



# News Release

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## **Public Universities Respond to State Workforce Needs**

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents this week approved new academic program requests from four public universities to meet emerging workforce and community development needs across the state.

The following actions, sorted by the university making the request, were approved:

### **Dakota State University**

- A new undergraduate certificate in **data analytics** equips students to solve data-driven business problems and to assist in analytics-driven decision making. The 12 credit-hour certificate, to be available online, may lead to further study in computer science or analytics at DSU. This is an ideal foundational certificate for students pursuing careers as a business or marketing analyst or as business intelligence and analytics developers.

### **South Dakota School of Mines & Technology**

- Three specializations, formerly under the umbrella of an interdisciplinary studies major at SD Mines, will now be offered as stand-alone majors. The current interdisciplinary studies major will be eliminated. The new majors, all leading to a bachelor of science degree, are in **atmospheric & environmental sciences; science, technology, and society; and pre-professional health sciences**.
  - The **atmospheric & environmental sciences** major is the only meteorology-related undergraduate program offered in the state.
  - The **science, technology, and society** major combines rigorous coursework in natural sciences with a firm grounding in the social sciences and humanities for those students seeking to combine science and engineering with a stronger linkage to the human dimensions of scientific progress.
  - The **pre-professional health sciences** major prepares students for graduate study and professional advancement in fields such as occupational therapy or medicine.

### South Dakota State University

- A new minor in **engineering management** will provide students with enhanced skills in production strategy, project management, engineering systems management, and cost analysis. The 18 credit-hour minor will appeal to students enrolled in engineering, applied science, and technology disciplines. This minor will be available through online delivery.
- A new undergraduate certificate in **pre-construction planning** offers foundational skills in plan layout and development, construction materials, and commercial building methods, along with an understanding of building mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems. The 12 credit-hour certificate is stackable to degrees in construction technology and construction management at SDSU, and will be available online.
- Students pursuing the Ph.D. degree in computational science and statistics at SDSU will be required to select a specialization in either **data science, mathematics, or statistics** to complete their academic preparation leading to a distinct career path. Officials expect these specializations to further assist in recruiting high-quality graduate students into the Ph.D. program.

### University of South Dakota

- New undergraduate certificates in **introduction to child life** and **advanced child life** will prepare child life specialists for certification through the Association of Child Life Professionals. The two 12 credit-hour certificates are designed to be taken consecutively and are of particular interest to social workers who interact with children in hospitals and other settings.