

Contacts: Jack R. Warner, Executive Director and CEO  
[jack.warner@sdbor.edu](mailto:jack.warner@sdbor.edu)

Janelle Toman, Director of Communications  
[Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu](mailto:Janelle.toman@sdbor.edu)

Telephone: (605) 773-3455

Fax: (605) 773-5320

[www.sdbor.edu](http://www.sdbor.edu)

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## **Graduate Banking Degree Approved at NSU; Regents Authorize More Programs for Online Delivery**

ABERDEEN, S.D. – Beginning this fall, **Northern State University** will offer a master’s degree in banking and financial services, building on its successful undergraduate programs in that field.

“This graduate-level degree expands Northern’s curriculum to better meet the workforce needs of the banking and financial services industry in South Dakota and the Midwest region,” said Regents President Kathryn Johnson. A master of science degree will prepare students for a competitive market upon graduation, she said, and also provides current professionals in the field the skills needed to advance their careers.

The regional banking industry expects a number of executives to retire over the next several years, creating a need for qualified individuals to fill management positions. A former banking regulator said the key to any financial institution’s success is the quality and education of the management team; Northern’s graduate degree will give new and current employees the tools to effectively compete in the industry. The university consulted with industry leaders during development of the curriculum.

NSU already offers bachelor and associate degrees, a minor, and certificates in the banking and financial services program. Today’s action also authorizes the new graduate degree for distance delivery, allowing bankers from across the state and region to earn this credential without commuting or relocating to Aberdeen.

In other action today on academic programs, the regents:

- Approved a new minor in health information management at **Dakota State University**. The minor will provide students in other fields of study such as business administration, information systems, and computer science the skills needed to work in the health-care industry.
- Authorized **NSU** to begin offering online several of its existing degrees, including master’s degrees in leadership and administration, teaching and learning, instructional design in E-learning, and training and development in E-learning. Officials said putting these degrees online expands educational opportunity to more students who find themselves place bound due to work or family considerations.
- A bachelor’s degree in international business studies at **NSU** was also approved for online delivery.