



News Release

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Regents Approve New System Math Pathway Model

VERMILLION, S.D. – In an effort to improve student retention and graduation rates, a new instructional model for mathematics has been approved by the South Dakota Board of Regents. As a result, no public university student will be required to take traditional remedial mathematics courses by fall 2019, although several options will be available to each student. This initiative, called the ‘math pathways model,’ is a result of a comprehensive review on how to improve student success in mathematics at the six public universities in South Dakota.

The math pathway is a uniform, system-wide set of options for students currently placing into developmental education mathematics courses. It grants flexibility to campuses in how to best serve their students and eases course transfers across the university system.

“The biggest change to occur is that by fall of 2019 students will be enrolled in math coursework that best aligns with needs of their degree program,” said Paul Turman, the regents’ system vice president for academic affairs. “Those that traditionally would have enrolled in non-credit remedial math will be provided opportunities to take co-requisite math coursework with supplemental instruction. The ultimate goal of the pathway is to design courses in a way students have the support they need to be successful whatever their career path.”

Under the pathway, students who did not take math their senior year of high school or non-traditional students who need a refresher in math have the option to take a non-credit math course. In addition or instead a student may choose from three different pathways.

- Mathematical reasoning pathway - for students in programs that additional math is not required. Examples of these programs include social sciences and visual arts.
- College algebra pathway -for students with coursework with a prerequisite of college algebra. Areas of study requiring this pathway include health sciences, education, and business.
- Calculus pathway –for students in programs that calculus is the foundation of the program requirements. Examples of programs requiring a calculus foundation include engineering programs, computer science, and mathematics.

“Improving math outcomes has been a high priority for the regents. For many students math, especially college algebra, can be a stumbling block on their way to college success. The desired outcome of implementing this model is to put students on the right path to completing their chosen degree,” said Mike Rush, the regents’ executive director and CEO.