



News Release

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New Options Available for Students Pursuing DSU Degrees

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Board of Regents today approved requests from Dakota State University to offer a teaching degree online, create a new minor, and develop new specializations within its mathematics major. University officials said all these changes are part of DSU’s work to meet economic development and workforce trends across South Dakota.

The university’s **bachelor of science in education degree in elementary education** will now be available to students seeking a degree in an online-only format. The primary audience will be paraprofessionals already working in elementary classrooms who wish to become certified as a teacher.

It is the first elementary education program at a South Dakota public university to be offered fully online. DSU estimates it will attract 12 new students a year by making this online option available.

Dakota State will also create a **minor in English as a New Language** to complement its existing teacher education programs. In its request for approval, DSU officials said there is a growing need in smaller and rural school districts for teachers prepared to support students whose first language is not English. The 18 credit-hour minor will prepare teachers to work with English language learners in language acquisition, cultural understanding, and classroom technology integration.

Also approved is a move to combine existing majors in two academic programs on the DSU campus into a single major in mathematics with four specializations. The new specializations available to students within the bachelor of science degree in mathematics are **cryptology, information systems, intermediate education, and secondary education**.