



News Release

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New Academic Degree Programs Authorized

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents today authorized new degree programs at three state universities in response to workforce development needs, all without requesting additional state resources to support the programs.

The board's action creates M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in nutritional sciences, a M.S. degree in dietetics, and a B.S. degree in biotechnology, all at South Dakota State University; a M.S. degree in construction management at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology; and a new minor in interdisciplinary sciences at The University of South Dakota.

- At SDSU, the **master's and doctoral degrees in nutritional sciences** will prepare students for careers in public health promotion and research in the private sector, government agencies, and higher education. The **M.S. degree in dietetics** will prepare dietitians already in the field to practice at an advanced level. Online delivery of the dietetics degree will allow dietitians in rural areas to complete coursework without relocating or commuting.
- At SDSMT, a new **M.S. degree in construction management** responds to the increased demand from construction companies, private industry, developers, and government agencies for engineers with construction management knowledge and skills. Closely related to existing programs in civil engineering, the new degree will position graduates for management positions in the construction industry.
- The **bachelor of science degree in biotechnology** at SDSU will prepare students in the fundamental sciences, positioning them for new career opportunities in the growing life sciences fields of biotechnology, medicine, and nano-sciences. Graduates might work with such technologies as molecular biology, genetic engineering, or biomass conversion. This major also prepares students for professional study in medicine, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, or veterinary medicine.
- The USD **minor in interdisciplinary sciences** will help students interested in pursuing professional programs in the health sciences meet their pre-professional requirements. Students in any baccalaureate major at USD will be able to add this minor to their degree. University officials believe it will expand the pool of students who consider graduate-level study in the health professions.