SUBJECT
Request to Seek Accreditation – USD

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY
BOR Policy 1:10 – Relationship of Curriculum and Instruction to Statutory Objectives

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION
Board of Regents Policy 1:10 specifies that “Each campus must seek and receive Board approval before applying for initial accreditation or an expanded scope of accreditation for academic programs.” In accordance with Board policy, the University of South Dakota requests approval to seek accreditation from the following accrediting agencies:

- **Accrediting Agency:** Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)  
  **Program:** BS in Public Health

- **Accrediting Agency:** Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)  
  **Program:** Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) with specialization in Organizational Systems and Leadership; Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with specialization in Nursing Informatics and e-Health

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, awards institutional accreditation for higher education institutions in South Dakota. A variety of unique organizations award specialized/program accreditation within distinct programs or departments at Regental institutions. A general reference document on institutional and specialized/program accreditation is available on the academic Reports and Accountability webpage of the BOR website.

- **Special Analysis:** Accreditation in Higher Education

DRAFT MOTION 20210511_5-I:
I move to approve USD’s requests to seek accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) for their BS in Public Health; and from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for their Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) with specialization in Organizational Systems and Leadership; Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with specialization in Nursing Informatics and e-Health programs.
IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

Program accreditation is available through the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). CEPH is the nationally recognized accrediting body for both schools of public health and public health programs. Program accreditation is required for students to sit for the CPH examination. Accreditation not only benefits students, but also the program and School of Health Sciences. It would underscore the quality of the program administration, activities, and curriculum. Broader recognition of the program enhances the ability to attract high-quality students.

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) is an autonomous accrediting agency, contributing to the improvement of the public's health. The Commission ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate, and graduate programs in nursing. The Commission serves the public interest by assessing and identifying programs that engage in effective educational practices. CCNE accreditation supports and encourages continuing self-assessment by nursing programs and supports continuing growth and improvement of collegiate professional education.

Board staff recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – Request to Seek Accreditation Form: CEPH
Attachment II – Request to Seek Accreditation Form: CCNE
SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS
Request to Seek Accreditation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIVERSITY:</th>
<th>University of South Dakota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROGRAM:</td>
<td>Bachelor of Science in Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIP CODE:</td>
<td>51.2201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</td>
<td>Department of Public Health &amp; Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY DIVISION:</td>
<td>School of Health Sciences (USD)</td>
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</table>

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

[Signature]
Click here to enter a date.

President of the University  Date

1. Level of program seeking accreditation (place an “X” in the appropriate box):
   - [ ] Certificate
   - [ ] Associate  X Bachelor’s
   - [ ] Doctoral
   - [ ] Master’s

2. Accrediting Agency:
   Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)

3. What are the advantages of accreditation?
Program accreditation is available through the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). CEPH is the nationally recognized accrediting body for both schools of public health and public health programs. Program accreditation is required for students to sit for the CPH examination.

CEPH accredited programs offer the following benefits to students:
- Comprehensiveness: CEPH accredited schools and programs provide a variety of degrees in public health, including undergraduate, masters’ and doctoral degrees in many areas of study.
- Rigor: Each CEPH school or program goes through a rigorous accreditation process on a regular basis to assure students of a quality educational experience.
- Flexibility: Many CEPH accredited schools and programs offer online, dual degree and executive programs.
- Qualification: Provides eligibility to sit for the Certified in Public Health (CPH) exam, administered by the Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE).
- Opportunity: Eligibility for public health internships and experiences sponsored by various agencies, as well as student assistance resources that are available only through accredited schools or programs.
• Recognition: CEPH accredited schools and programs are peer-reviewed, students can be sure their institution has met the standards established by CEPH. (www.ceph.org)

Accreditation would also benefit the program and School of Health Sciences for similar reasons. Achieving accreditation underscores the quality of the program administration, activities, and curriculum. Broader recognition of the program enhances the ability to attract high-quality students. Our public health colleagues who hire our public health graduates also benefit from them coming from a public health program in being assured of the quality of education they have received, and that it was based on achievement of the CEPH competencies.

4. What are the anticipated costs involved in accreditation, including:

   A. Costs involved in undergoing self-study and preparing the application for accreditation:

   The self-study and preparation of the application for CEPH accreditation will be completed by the faculty of the Department of Public Health and Health Sciences. There are no additional costs for the Department.

   B. Out-of-pocket costs related to dues or site visits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation Orientation Workshop (fee for 1 attendee)</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Application Submission Fee</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Applicant Fee ($2,500 per year until accreditation is achieved, typically 3 years)</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation Review Fee</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Total Estimated Out-of-Pocket Costs related to dues/site visits $11,700

   C. Base budget implications including incremental costs and minimum base resources required (dollars and FTE):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEPH Annual Support Fee</td>
<td>$4,138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   Curriculum: The curriculum for this degree is designed to meet CEPH requirements. Continuous curriculum improvement will occur in accordance with the CEPH accreditation criteria.

