



# News Release

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## **Dakota State's MBA to Emphasize Information Technology Tools**

BROOKINGS, S.D. – Dakota State University in Madison has received the go-ahead to offer a specialized master of business administration degree that reflects the university's unique information technology mission and is designed to provide a flexible approach specifically for the Sioux Falls region. It will be offered starting this fall at University Center in Sioux Falls.

“Because of Dakota State's reputation for innovation and our distinct mission, this degree is different from other MBA programs offered in the area,” said DSU President Doug Knowlton. “Two information technology courses will be required of all students, and the students will be able to work with faculty to design specializations that would recognize unique courses and fields of study: logistics or sustainability, for example,” he said.

The Dakota State program will prepare entry-level and lower middle-management professionals for advancement or a career change. People who are currently employed will be able to enroll and complete the degree in Sioux Falls on a part-time basis through face-to-face instruction.

A 2008 market study in the Sioux Falls area indicated a growing demand for employees with graduate degrees in business. Over the past two years, University Center officials have fielded an average of 15 inquiries a month asking about MBA programs. The MBA is considered an ideal foundation for management positions in a wide array of organizations and business structures.

An estimated 35 students will be admitted into the program each year, reaching a steady-state enrollment of 90 students by the fourth year.

No new state resources were requested to start up this MBA program; students will pay full program costs through the existing self-support tuition rate. Likewise, no new student fees or increases to existing fees were required. Earlier this year, the Board of Regents also terminated a number of low-enrolled academic programs and specializations to free up needed resources for this and other high-priority initiatives.