

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Academic and Student Affairs**  
**Consent**

**AGENDA ITEM: 2 – D**

**DATE: May 14, 2019**

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**SUBJECT**

**General Education Revisions**

**CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

[BOR Policy 2:7](#) – Baccalaureate General Education Curriculum

[BOR Policy 2:26](#) – Associate General Education Requirements

[AAC Guideline 8.3](#) – Associate Degree General Education Curriculum Requirements

[AAC Guideline 8.4](#) – Baccalaureate General Education Curriculum Requirements

[AAC Guideline 8.1](#) – General Education Implementation Guidelines

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION**

The Board of Regents approved revisions to General Education courses at the [March 2018](#) meeting. Those revisions came at the culmination of a major redesign effort of the system General Education requirements. As part of the General Education redesign effort, a process was implemented to bring coursework revisions to the Board of Regents one time per year.

Further, Board has maintained a set of limited General Education courses for the system. This is accomplished through a process that limits the number of courses approved as General Education coursework for each institution; institutions must remove an existing General Education course from the approved matrix in order to approve a new course.

At their [November 2018](#) and [April 2019](#) meetings, the Academic Affairs Council reviewed and approved the respective removal and addition of the following from the current slate of General Education courses offered at the University of South Dakota (USD). The system General Education Committee also supports these revisions being advanced for consideration by the Board:

***Goal #3 Social Sciences***

Remove [POLS 102 American Political Issues](#) (USD)

(Continued)

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**DRAFT MOTION 20190514\_2-D:**

I move to approve the removal of POLS 102 and CHEM 110/110L and addition of PHIL 242, HSC 280/280L, and SUST 113/113L from the system General Education goals for USD as presented beginning Fall 2019.

***Goal # 4 – Humanities & Fine Arts***

Add [PHIL 242 Ethics, Law, and Literature](#) (USD)

***Goal #6 – Natural Sciences***

Remove [CHEM 110/110L Chemistry & the Environment / Lab](#) (USD)

Add [HSC 280/280L Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology / Lab](#) (USD)

Add [SUST 113/113L Sustainable Environment / Lab](#) (USD)

**IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION**

The inactivation of the two courses are specific to USD and are proposed because the institution no longer regularly offers the courses. The deletion of these courses will provide USD with options to offer future replacement courses that meet the General Education requirements, specifically, those described below.

*PHIL 242 Ethics, Law, and Literature:* The core goal of PHIL 242 is to explore the values required to organize a society around the institutions of law and justice. This approach to political life differs from empirical accounts of how societies are structured because the focus is not to describe social forms, but to evaluate their costs and benefits. Because of the multidisciplinary approach of combining questions of law and ethics together with the methodology of fiction and literature, this course is especially well suited for introducing students to the comparative strengths of the humanities and arts. To understand the basic claim that fiction (and art more broadly) plays a crucial role in the formation of social and political life, students have to learn core concepts of aesthetics (e.g., its essential subjective and affective elements) in addition to core concepts of the humanities (e.g., which values make human life worth living). Moreover, students have to learn basic concepts of justice such moral injury and retribution in order to evaluate responses as different as vengeance, punishment, and forgiveness.

*HSC 280/280L Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology/Lab:* Helps students gain an understanding and awareness of this science. This course provides the necessary knowledge that is foundational to work in the healthcare industry in support positions including clinical analytics, coding, billing, insurance claims, public health and other areas of health care such as paramedic practice and sports medicine. Including this five credit hour course as a general education course will be a huge benefit for those individuals seeking careers in health care such as those mentioned above. Adding HSC 280 to the general education courses will benefit a number of students currently enrolled at USD in health sciences and sport sciences and, in addition, will benefit transfer students.

*SUST 113/113L Sustainable Environment/Lab:* Sustainable Environment is founded in sciences currently offered at USD, earth science and biology, but in a new context, sustainability. This course will be a useful and desirable course for many students. Framing science within the context of societal issues, as is done in SUST 113/113L, has been found to be more effective in engaging students in science, especially students who are underrepresented in STEM fields. By making SUST 113/113L a course that fulfills SGR #6, USD will be promoting science to a broad audience. Further, as is recognized in the

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zero-sum policy, other institutions wishing to offer this course may do so with no penalty on their zero-sum matrix.

Board staff recommends approval of the aforementioned revisions to the list of approved General Education courses for the system.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None