose of the revision to this policy is to provide an exception of the American History requirements for students that are earning their second baccalaureate degree in Nursing.

**Tennessee Technological University
Policy No. 260**



Effective Date: July 1, 2017

Policy No.: 260

Policy Name: Requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree and Graduation

Dates Revised: July 1, 2019; January 1, 2021

I. Purpose

This policy establishes and details the requirements for obtaining a Baccalaureate Degree and graduating from Tennessee Tech.

II. Review

This policy will be reviewed every four years or whenever circumstances require review, whichever is earlier, by the Associate Provost, with recommendations for revision presented to the Academic Council, University Assembly, and the Board of Trustees.

III. Policy

~~B.A.~~ Notwithstanding anything in this policy to the contrary, each student is personally responsible for completing all degree and graduation requirements. While a student's advisor may assist the student in identifying and understanding these requirements, ultimately it is the student's responsibility to inform himself/herself of these requirements. Any substitution, waiver, or exemption for or from any applicable requirement or academic standard may be accomplished only pursuant to policy and/or with appropriate approvals, as applicable.

~~C.B.~~ In order to graduate, a student must meet the requirements of this policy and
~~— This policy and~~

~~2.1~~ The degree requirements of the undergraduate catalog in effect, as determined by Tennessee Tech at the time he/she entered the curriculum, provided graduation occurs within seven years from the student's entrance date into the curriculum, or

~~3.2~~ The degree requirements of the catalog in effect at the time of graduation.

~~D.C.~~ The relevant departmental chairperson with the approval of the Provost or his/her designee and Vice President for Enrollment Management and Career Placement may grant, for good cause, an exception to the requirements in Section B, provided the exception is limited to any catalog that was in effect at any time between the date the student entered the curriculum and the date of graduation and was in effect at any time within the seven (7) year period prior to the date of graduation.

~~E.D.~~ Degree requirements for all students, regardless of date of enrollment in their curricula, may be subject to change at any time when the implementation of

curricular changes is necessary to maintain quality programs.

~~F.E.~~ Students entering a curriculum in any summer term are required to follow the catalog for the next academic year.

~~G.F.~~ Any credit earned more than ten years prior to the proposed date of graduation is subject to review and approval by the academic department of the student's major.

~~H.G.~~ General Education Requirements

1. Tennessee Tech requires the successful completion of a lower-division (e.g., freshman and sophomore level) general education core curriculum of forty-one (41) semester hours as outlined in the Tennessee Tech Undergraduate Catalog in the section labeled "General Education Core."

2. In addition to any other requirements to graduate, students must successfully complete six hours of American History, except those students who are majoring in Chemical, Civil, Computer, Electrical, Mechanical, or ETSU-TTU Joint Engineering Program. In the latter case, if the student has not completed one unit of American History in high school, the student will be required to complete 6 semester hours of American History for the deficiency.

~~2.3.~~ If students pursuing a second baccalaureate degree in the area of nursing have not completed 6 semester credit hours in American history acceptable to Tennessee Tech as valid transfer credits or did not successfully complete a course in American history in high school, the students will be required to complete 6 semester credit hours of American history at Tennessee Tech.

~~H.H.~~ Degree Requirements

In order to be awarded a degree from Tennessee Tech, a student must successfully fulfill the following requirements:

1. Successfully complete the general education core curriculum requirements, and
2. Successfully complete the curriculum for the major subject and degree chosen.
 - a. A student must successfully complete at least 6 semester hours of Tennessee Tech 3000 or 4000 level courses in the major chosen.
 - b. A student must successfully complete at least twenty-five percent of the credit for the degree requirements, including a minimum of 24 semester hours of 3000 and 4000 level course credit, at Tennessee Tech.
 - c. A student must successfully complete a minimum of 120 semester hours, including a minimum of 36 hours of 3000 and 4000 level upper-division credit

approved courses. Some programs of study require more than 120 semester hours.

- i. Not more than 60 semester hours may be earned toward a baccalaureate degree by Prior Learning Assessment (PLA), including, but not limited to, Advanced Placement, CLEP, International Baccalaureate (IB), special examination, correspondence, portfolio credit, or any combination of these.
 - ii. Not more than 12 semester hours in music ensembles, Physical Education 1010-1990, and Military Science activity courses may be counted toward a baccalaureate degree.
- d. In addition to the requirements of Section III.H.2.b, a student transferring credit from a two-year institution must complete a minimum of 50 semester hours at a four-year institution.
- e. A student must earn a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 (C) as defined below:
- i. For students who have no transfer credit,
 - (A) A student must earn a 2.0 GPA calculated on all courses, excluding any remedial or developmental courses; and
 - (B) A student must earn a 2.0 GPA calculated on all major-related courses. The courses designated as “major-related” are available in each student’s academic degree audit in DegreeWorks.
 - ii. For student who have transfer credit,
 - (A) A student must earn a 2.0 GPA calculated on all courses taken at Tennessee Tech, excluding any remedial or developmental courses; and
 - (B) A student must earn a 2.0 GPA calculated on all major-related courses taken at Tennessee Tech. The courses designated as “major-related” are available in each student’s academic degree audit in DegreeWorks; and
 - (C) Except as provided in (E) below, a student must earn a 2.0 GPA calculated on all courses taken, including courses taken at Tennessee Tech and courses transferred from all institutions; and
 - (D) Except as provided in (E) below, a student must earn a 2.0 GPA calculated on all major-related courses, including courses taken at Tennessee Tech and courses transferred from all institutions. The courses designated as “major-related” are available in each student’s academic degree audit in DegreeWorks.
 - (E) A student whose transfer credits are applied to any term after spring

