

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs
Consent

AGENDA ITEM: 6 – E (2)
DATE: August 2-4, 2022

SUBJECT

New Specialization Request – USD – Specialization in Mental Health – BA & BS in Psychology

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 2:23](#) – Program and Curriculum Approval

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The University of South Dakota (USD) requests authorization to offer a specialization in Mental Health within the BA & BS in Psychology. The proposed specialization will better prepare undergraduate students for advanced study to become a clinical mental health professional, including degrees in Clinical Psychology, Counseling Psychology, Clinical Social Work, and School Psychology. The area of mental health counseling is projected to grow 23% between 2020 and 2030, well above average job growth for other sectors. Mental Health professionals are in high demand and in short supply in the upper mid-west and South Dakota in particular.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

USD requests authorization to offer the specialization on campus and at USD-Sioux Falls. USD is not requesting additional state resources to offer the program. No new courses will be required.

Board office staff recommends approval of the program.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – New Specialization Request Form: USD – Mental Health – BA & BS in Psychology

DRAFT MOTION 20220802_6-E(2):

I move to authorize USD to offer a specialization in Mental Health within the BA & BS in Psychology, as presented.



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**

New Specialization

UNIVERSITY:	USD
TITLE OF PROPOSED SPECIALIZATION:	Mental Health
NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM IN WHICH SPECIALIZATION IS OFFERED:	BA/BS Psychology
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	Fall 2022
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	42.0201
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Psychology
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	UPSY
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	Arts & Sciences
BANNER DIVISION CODE:	2A

X	<p><u>Please check this box to confirm that (place an “X” in the left box):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The individual preparing this request has read AAC Guideline 2.6, which pertains to new specialization requests, and that this request meets the requirements outlined in the guidelines. This request will not be posted to the university website for review of the Academic Affairs Committee until it is approved by the Executive Director and Chief Academic Officer.
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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.

Elizabeth M. Freeburg

5/2/2022

Institutional Approval Signature

Date

President or Chief Academic Officer of the University

1. Level of the Specialization (place an “X” before the specialization):

X	Baccalaureate		Master’s		Doctoral
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2. What is the nature/purpose of the proposed specialization? Please include a brief (1-2 sentence) description of the academic field in this specialization.

To better prepare undergraduate students for advanced study to become a clinical mental health professional, including degrees in Clinical Psychology, Counseling Psychology, Clinical Social Work and School Psychology.

3. Provide a justification for the specialization, including the potential benefits to students and potential workforce demand for those who graduate with the credential.

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics notes that Mental Health Counselors are projected to grow 23% between 2020 and 2030, well above the average job growth for other sectors. Clinical Psychologists are projected to grow at 8% per year which is average for all jobs. Mental health professions are in high demand and of short supply in the upper mid-west and South Dakota in particular¹. On average 1/3 of US citizens live in an area with a shortage of mental health professionals, in South Dakota that number is just over 50%². According to the South Dakota Department of Health, all but four counties in South Dakota are currently experiencing a shortage of mental health providers³.

This major ensures that students will graduate with all the necessary undergraduate coursework to pursue advanced study in counseling or clinical psychology. Most graduate training programs and all American Psychological Association accredited training programs requires that students complete coursework in 5 core areas (affective, biological, cognitive, developmental & social) in addition to coursework in research methods, statistics and history of psychology. This specialization builds upon the existing psychology major and integrates these required courses into the current structure of the major, ensuring that all students earning a Psychology-Mental Health specialization will be minimally prepared for entry into a graduate program leading to licensure.

4. List the proposed curriculum for the specialization (including the requirements for completing the major – **highlight courses in the specialization**):

Prefix	Number	Course Title <i>(add or delete rows as needed)</i>	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
PSYC	101	General Psychology	3	No
PSYC	275	Understanding Social Science Research	3	No
PSYC	371	Statistics in Psychology	3	No
PSYC	241	Social Psychology	3	No
PSYC	321	Developmental Psychology	3	No
PSYC	406	Cognitive Psychology	3	No
PSYC	451	Abnormal Psychology	3	No
PSYC	461	Theories of Personality	3	No
PSYC	411	Physiological Psychology	3	No
PSYC	409	History & Systems in Psychology	3	No
PSYC		Elective	3	No
PSYC		Elective	3	No

Total number of hours required for completion of specialization
 Total number of hours required for completion of major
 Total number of hours required for completion of degree

21
36
120

¹ <https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/2021/10/26/workforce-shortage-causing-backlog-at-hsc-south-dakota/8551226002/>

² <https://usafacts.org/articles/over-one-third-of-americans-live-in-areas-lacking-mental-health-professionals/>.

³ <https://doh.sd.gov/documents/Providers/RuralHealth/Mental.pdf>

5. Delivery Location

A. Complete the following charts to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver the entire program on campus, at any off campus location (e.g., UC Sioux Falls, Capital University Center, Black Hills State University-Rapid City, etc.) or deliver the entire specialization through distance technology (e.g., as an on-line program)?

	Yes/No	Intended Start Date
On campus	Yes	Fall 2022

	Yes/No	If Yes, list location(s)	Intended Start Date
Off campus	No		

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods <i>Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 5.5.</i>	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	Yes	USD-Sioux Falls	Fall 2022

B. Complete the following chart to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver more than 50% but less than 100% of the specialization through distance learning (e.g., as an on-line program)? This question responds to HLC definitions for distance delivery.

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	No		

6. Additional Information:

Current psychology majors seeking to gain admission to counseling or clinical psychology graduate programs already must complete all the coursework within the specialization. Formalizing this specialization will assist in ensuring that students are aware of the necessity for these courses and will be prepared for study or careers in the mental health field upon graduation. This specialization utilizes existing coursework and builds upon the expertise of the faculty of the state's only APA accredited clinical psychology training program.