

University Senate
EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY SENATE BILL COVER SHEET

SB: 23/24-04 Policy on Online Teaching of ELAC courses

Sponsoring Parties: Academic Affairs Committee

Submitted By: Kim Dugan and Greg Kane, Chairs of Academic Affairs Committee

Semester in which proposed changes would become effective: Upon Approval

Text of Bill: See Attached

Introduced in Senate on _____

Returned to Committee on _____ Resubmitted to Senate on _____

Amended by Senate on _____ Tabled by Senate on _____

Approved By Senate on _____ Disapproved by Senate on _____


Sent to University President on _____ University President Deadline _____

Presidential action reported to Senate on _____

Referred to _____ for implementation on _____

Official Signatures


_____ On 12/5/23
William Lugo
University Senate President


_____ Reasons for Disapproval (below)
Elsa Nunez
University President

☒ Approved On 1/10/24
Date
☐ Disapproved _____
Date

Preamble

Rationale 1: At present, there is no policy governing the teaching of online courses in the new ELAC. This bill will provide such a policy. This bill does not modify online policies found in SB 22/23-03. See SB 22/23-03 for existing policies on online teaching.

Rationale 2: While Eastern Connecticut State University is the state's designated liberal arts university and is primarily residential, students wishing to take courses in the winter and summer terms (when they are not in residence) have limited access to on-ground courses and should be accommodated so that they can make progress in their degrees.

Policy Regarding Online Courses in the ELAC

LAC 100 and LAC 101 may never be taught online. All other ELAC courses may be offered online only in the summer and winter sessions, subject to the approval from the Curriculum Committee (outlined below and in SB 22/23-03).

Relevant Definitions and Policies (taken in part from SB22/23-03)

[Policy for Online Courses]

[Definition of Terms]

Online Courses: An online course section is a section of an existing course in which 100% of the class contact hours are conducted via the internet. The instructor for such a section shall provide all content via course management systems approved by the offering department and/or program, and University.

[Policy for Online Undergraduate Courses]

Institutional Governance & Policy Review

All programs must comply with NECHE Guidelines pertaining to program registration.

All courses and course sections classified as online learning must adhere to NECHE's 21st Century Distance Learning Guidelines (<https://www.neche.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Pp96-21st-Century-Guidelines-for-the-Eval-of-Distance-Education.pdf>).

All online courses must go through the course designation and approval process.

Online Course Approval

All new online courses will require approval by the University Curriculum Committee to be taught online.

- To complete this approval process, departments should submit necessary forms to modify courses to the University Curriculum Committee.
 - In the case of a new course, the appropriate paperwork for course approval should be completed.
- The proposed syllabus must reflect the unique nature of online courses and best practices for online learning. NECHE's 21st Century Distance Learning Guidelines should be considered and adhered to. These guidelines include, but are not limited to:
 - The curricular goals and course objectives show that the institution or program has knowledge of the best uses of online learning in different disciplines and settings.
 - Course design and delivery supports student-student and faculty-student interaction.
 - Curriculum design and the course management system enable active faculty contribution to the learning environment.