

NEW UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM REQUEST

New Undergraduate Major Requests

An academic major or primary area of study within a degree program enables students to make an in-depth inquiry into a discipline or a professional field of study. It is organized around a specific set of goals and objectives that are accomplished through an ordered series of courses, whose connections define an internal structure and whose sequence advances levels of knowledge and understanding. A major introduces students to a discipline or field of study and related area through a foundation of theory and method. A major that focuses on a specific discipline draws its courses predominantly from one department. A major that encompasses a professional field of study or is interdisciplinary usually obtains its courses from more than one department.

The number of credit hours required for a major and its organizational structure will vary, depending on whether it aims at disciplinary or professional preparation. Variations are due to the demands of accrediting agencies, certification requirements, professional competence and expectations. Undergraduate majors require both discipline specific and support courses. In the Regental system majors typically consist of 47-89 semester credit hours with the mean at 68.5 hours. Credits required for the major are supported by the general education core and electives and together meet the total degree requirement. Majors are established by Board of Regents action.

New Undergraduate Degree Requests

Bachelor's Degree

The bachelor's degree is awarded to a student by a university for satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study (South Dakota Regental System minimum of 128 semester credits). It is verified by a diploma and transcript signifying a measure of achievement. The bachelor's degree enables a student to acquire a certain amount of general learning and to also become proficient in a particular field of study or a profession. The curricular structure of a bachelor's degree program includes a system general education core curriculum, institutional graduation requirements, support courses, major courses, and electives.

Associate Degrees

Associate of Arts Degree

An Associate of Arts (AA) degree is typically a two-year transfer degree, which indicates the completion of a student's lower division general education requirements and forms the foundation for baccalaureate degree programs. Up to 16 credit hours at the 300 and 400 level may be required. More than 16 credit hours at the 300 and 400 level may be required if specified by an accrediting agency.

Associate of Science Degree

An Associate of Science (AS) degree is a terminal degree. However, it is transferable when a specific degree articulation agreement exists between a given AS degree and a specific baccalaureate degree. (BOR Policy 2:25:4B.) Up to 16 credit hours at the 300 and 400 level may be required. More than 16 credit hours at the 300 and 400 level may be required if specified by an accrediting agency.