

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

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

**AGENDA ITEM: 5 – F**  
**DATE: October 6-7, 2021**

\*\*\*\*\*

**SUBJECT**

**Request to Seek Accreditation – South Dakota School of Mines & Technology**

**CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

[BOR Policy 1:10](#) – Relationship of Curriculum and Instruction to Statutory Objectives

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION**

BOR 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, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (SDSMT) requests approval to seek accreditation from the following accrediting agency:

Accrediting Agency: Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET, Inc.

Program: BS in Biomedical Engineering

Advantages: Pursuing ABET accreditation for the Biomedical Engineering (BS) program will provide graduates of that program with the opportunity to pursue licensure as a professional engineer. ABET accreditation also indicates that a program meets the standards set by the technical profession through oversight by member professional and technical societies. Accreditation will standardize assessment of student learning for continuous improvement and provide the tools for the program to continue to provide our graduates the skills and knowledge required to pursue productive careers as biomedical engineers.

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 BOR website at the link below.

- [Special Analysis: Accreditation in Higher Education](#)

(Continued)

\*\*\*\*\*

**DRAFT MOTION 20211006\_5-F:**

I move to approve South Dakota School of Mines & Technology’s request to seek accreditation from the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET, Inc. for its BS in Biomedical Engineering.

**IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION**

SDSMT anticipates a one-time fee of \$1,010 for initial accreditation, an annual maintenance fee of \$700, and a fee of \$3,285 every six years for accreditation reviews to be covered through the Academic Affairs budget.

Board staff recommends approval.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment I – SDSMT Request to Seek Accreditation: EAC of ABET, Inc



## SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

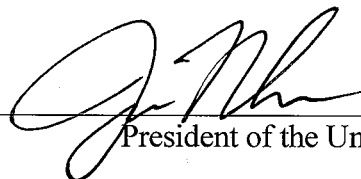
### Request to Seek Accreditation

Use this form to request permission to seek accreditation of an approved program. Board of Regents (BOR) action is required to seek program accreditation.

<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	SDSM&T
<b>PROGRAM:</b>	<b>Biomedical Engineering (BS)</b>
<b>CIP CODE:</b>	<b>14.0501</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</b>	<b>MNNS: Nanoscience &amp; Nanoengineering</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY DIVISION:</b>	

#### 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 7/26/21  
 Date

#### 1. Level of program seeking accreditation (place an "X" in the appropriate box):

- Certificate
  Associate
  Bachelor's  
 Doctoral
  Master's

#### 2. Accrediting Agency:

Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET, Inc.

#### 3. What are the advantages of accreditation?

ABET, Inc. provides periodic quality review of educational programs in applied and natural sciences, computing, engineering, and engineering technology fields. ABET accreditation indicates that a program meets the standards set by the technical profession through oversight by member professional and technical societies.

According to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering (NCEES), the most common path to licensure as a professional engineer in many states includes possessing an earned bachelor's degree from a program that is ABET accredited. Therefore, pursuing ABET accreditation for the

Biomedical Engineering (BS) program will provide graduates of that program with the opportunity to pursue licensure as a professional engineer.

Further, the culture of ABET accreditation is strong at South Dakota Mines, with many other engineering and computer science programs accredited through ABET, Inc. Having an additional program on campus that is ABET accredited will further standardize assessment of student learning for continuous improvement. It will also provide the tools for the program to continue to provide our graduates with the skills and knowledge required to pursue productive careers as biomedical engineers and/or prepare them for success in graduate or professional educational programs, to continue their professional growth.

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

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

Amounts in the chart below are based on the most currently available fee schedule from ABET, Inc. Costs listed below are specific to this request for the Biomedical Engineering (BS); additional costs are incurred for the other programs at South Dakota Mines that currently possess ABET, Inc. accreditation.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Readiness Review for Initial Accreditation	\$1,010	One-time	Program is seeking confirmation of Readiness Review requirement (reply from ABET pending)
Annual Maintenance for Accredited Programs	\$700	Annual	
Accreditation Reviews	\$3,285	Every six years	

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

Not applicable.

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

The Annual Maintenance and Accreditation Review costs identified in the chart above, indicate an annual base budget implication of an additional \$700 and a base budget implication of an additional \$3,285 every six years.

**5. What is the source of the revenue needed?**

Costs associated with accreditation are covered through the Academic Affairs budget.

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

At this time, the goal of the program is to join the accreditation cycle for all other ABET accredited programs at South Dakota Mines in AY 2022-2023. With this in mind, if the Readiness Review is required, the Readiness Review Request will be submitted to ABET by 9.1.2021 (with the Readiness Review report submitted by 10.1.2021). If the Readiness Review is not required, this program will be included with all other ABET accredited programs on the formal Request for Evaluation submitted to ABET by 1.31.2022. The self-study report will be completed and submitted to ABET by 6.30.2022 and the onsite accreditation review visit will occur in Fall, 2022.