semester of 2015 will not have the grades associated with those credits calculated in the GPA or the major-related GPA.

- f. Students who are majoring in areas other than business but are taking course work in the College of Business must limit credit in business courses to 30 hours of the degree requirements as required by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (“AACSB”).
 - 3. Notwithstanding anything in this policy to the contrary, Tennessee Tech may make reasonable academic adjustments to degree requirements for qualified students with disabilities, as determined by joint agreement of the ~~Office of~~ [Education Center](#) and the Office of Enrollment Management and Student Success, after consultation with the college dean and department chairperson, if appropriate. Students with a disability requiring academic adjustments and accommodations must contact the ~~Office of Disability Services~~ [Accessible](#)
- I. Academic Minor Requirements**
- 1. The awarding of a minor at Tennessee Tech requires the successful completion of a minimum of 15 hours of specified course work in the relevant area of discipline, in addition to fulfilling the requirements for a degree detailed in Section I above. Successfully completed courses may simultaneously fulfill a student’s degree requirements and the requirements for a minor.
 - 2. A student may elect to complete multiple minors; however, no more than two minors will appear on the student’s academic transcript.
 - 3. The specific course requirements for each minor offered at Tennessee Tech may be found in the portion of the applicable Undergraduate Catalog addressing the relevant academic area or discipline.
 - 4. A student may not earn a minor in the same academic program as his/her major.
 - 5. A student may not earn a minor in the same academic program as his/her concentration.
 - 6. A student who wishes to substitute any course requirements for a minor must receive the approval of the academic unit responsible for the minor requirements. A list of available minors and the ownership of programs is available on the Tennessee Tech [Office of the Registrar – Minors](#) web page.
- J. Graduation Requirements**
- 1. In addition to completing the degree requirements detailed above, in order to graduate from Tennessee Tech a student must fulfill the following requirements:
 - a. All candidates for an undergraduate degree must ~~file an~~ [adhere to the established](#)

to graduate as presented on the Office of the Registrar's site. ~~application for~~

~~— For students planning to graduate in the spring semester, the graduation application must be filed no later than September 1 of the previous year;~~

- b. With the exception of grades for courses taken at another institution during the student's final semester before graduation ("transfer grades"), all requirements for graduation, including, but not limited to, substitution forms, grade changes, changes, and requests for exception, must be received by the dates presented on the Office of the Registrar's site.
 2. Students who complete degree requirements during the summer term will be allowed to participate in commencement activities along with the fall term graduates in December.
- K. Exceptions or Appeals**
1. A student wishing to request an exception to any portion of this policy may complete the Request for Exception to University Requirement Form and submit it to the Office of the Registrar.
 2. The University Registrar will notify the student of approval or denial of his/her request within 14 calendar days of receipt of the request.
 3. A student may appeal the decision of the University Registrar by submitting a written appeal letter to the Vice President for Enrollment Management and Career Placement within 14 calendar days from the notice of the decision. At this time, the student may supply any additional or supplemental information he/she believes is pertinent to the request.
 4. The Vice President for Enrollment Management and Career Placement, in consultation with the Provost or his/her designee, will convene a sub-committee of the Admissions and Credits Committee to consider the student's written appeal. The Vice President for Enrollment Management and Career Placement on behalf of the sub-committee will notify the student in writing of its decision no later than 14 calendar days after receipt of the appeal and all supporting information.
 5. The decision of the sub-committee of the Admissions and Credits Committee is final.

IV. Interpretation

The Provost or his/her designee has the final authority to interpret the terms of this policy.

V. Citation of Authority for Policy

T.C.A. § 49-8-203(a)(1)(B)

Approved by:

	Academic Council:	November 9, 2016; January 23, 2019; <u>November 11, 2020</u>
	University Assembly:	November 16, 2016; April 17, 2019; <u>November 18, 2020</u>
	Board of Trustees:	June 15, 2017; March 21, 2019; <u>xxxx xx, 2020</u>

**Tennessee Technological University
Policy No. 260**

5.3



**Requirements for a
Baccalaureate Degree
and Graduation**

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

Policy No.: 260

Policy Name: Requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree and Graduation

Dates Revised: July 1, 2019; January 1, 2021

I. Purpose

This policy establishes and details the requirements for obtaining a Baccalaureate Degree and graduating from Tennessee Tech.

