

- B. Awarding of Posthumous Degrees. As approved by the Board, a posthumous degree may be awarded by the institution provided all coursework has been completed up to the last semester with the appropriate cumulative GPA. Such degrees will be reported to the System office as they occur. *(Revised 1/5/01)*

SECTION VII. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- A. Minimum Length for Academic Courses. For each semester hour of credit, a traditional lecture or laboratory course shall strive to meet a minimum of 750 minutes. Final exam periods may be counted as class time when computing required minutes.

With the growth in distance learning technologies, and increases in the number of readings/special topic courses, independent study courses, and other more flexible course presentations, the customary method of determining course length for such non-traditional courses has been reexamined. Consistent with Board of Regents policy (Seat-Time Policy for Academic Credit) all classes must be of reasonable length and include both content and contact sufficient to maintain high academic quality and standards commensurate with credit hours awarded. The basis for such certification of learning is a valid, credible assessment system that reliably determines whether a student possesses clearly identified, standards-based knowledge, skills and abilities.

- B. Summer Sessions. The Board authorizes each institution under its jurisdiction to carry out summer programs of varying length.

SECTION VIII. ASSESSMENT

- A. Students. Assessment of the academic progress of continuing students is encouraged through appropriate measurements of assessment at all institutions.
- B. Programs. A continuous study on assessing the academic quality of the institutions is encouraged. Such studies include but are not limited to the evaluation of level of preparedness of first-time entering freshmen, academic assessment of continuing students through competency tests, evaluation of graduates, retention/attrition studies, program/course evaluations, evaluation of probation/suspension and reinstatement policy, admission standards for specific programs, and grading policies.

SECTION IX. ACCREDITATION VISITS

Each institution shall inform and invite Board members and System staff to observe in accreditation team visits (such as Southern Association for Colleges and Schools and others as