

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 4 – L (2)

DATE: March 30 – April 1, 2016

SUBJECT: New Site: SDSU Minor in Geography

South Dakota State University (SDSU) requests authorization to deliver the minor in Geography through online distance delivery. SDSU makes the request in response to growing demand for online programs. In addition, the online minor would provide additional options to comply with SDSU’s College of Arts and Sciences requirement that all students complete a minor. All courses in the minor are currently available online. SDSU is authorized to deliver the BS in Geography online. Black Hills State University, Northern State University, and the University of South Dakota all offer a face-to-face minor in Geography.

SDSU is not requesting new state resources to deliver the program. Funding for the program will come from self-support tuition revenue generated from online tuition. SDSU estimates the online minor will produce 2 graduates per year after full implementation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

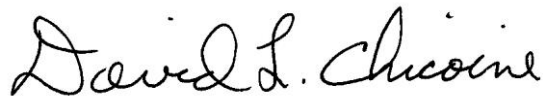
I move to approve SDSU’s request to offer the Minor in Geography through online distance delivery as described in Attachment I.

**South Dakota Board of Regents
New Site: Request to Offer an Existing Degree Program**

University	South Dakota State University
Degree(s) and Program	Minor in Geography
New Site(s)	Online
Proposed Implementation (term)	Fall 2016

University Approval

To the Board and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this request, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.



President of the University

January 28, 2016

Date

After approval by the President, a signed copy of the proposal should be transmitted to the Executive Director. Only after Executive Director review should the proposal be posted on the university web site and the Board staff and the other universities notified of the URL.

1. What is the need for this program in this site (these sites)? What is the expected demand for graduates in the site(s)?

South Dakota State University (SDSU) requests authorization to offer the minor in Geography through online delivery. The study of geography is of vital concern to all citizens and provides graduates with numerous career opportunities in business, education, and government. The minor in Geography is designed to be flexible, including general education courses as well as electives to compliment a student's major field of study, including majors in Biology, Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Geographic Information Sciences, History, and Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. The faculty recommends that students take several courses in disciplines closely related to their specific area of interest in geography. Enrollment in the minor at the main campus in Brookings is at 16. The availability of the minor online provides the opportunity for place bound and off-campus students to also access the minor.

This proposal for an online minor in Geography supports SDSU's *IMPACT 2018* strategic plan¹. The request supports Goal #3 Outreach: c) "Use emerging technologies and institutional collaboration to provide undergraduate, graduate, professional and continuing education focused on traditional and adult learners across the state, in the region, nation and globally."

The College of Arts and Sciences has recently implemented a degree requirement that requires a majority of their students to complete a minor as a part of their program. The addition of online minors will support the growing number of programs available to students through online delivery.

¹ <http://www.sdstate.edu/impact2018/>

South Dakota State University
New Site Request: Minor in Geography, Online

SDSU will not require additional resources. All courses are currently offered online. Students are already enrolling in the courses that are available.

2. Is any regental university authorized to offer a similar program at the new site(s)? Is any non-system institution offering a similar program at the new site(s)? If either answer is “yes,” identify the institution(s) and program(s) and explain why authorization is requested.

SDSU is authorized to deliver the B.S. in Geography online. None of the other Regental universities offer a minor in Geography through online delivery. These institutions currently offer face to face majors/minors in Geography:

Black Hills State University

- Geography Minor

Northern State University

- Geography Minor

University of South Dakota

- Geography Minor

3. Are students expected to be new to the university or redirected from other programs or both? Complete the table and explain how the estimates were developed. How will the new site(s) affect enrollments in other campus and off-campus programs in the regental system?

The University expects most of the students to be currently enrolled in the university. Students will either be new to the university (taking the minor to enhance or supplement a degree program at another institution) or current SDSU students that want to complete the minor online. Students like the flexibility of online programs which allow them to continue to live and work anywhere in the state while they’re completing their degree. It is not expected that the online minor will have much impact on the enrollments in face-to-face, on-campus courses. As seen in the table below, the online minor is expected to attract two students per year. Onsite students are already enrolling in the online courses that are available.