II. Review

This policy will be reviewed every four years or whenever circumstances require review, whichever is earlier, by the Associate Provost, with recommendations for revision presented to the Academic Council, University Assembly, and the Board of Trustees.

III. Policy

- A.** Notwithstanding anything in this policy to the contrary, each student is personally responsible for completing all degree and graduation requirements. While a student's advisor may assist the student in identifying and understanding these requirements, ultimately it is the student's responsibility to inform himself/herself of these requirements. Any substitution, waiver, or exemption for or from any applicable requirement or academic standard may be accomplished only pursuant to policy and/or with appropriate approvals, as applicable.
- B.** In order to graduate, a student must meet the requirements of this policy and
 - 1.** The degree requirements of the undergraduate catalog in effect, as determined by Tennessee Tech at the time he/she entered the curriculum, provided graduation occurs within seven years from the student's entrance date into the curriculum, or
 - 2.** The degree requirements of the catalog in effect at the time of graduation.
- C.** The relevant departmental chairperson with the approval of the Provost or his/her designee and Vice President for Enrollment Management and Career Placement may grant, for good cause, an exception to the requirements in Section B, provided the exception is limited to any catalog that was in effect at any time between the date the student entered the curriculum and the date of graduation and was in effect at any time within the seven (7) year period prior to the date of graduation.
- D.** Degree requirements for all students, regardless of date of enrollment in their curricula, may be subject to change at any time when the implementation of

curricular changes is necessary to maintain quality programs.

- E.** Students entering a curriculum in any summer term are required to follow the catalog for the next academic year.
- F.** Any credit earned more than ten years prior to the proposed date of graduation is subject to review and approval by the academic department of the student's major.
- G.** General Education Requirements
 - 1.** Tennessee Tech requires the successful completion of a lower-division (e.g., freshman and sophomore level) general education core curriculum of forty-one (41) semester hours as outlined in the Tennessee Tech Undergraduate Catalog in the section labeled "General Education Core."
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- b. With the exception of grades for courses taken at another institution during the student's final semester before graduation ("transfer grades"), all requirements for graduation, including, but not limited to, substitution forms, grade changes, minor changes, and requests for exception, must be received by the dates presented on the Office of the Registrar's site.
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Board of Trustees:	June 15, 2017; March 21, 2019; xxxx xx, 2020

5.3



Agenda Item Summary

6.1

Date: December 1, 2020

Agenda Item: Counseling Center Update on Mental Health Services

Review

Action

No action required

PRESENTER(S): Patricia Smith

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS: Tennessee Tech's Counseling Center Director will provide an update on mental health services on campus.

TN TECH Counseling Center Fact Sheet

Location: 3rd Floor University Center, Room 307, 931-372-3331

Mission Statement: Promote healthy student development during the college experience. In our efforts to accomplish this, the Counseling Center offers a wide range of mental health, educational, and consultative services to students and other members of the campus community.

Counseling Modalities: The Counseling Center offers brief, short term, solution focused therapeutic interventions for students. The clinical staff have extensive training in suicide prevention and crisis services.

Eligibility for Services: Any student enrolled at TN Tech. Faculty and staff are eligible for consultative services.

Cost of Services: None

Services Available: Eligible students are allotted 12 individual sessions per academic year. This does not include workshops, groups or crisis appointments. Students with more complex, severe or chronic psychological problems or issues related to substance abuse that would be best served through long-term therapy are referred to an outside provider in the community. Services available are:

- Crisis Counseling
- Personal Counseling
- Premarital Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Prevention Services
- Workshops/Campus Outreach
- Consultation Services
- Crisis Line that is available afterhours, holidays and weekends
- Virtual counseling sessions through HIPPA compliant Zoom
- Online appointment scheduling
- WellTrack Self-Help Interactive Therapy App-Is a suite of online tools and courses that uses aspects of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to help students identify, understand and address mental health issues they are having.
- Mental Health Screeners – for depression, anxiety, eating disorders, PTSD, alcohol issues
- Community Referrals for students not wanting services at the Counseling Center.

Medication Management: TTU does not offer psychiatric medication management or evaluations. If TTU decided to offer this as a service then it would help bridge the wait times

for students to get the necessary medications to help stabilize their moods and help them with academic success. The wait times for community evaluations can be extensive.

Staff at the Counseling Center: The clinicians at the Counseling Center are all independently licensed in the State of TN. The staff are:

Director	Patricia Smith, Ed.S., LPC/MHSP, CPS II
Assistant Clinical Director	Dr. Christina Mick, LPC/MSHP, CPS I
Counselor	Abby Eibel, M.A., LPC/MSHP
Counselor	Tere Benson, MSW, LCSW
Counselor	Angie Rector, MA, LPC/MSHP
Counselor	Shonta Russell, MA, LPC/MHSP
Administrative Assistant	Lisa Bowman
Graduate Assistant	Zach Spoerl