BOR Initiatives, Mandates, and Legislation

(August 2026)

BOR related updates

1. Syllabus Posting
2. HF 2800
3. Workforce Alignment Review and Enrollment Optimization
4. General Education Review Report
5. Bachelor of Professional Studies (BAPS)-Reduced Credit Bachelor's Degree

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1. Syllabus Posting

Syllabus Posting

- **Start here: https://syllabus.uni.edu/**
- **For assistance: SyllabusPostingHelp@uni.edu**
- **Help team: IT, Registrar, ODE, CETL**
- **UNI, SUI and ISU will be providing implementation updates to the BOR at the September 16-17, 2026 meeting**

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2. House File 2800

House File 2800

- Passed on June 2, 2026
- Requires all new undergraduate students at the UNI, ISU and SUI successfully complete survey courses in American history and American government
- Effective Fall 2028
- Anticipate that this will continue to evolve during the 2027 and 2028 legislative sessions

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3. Enrollment Optimization

Phase 1: BOR Workforce Alignment Review

- **2025 Workforce Alignment Review of Programs Report** presented to the Iowa BOR on November 11-13, 2025
- Response: Accountability and Action
- Revision to **Policy 3.7 Academic Program Review** to include information on low-enrollment programs in annual report

Phase 2: Enrollment Optimization Planning

- Evidence of continuous improvement

Philosophy & World Religions	Geronotology	Political Communication
Geography	Public Admin	Public Health
Env Resource Management	Mathematics	Earth Sciences

- **Action Plan**
- Feb 26 update

Phase 3: Enrollment Optimization Implementation

- Low enrolled programs (<25 UG majors or <10 G majors)
- “Enrollment Optimization” plan

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Enrollment Optimization 2026-2027

Purpose

- Supports strategic and proactive review of UNI's academic portfolio.
- Meets BOR reporting requirements for low-enrollment programs.
- Focuses on program viability, student demand, workforce alignment, and responsible stewardship of resources.

August 2026
Deans' Council will review Fall census enrollment by major to generate the **Low Enrollment Watchlist** using the BOR low enrollment thresholds

Annual Enrollment Review
(Fall Census Enrollment)

Stable or Growing

Low Enrollment Watchlist

Bachelor's degree level programs: 25 or fewer enrolled students
Graduate degree level programs: 10 or fewer students

Majors experiencing sharp enrollment decline

September 2026
All majors included on the Low Enrollment Watchlist will work with the Dean to determine **Enrollment Optimization Pathway**

Submit Enrollment Growth & Contingency Plan

Submit Reorganization and/or Elimination Plan

September-December 2026
Plan development and approval

Enrollment Growth and Contingency Plans

Goals

Recommended For

Programs near the minimum enrollment threshold with demonstrated growth potential.

Goal

Reach minimum enrollment thresholds within **two years**:

- **Fall 2027 target:** 20 UG / 8 G
- **Fall 2028 target:** 25 UG / 10 G

The Action Plans

Part 1: Enrollment Growth Plan

Data-informed strategy (due **Nov 1, 2026**) covering: enrollment trends & market share; student & workforce demand evidence; recruitment pipelines & retention plans; and capacity utilizing existing resources

Part 2: Contingency Plan

Identifies how the major will be reorganized if enrollment goals are not achieved. Due **Feb 1, 2027.**

Decision & Success

Key Decision Point

Fall 2027 Census Review

- **If target met** (20 UG / 8 Grad) → Continue Enrollment Growth Plan.
- **If target not met** → Implement approved Contingency Plan.

Success Measure

Demonstrated enrollment growth that reaches or exceeds Board of Regents minimum enrollment thresholds.

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Reorganization and/or Elimination Plan

Overview & Strategies

Purpose

Create a sustainable academic structure through consolidation or elimination.

Recommended For

Programs significantly below minimum enrollment thresholds:

- <18 UG
- <6 G

Action Plan

Potential Strategies

- Convert a major to a minor
- Merge related majors into a single program with a common core and CIP code

Requirements

- Detailed reorganization proposal
- Required BOR curriculum forms
- Dean review & Deans' Council approval
- No new resources will be provided

Timeline & Pathway

Timeline Highlights

- **Nov. 1, 2026:** Draft plan due
- **Dec. 1, 2026:** Final plan due
- **Spring/Summer 2027:** Approvals
- **Fall 2028:** Reorganized program launch

Success Measures

- Increased student interest
- Improved instructional efficiency
- Healthier course enrollments
- Sustainable long-term program viability