   Faculty: Accreditation preparation will be conducted by faculty in the Department of Public Health and Health Sciences.

5. What is the source of the revenue needed?

USD School of Health Sciences

6. What is the estimated date for submission of accreditation application?

In order to submit an accreditation application, a student must have already graduated from the program or that there is solid evidence that the unit will graduate at least one student by the time the preliminary self-study is submitted. The B.S. in Public Health anticipates submitting the application for accreditation June 2025.
UNIVERSITY: University of South Dakota

PROGRAMS: Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) with specialization in Organizational Systems and Leadership.

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with specialization in Nursing Informatics and e-Health

CIP CODE: 

UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT: Department of Nursing

UNIVERSITY DIVISION: School of Health Sciences (USD)

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

President of the University ___________________________ Date __________

1. Level of program seeking accreditation:

☐ Certificate ☐ Associate Bachelor’s

☒ Doctoral ☒ Master’s

2. Accrediting Agency:
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)

3. What are the advantages of accreditation?

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) is an autonomous accrediting agency, contributing to the improvement of the public's health. The Commission ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate, and graduate programs in nursing. The Commission serves the public interest by assessing and identifying programs that engage in effective educational practices. CCNE accreditation supports and encourages continuing self-assessment by nursing programs and supports continuing growth and improvement of collegiate professional education.

Accreditation by CCNE is intended to accomplish at least five purposes:
1. To hold nursing programs accountable to the community of interest – the nursing profession, consumers, employers, higher education, students and their families, and to
one another by ensuring that these programs have mission statements, goals, and outcomes that are appropriate to prepare individuals to fulfill their expected roles.

2. To evaluate the success of a nursing program in achieving its mission, goals, and expected outcomes.

3. To assess the extent to which a nursing program meets accreditation standards.

4. To inform the public of the purposes and values of accreditation and to identify nursing programs that meet accreditation standards.

5. To foster continuing improvement in nursing programs – and, thereby, in professional practice.

The BSN program at USD has full accreditation, and we are seeking accreditation for the DNP and MSN programs. Accreditation would also benefit the program and School of Health Sciences for similar reasons as those listed above. Achieving accreditation underscores the quality of the program administration, faculty, curriculum and resources necessary to implement a successful program. This accreditation fosters continuous quality improvement within the programs. Broader recognition of the programs enhances the ability to attract high-quality students. Our nursing professional colleagues who hire our nursing graduates, also benefit by being assured of the quality of education they have received, and that it was based on achievement of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials.

4. What are the anticipated costs involved in accreditation, including:

   A. Costs involved in undergoing self-study and preparing the application for accreditation:

      The self-study and preparation of the application for CCNE accreditation will be completed by the faculty of the Department of Nursing. There are no additional costs for the Department.

   B. Out-of-pocket costs related to dues or site visits:

      Initial Application Submission Fee: $2,000/program $4,000.00
      Onsite evaluation costs (travel and meals) $5,850.00

      Total Estimated Out-of-Pocket Costs related to dues/site visits $9,850.00

   C. Base budget implications including incremental costs and minimum base resources required (dollars and FTE):

      CCNE Membership Annual Fee $2,777.00
      AACN Membership Annual Fee $5,539.00

      Curriculum: The curriculum for this degree is designed to meet CCNE requirements. Continuous curriculum improvement will occur in accordance with the CCNE accreditation criteria.

      Faculty: Accreditation preparation will be conducted by faculty in the Department of Nursing.
5. What is the source of the revenue needed?
   Department of Nursing

6. What is the estimated date for submission of accreditation application?

   In order to submit an accreditation application, a degree program must have student’s enrolled for the equivalent of one academic year (2 semesters) prior to hosting an on-site evaluation. The DNP started in January 2021 and the MSN will begin August 2021. We are seeking accreditation two semesters after the start of the MSN program. On-site evaluations are generally scheduled with CCNE a minimum of 12 months in advance. The Department of Nursing anticipates submitting the application for the site visit in February 2021 with an anticipated site visit in August 2022.
February 8, 2021

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
655 K Street NW Suite 750
Washington, DC 20004-1120

RE: Request to initiate New Program Accreditation

Dear CCNE,

On behalf of the University of South Dakota Department of Nursing, I am writing to request accreditation for our new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) with specialization in Organizational and Systems Leadership be initiated by CCNE. We will also be starting a Master of Science (MSN) in Nursing with specialization of nursing informatics and e-health. The MSN program will begin in August 2021. The South Dakota Board of Regents has given us the authority to offer both programs. We are requesting an onsite visit in Fall 2022 for both programs.

Respectfully,

Anne Pithan DNP, RN, CMSRN, CNE
Department of Nursing Chair

Dr. Halja Samra
Dean of School of Health Sciences

Dr. Kurt Hackemer
Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs

President Sheila Gestring
President of the University of South Dakota

NURSING

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