Minor	# of Graduate Per Year							Total Graduates FY2009 – FY2015	Fall 2015 Minor Enrollment
	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015		
SGEOG	6	3	5	9	7	7	3	40	16

	Fiscal Years*			
	1st FY17	2nd FY18	3rd FY19	4th FY20
Estimated				
New to the university	0	0	0	0
Current students	2	2	2	2
Continuing students		2	2	2
= Total in the program at the site	2	4	4	4
Credit hours, majors in program courses**	18	36	36	36
Graduates	0	2	2	2

* Do not include current year.

South Dakota State University
New Site Request: Minor in Geography, Online

** 9 credits offered the first year and 18 credits offered year two and beyond.

4. Complete the table and explain any special circumstances. Attach a copy of the program as it appears in the current catalog. If any program modifications are requested, attach that form. Explain how the new courses will be delivered. Attach the new course request forms.

Minor in Geography	Credit hours	Credits currently available from this university online	Credits currently available from other universities online	Courses new to this university
Minor Requirements	14	14	6	0
Electives	6	6	3	0
Total, Requirements of the Minor	20	20	9	0

The curriculum for the existing minor is included in Appendix A. No new program modifications or new courses are being requested along with this new site request. As indicated in Appendix A, SDSU currently offers all courses in the minor as online courses.

5. How will you provide student services comparable to those available for students on the main campus?

The student's academic advisor will be available to assist them in pursuing the minor. Students are referred to the department head or a minor coordinator if one exists for questions regarding minors. A student services facilitator is housed in Continuing and Distance Education and is available to assist students in connecting to necessary resources on-campus and online or to assist with general questions regarding online courses.

Library support services will be available to students through a variety of means:

- Students can contact librarians for research assistance. The librarian provides on-line research guides and is available for consultations with faculty and students.
- Distance Library Services include book and article delivery for materials owned by the library. Students may request materials not held by the library through interlibrary loan.
- SDSU students have on-line access to research databases such as *Web of Science*, *EBSCOhost MegaFILE*, and *JSTOR*.

Other student services such as disability services accommodations will be available to students upon request.

6. Is this program accredited by a specialized accrediting body? If so, address any program accreditation issues and costs related to offering the program at the new site(s).

None

7. Does the University request any exceptions to Board policy for delivery at the new site(s)? Explain requests for exceptions to Board policy. If no exceptions are requested, enter "None."

None

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8. Costs, Budget & Resources Related to New Courses at the Site: Explain the amount and source(s) of any one-time and continuing investments in personnel, professional development, release time, instructional technology and software, other O&M, facilities, student services, etc needed to implement the program at the new site(s). Complete Appendix B – Budget using the system form.

All courses are currently being taught. No additional resources are needed.

South Dakota State University
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Appendix A

Requirements for the Minor in Geography

Credits: 20

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- Upper-division courses or substitutions approved by the Department Credits: 6
 - GEOG 131-131L - Physical Geography: Weather and Climate and Lab (COM) Credits: 4
 - GEOG 132-132L - Physical Geography: Natural Landscapes and Lab (COM) Credits: 4
 - GEOG 200 - Introduction to Human Geography (COM) Credits: 3
 - GEOG 210 - World Regional Geography (COM) Credits: 3

Geography Courses Offered by South Dakota State University Online

GEOG 131-131L - Physical Geography: Weather and Climate and Lab (COM) Credits: 4
 GEOG 132-132L - Physical Geography: Natural Landscapes and Lab (COM) Credits: 4
 GEOG 200 - Introduction to Human Geography (COM) Credits: 3
 GEOG 210 - World Regional Geography (COM) Credits: 3
 GEOG 320 - Regional Geography: (COM) Credits: 3
 GEOG 343 - Environmental Disasters & Human Hazards Credits: 3
 GEOG 351 - Economic Geography Credits: 3
 GEOG 363 - Rural Geography Credits: 3
 GEOG 382 - Quantitative Research Methods in Geography Credits: 3
 GEOG 383-383L Cartography and Lab Credits: 3
 GEOG 405 - Historical Geography Credits: 3
 GEOG 425 - Population Geography Credits: 3
 GEOG 472-472L - Introduction to GIS and Lab (COM) Credits: 3
 GEOG 473-473L - GIS: Data Creation and Integration and Lab Credits: 3
 GEOG 474-474L - GIS: Vector and Raster Modeling and Lab Credits: 3
 GEOG 475-475L - GIS Applications and Lab Credits: 3
 GEOG 490 – Seminar (various topics) (COM) Credits: 3