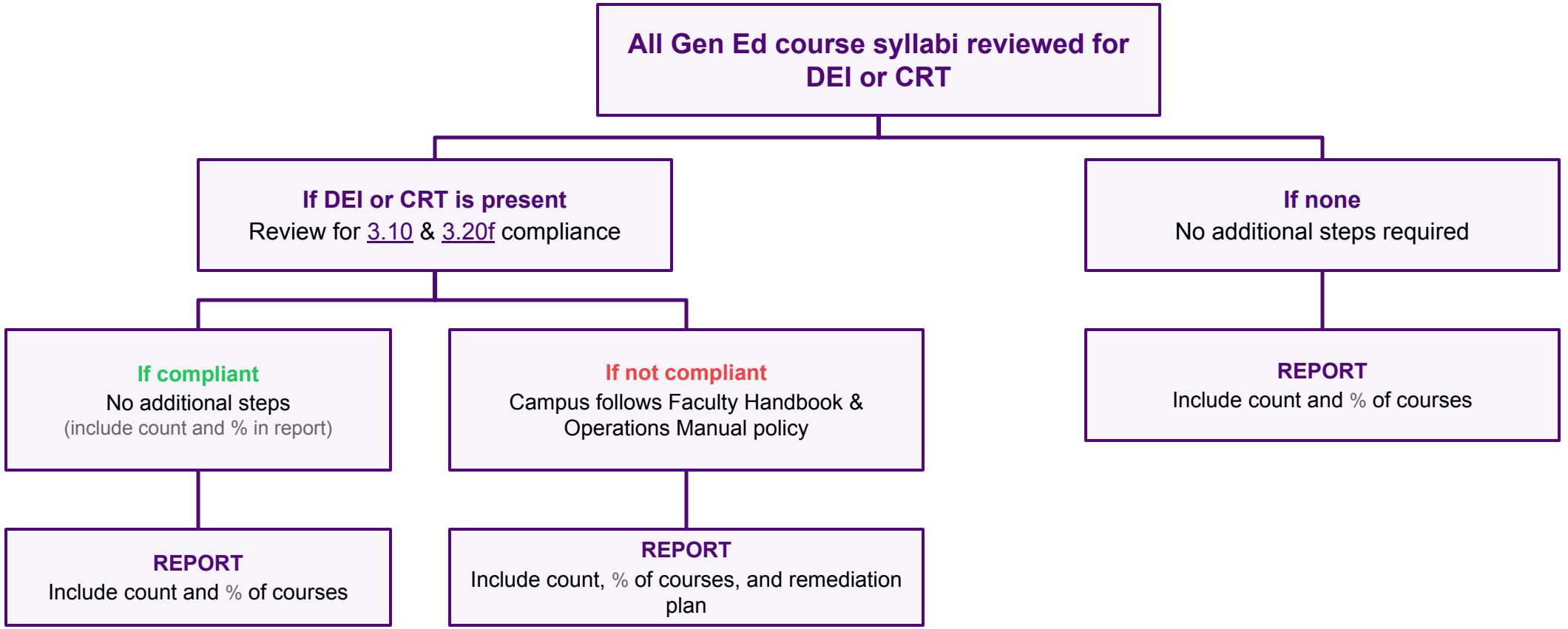
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4. General Education Review Report

- BOR staff must submit a report (as per BOR Policy 3.7 Academic Program Review) to meet the expectation of “identifying general education courses with DEI or CRT” at the June 2027 BOR meeting
- Use this occasion to educate and inform the Board regarding the broad objectives of the general education curriculum
- Currently in the process of creating a “decision tree” for identifying DEI or CRT content

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DRAFT
Decision Tree Approach



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5. Bachelor of Applied Professional Studies (BAPS)

Overview

- House File 440, signed by the governor in 2025, split the mandate into two phases:
  - Expand existing accelerated tracks (e.g., nursing, education, psychology, business, agriculture) to fit into three years.
  - Create a new reduced-credit degree type to better align with Iowa's workforce needs and expand access for career-focused training (BAPS)
- New degree type -received BOR approval June 2026
- Reduced credit degree (<120 credit hours), not to be confused with an accelerated or 3-year degree that maintains the 120 credit hour requirement on a condensed timeline

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BAPS @ UNI

Guiding principles

- Requires 90–95 credit hours (vs. the typical 120 for a traditional bachelor's)
- Is not a replacement for existing degrees but an additional option for students seeking a shorter, career-focused route
- Aligns with workforce demand, especially in high-need fields, and supports reskilling/upskilling
- Offers flexible online delivery to accommodate non-traditional and working students

Timeline

- BOR target launch date: Fall 2027
- UNI curriculum proposal will be considered this Fall
- If approved, HLC evaluation in Spring/Summer 2027

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Questions?