

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL**

**AGENDA ITEM: 4 – B (3)**

**DATE: March 31, 2016**

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**SUBJECT: New Certificate: USD Graduate Certificate in English Language Learning**

The University of South Dakota (USD) requests authorization to offer a graduate certificate in English Language Learning. The certificate is in response to stated needs of K-12 school districts and the growing state population of students designated as English Language Learners (ELLs). USD notes estimates indicating a need for an additional 150 ELL-trained teachers in South Dakota over the next five years. Certificate credits stack to the Master of Elementary Education program. The certificate consists of eleven credit hours.

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Move forward. Provide comments and concerns to Jay Perry.

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**Certificate Request**

USD	C&I	<i>Elizabeth M. Freeburg</i>	2/23/16
Institution	Division/Department	Institutional Approval Signature	Date

**1. Name of Program:** English Language Learners Certificate

**2. Provide a justification for the program.**

The University of South Dakota seeks approval to offer a new graduate certificate program in English Language Learning. According to the National Council of Teachers of English, English Language Learners programs are designed for the K-12 students to actively learn the English language whereas English as a Second Language (ESL) is still used with multilingual students in higher education<sup>1</sup>. The number of K-12 students designated as English Language Learners (ELL) is growing rapidly in South Dakota, creating a need for more teachers who are trained to meet the unique needs of this population. According to the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition website's statistics for 2013-2014, there were 24 teachers in the state of South Dakota certified to teach ELL students. Based on projected growth, NCLEA estimated the need for 150 additional ELL teachers over the next 5 years. Partner school districts have expressed the need for a certificate program that will provide teachers with some of the required coursework to apply for the state endorsement, which is awarded via transcript audit as an add-on endorsement to a valid South Dakota teaching certificate. In 2013, South Dakota Legislature passed legislation that provides additional funding for ELLs. School districts may apply for funding to improve English proficiency in their schools under section 3114(a) and 3114(d) of Title III<sup>2</sup>.

The courses included in this certificate program have been approved by the South Dakota Department of Education for this purpose. If desired, certificate completers could continue into the Master of Elementary Education program with the ELL specialization. This series of courses includes: teaching English as a new language methods; reading methods for ELLs; linguistics and language acquisitions; and curriculum, assessment, and instruction.

**3. Who is the audience for the program?**

The audience for the certificate program consists of certified K-12 teachers with a minimum of one year of teaching experience who are interested in advancing their knowledge and skills in serving the needs of English Language Learners.

**4. List the courses to be completed, the credit hours of each course, and the total number of credit hours required for the program.**

Prefix & #	Title	Credit Hrs
ELED/SEED 562	Teaching English as a New Language	2
ELED/SEED 570	P-12 Reading Methods for ELL	3
ELED/SEED 564	Linguistics and Language Acquisition for P-12 ELLs	3
ELED/SEED 566	Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction for P-12 ELLs	3
<b>Total Credit Hours Required</b>		<b>11</b>

**5. Proposed CIP code** 13.1315

**6. Effective Date of Certificate Program** Fall 2016

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ncte.org/library/NCTEFiles/Resources/PolicyResearch/ELLResearchBrief.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://doe.sd.gov/ofm/documents/LEA\\_eGrant\\_%20Funds.pdf](https://doe.sd.gov/ofm/documents/LEA_eGrant_%20Funds.pdf)