



News Release

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Universities Add Graduate Specializations in Engineering

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents this week approved new specializations in graduate-level engineering programs at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and the University of South Dakota.

At the School of Mines, a **mining engineering specialization** will be offered within the Ph.D. degree in geology and geological engineering. This specialization prepares graduates for work in research, mine planning and optimization, mine management, ventilation, deep water mining, and mineral economics.

Officials say the new specialization will allow for greater interdisciplinary research and course development. The offering is a collaboration between the Department of Mining Engineering and Management and the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering on the Mines' campus.

A **medical product development and manufacturing specialization** at USD responds to a small but rapidly growing medical device and pharmaceutical products industry in South Dakota. This new specialization in the master of science program in biomedical engineering will prepare graduates to design next-generation medical products, while giving them a firm understanding of regulatory pathways and commercial markets so that their discoveries can move more rapidly into the marketplace.

According to USD officials, these are highly regulated industries and the route that a technology takes from discovery to market is often complex. Several local companies are developing products that have entered or will soon enter clinical trials. As these companies grow they will need employees who are familiar with the regulatory pathways that must be followed.