



News Release

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Regents Approve New Academic Programs and Delivery Options

BROOKINGS, S.D. – Dakota State University has secured final approval to begin offering a bachelor's degree in computer game design this fall. The program is expected to attract at least 20 new students a year to the Madison campus.

The interdisciplinary degree prepares students with the skills needed to work in video game design, development, and production. Computer gaming is a fast growing industry across the country, and there are opportunities for these graduates right here in South Dakota, the Board of Regents was told. The skills students will gain may be applied in business, education, and web design and production. Students will complete coursework in art, music, writing, digital media, and computer programming.

The computer game design degree is the first of its kind in the South Dakota public university system, and a good fit for Dakota State with its high-tech mission of providing instruction in computer information systems and computer management, regents' officials said.

In other action, the Board of Regents:

- Approved an **associate degree and a minor in banking and financial services at Northern State University**. The degree prepares students for entry-level careers in banks, insurance firms, and other financial institutions, while the minor gives students a working knowledge of financial institutions and enhances their job prospects. University officials pointed to projections of employment growth in South Dakota's finance and insurance sectors of more than 18 percent by 2012. NSU also will offer the associate degree at off-campus locations, including Sioux Falls, Pierre, and Rapid City, and by distance delivery.
- Approved a **minor in teaching English to speakers of other languages at Black Hills State University**. This field includes both the teaching of English as a foreign language and as a second language. This minor supports the university's English department in its mission to prepare future teachers in the curriculum of grammar, literature and writing. It is the first minor program of its kind available to students in the regents' system.
- Approved a **minor in high performance computing at Dakota State University**. This minor is aimed at preparing students to work in high-performance computing environments and to deal with the demands of scientific and research computing. The minor may be added to existing degrees offered by DSU in computer science, computer

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information systems, math for information systems, and computer and network security.

- Approved a request from the **University of South Dakota to begin offering its B.S. degree in alcohol and drug abuse studies online**, with select courses delivered at off-campus sites. University officials say this will better meet the needs of place-bound South Dakota residents who are unable to come to the Vermillion campus to pursue the degree. Two advanced clinical laboratory courses required to complete the degree will be offered at off-campus sites in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Pierre.

None of these academic programs or delivery options required new state resources in order to implement, regents' officials said.