

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: II – D (2)

DATE: April 1-2, 2015

SUBJECT: New Certificate Request: NSU Certificate in Organismal Biology

Northern State University (NSU) requests authorization to offer a certificate in Organismal Biology. The intended audience includes students entering professions related to zoology, botany/horticulture, ecology, education, and conservation. The certificate will enable students to develop skills applicable to teaching, graduate school, or employment in non-profit or government agencies. NSU currently offers all of the courses within the proposed 12-hour certificate.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Approve NSU's new certificate request for an Organismal Biology Certificate as described in Attachment I.

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Certificate Request

This form is to be used to request approval for a new certificate program that includes currently offered courses. A certificate program is not a major or minor. Refer to BOR policy 2:23 Certificate Programs.

Northern State University	Biology, Chemistry & Physics, and Mathematics		2/10/15
Institution	Division/Department	Institutional Approval Signature	Date

1. Name of Program: Certificate in Organismal Biology

2. Provide a justification for the program.

The certificate is designed to prepare students entering a variety of professions related to zoology, botany/horticulture, ecology, education and conservation, among others. It will provide additional training for students who do not plan to enter into medical/healthcare fields but wish to broaden their knowledge base beyond the core courses of the biology degree.

3. Who is the audience for the program?

Undergraduate biology, chemistry, and environmental science students who, in addition to their chosen majors, seek to enhance their knowledge base. The courses in the certificate will enable them to develop skills to better prepare them for teaching, applying to graduate schools, or obtaining employment in non-profit or government agencies.

4. List the courses to be completed, the credit hours of each course, and the total number of credit hours required for the program.

Students will select 3-4 courses of their choice worth a total of 12 credits. Certificate cannot include courses that students have already completed as part of the core of the biology major (excluding electives). Courses to choose from include the following:

Prefix & #	Title	Credit hours
BIOL 180*	Soils and the Environment	3
BIOL 301/301L	Plant Systematics/Lab	4
BIOL 333/333L	Aquatic Ecology/Lab	4
BIOL 351/351L	Plant Structure & Function/Lab	4
BIOL 355/355L	Mammalogy/Lab	4
BIOL 357/357L	Invertebrate Zoology/Lab	4
BIOL 363/363L	Ornithology/Lab	4
BIOL 365/365L	Vertebrate Zoology/Lab	4
BIOL 373	Evolution	3
BIOL 383	Bioethics	3
BIOL 407*	Plants and Civilization	3
BIOL 420/420L	Introduction to Biostatistics & Computational Biology/Lab	4
BIOL 434/434L	Herpetology/Lab	4
BIOL 436	Biogeography	3

*New course proposed.

Total Credit Hours Required 12

5. Proposed CIP code 260101

6. Effective Date of Certificate Program Fall 2015