



News Release

Contacts: Robert T. Tad Perry, Executive Director
tadp@sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Information & Institutional Research
janellet@sdbor.edu

T: 605.773.3455
F: 605.773.5320
www.sdbor.edu

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Health Care Fields Popular Majors at State Universities

PIERRE, S.D. – Nearly 4,400 students were enrolled last spring in health-related academic programs at South Dakota’s public universities. Studies leading to health care careers are a popular option for students in the public higher education system, according to data compiled by the South Dakota Board of Regents.

Nursing is the most popular health care-related program with 2,318 students enrolled in nursing, pre-nursing, accelerated, or upward mobility programs. There were 522 students enrolled in pharmacy or pre-pharmacy programs, and another 388 in medicine or pre-medicine.

“Our goal is to effectively deliver programs that meet the increasing demand for health care professionals in South Dakota,” said Regents Executive Director Robert T. Tad Perry. Perry noted that demand is being fueled by growth in the health care delivery sector as a result of an aging population and more specialization.

The growing need for health care workers is the subject of a first-ever state health care workforce summit Monday, Aug. 7, in Pierre. For links to health care degree programs at South Dakota public universities, visit the Web site at: <http://www.sdbor.edu/health/programs.htm>.

Board of Regents Health Care Program Enrollments – Spring 2006

Medicine, Pre-Medicine	388
Pharmacy, Pre-Pharmacy	522
Pre-Dentistry	45
Pre-Optometry	17
Pre-Chiropractic	36
Physical Therapy, Pre-Physical Therapy	177
Physician Assistant Studies, Pre-Physician Assistant Studies	63
Occupational Therapy, Pre-Occupational Therapy	37
Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology, Communication Disorders	117

Nursing, Accelerated Nursing, RN Upward Mobility, Pre-Nursing	2,318
Medical Technology, Clinical & Lab Sciences, Pre-Medical Technology	92
Athletic Training	109
Dental Hygiene, Pre-Dental Hygiene	184
Respiratory Care, Pre-Respiratory Care	72
Health Services Administration, Health Information Administration, Health Information Technology	120
Clinical Psychology	73
TOTAL	4,370