

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: III – A.2 (f)

DATE: October 8-9, 2014

SUBJECT: Intent to Plan: SDSU M.S. in Agricultural Education

South Dakota State University (SDSU) requests authorization for a Master of Science in Agricultural Education. The program would focus on agricultural education in multiple settings, including non-profit organizations, formal education environments, and the Cooperative Extension Service (CES). SDSU plans to graduate 4-5 students from the program annually as evidenced by interest surveys conducted with the South Dakota Association of Agricultural Educators (SDAAE) and agriculture faculty at South Dakota’s four technical institutes.

University Mission and Priorities

The proposed program is within the statutory mission of SDSU as described in SDCL 13-58-1, including providing “undergraduate and graduate programs of instruction in the liberal arts and science and professional education in agriculture, education, engineering, human sciences, nursing and pharmacy, and other course or programs as the Board of Regents may determine.” In addition, the “South Dakota State University Mission Statement” in Board Policy 1:10:2 calls for SDSU to provide “professional education in agriculture” and for the “transference of knowledge through the Cooperative Extension Service.”

Related Programs within the System

No related programs exist within the Regental System.

(Continued)

RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Authorize SDSU to develop a proposal for a M.S. in Agricultural Education with authorization for online distance delivery with the following conditions:

1. The university will research existing curricula, consult with experts concerning the curriculum, and provide assurance in the proposal that the program is consistent with current national standards and with the needs of employers.
2. The proposal will define the specific knowledge, skills, and competencies to be acquired through the program, will outline how each will be obtained in the curriculum and will identify the specific measures to be used to determine whether individual students have attained the expected knowledge, skills, and competencies.
3. The university will not request new state resources and the program proposal will identify the sources and amounts of all funds needed to operate the program and the impact of reallocations on existing programs.

System Strategic Goals, State Initiatives, & Workforce Demand

The program would support System Strategic Goals (Board Policy 1:21) by expanding graduate education and offering online programs. The proposed program also supports state initiatives to increase educators in critical needs areas such as career and technical education.

Off Campus & Distance Delivery

SDSU intends to offer the program online (see question 6, p. 7, Attachment I).

Resources

SDSU is not requesting additional resources to support the program.

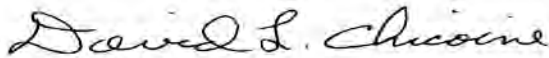
South Dakota Board of Regents
Intent to Plan for a Master of Science in Agricultural Education

Use this form to request authorization to plan a new baccalaureate major, a new associate degree program, or a new graduate program. The Executive Director or the Board may request additional information.

UNIVERSITY:	South Dakota State University
DEGREE(S) AND TITLE OF PROGRAM:	Master of Science in Agricultural Education
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	Fall 2015

University Approval

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



August 22, 2014

 President of the University

 Date

After approval by the President, a signed copy of the proposal should be transmitted to the Executive Director. Only after Executive Director review should the proposal be posted on the university web site and the Board staff and the other universities notified of the URL.

1. What is the general nature of the proposed program? What is the expected demand for graduates in South Dakota? What is the need for the proposed program?

South Dakota State University (SDSU) requests authorization to develop a proposal for a M.S. in Agricultural Education for distance delivery. The intent is to develop a program which focuses on the teaching and learning process across a variety of settings including non-profits, formal education environments, and the Cooperative Extension Service (CES). Specifically, some educational institutions would include, in-state and out-of-state high schools and technical schools. The latter would include the local institutions such as Mitchell Technical Institute, Lake Area Technical Schools and Southeast Technical Institute. Other organizations whose employees would benefit from this program include Boys and Girl Club, Ag United and Cooperative Extension Services located in each state across the nation.

The proposed graduate program will be developed through an interdisciplinary collaboration between the College of Education and Human Science and College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. Courses will be offered from both colleges.

The University does not intend to request new state resources. The program will be funded with redirection of existing resources. The degree will be delivered using resource redirections and self-support tuition revenue. The proposed program supports the system strategic goals (Policy 1:21) and State initiatives:

- Expand graduate education - this new program will provide additional opportunities for master's level study in education in a field central to the state's economy
- Economic Development & Quality of Life: Contributes to workforce development and quality of life by expanding academic programs to meet future workforce needs, offering online programs.

Expected Student Demand for the Program

The proposed graduate program is in response to the interest expressed by non-profit organizations, educators and agricultural professionals across South Dakota and the country.

Members of the South Dakota Association of Agricultural Educators (SDAAE) were surveyed during summer 2013 and of the 80 secondary agricultural education instructors more than 35 instructors indicated they were actively seeking an advanced degree. Additionally, the post-secondary faculty at South Dakota's four technical institutes in the area of agriculture were also surveyed and from the 40 individuals surveyed more than 25 of them indicated they were actively seeking a way to obtain an advanced degree. Many individuals employed at the state's technical institutes typically do not have any teaching experience, but an extensive amount of industry experience. Having a way to obtain teaching skills is critical for the success of the state's technical school programs.

Expected Workforce Demand for Graduates

According to the United States Department of Labor - Bureau of Labor Statistics (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/career-and-technical-education-teachers.htm>), employment in career and technical education teachers is expected to grow at 9 percent from 2012 to 2022, as fast as the average for all occupations.

According to the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA), the agricultural, food and renewable natural resources sectors of the U.S. economy will generate an estimated 54,400 annual openings for individuals with degrees in the agricultural industry. Eleven percent of the jobs are expected to be in agricultural education and communications (<http://www3.ag.purdue.edu/USDA/employment/pages/default.aspx>).

Need for Proposed Program

The proposed program is essential to meet the needs of professionals within non-profit organizations, technical institutes, and agricultural education for on-going professional development, which in turn, support the growing agricultural industry across the state and region.

Two scholarship opportunities have been identified recognizing the need for career and technical education in South Dakota. The Critical Needs Teaching Scholarship (<https://www.sdbor.edu/students/documents/CriticalTeachingNeedsScholarshipApplication2014.pdf>) and Dakota Corp Scholarship (<http://www.sdbor.edu/dakotacorps/welcome.htm>). The proposed program would benefit career and technical education by adding more trained educators who in turn could education additional educators in the critical needs areas.

This degree program will also provide technical institutes an opportunity to expand the number and diversity of their own credits accepted by regental institutions. BOR Policy 2:25 states the regental system will recognize credits of courses provided the “Technical institute faculty have either a master’s degree in the subject/discipline being taught or any master’s degree typically with 18 graduate hours in the subject/discipline being taught.” With the addition of this Master’s degree more students enrolled at technical schools could matriculate into regental institutions with a greater number of recognized credits thereby bolstering student enrollment and, eventually, completion rates.

The proposed program will fill a void left by the discontinuation of the graduate program in Career and Technical Education. Currently, there are only 2 out of 80 agricultural education teachers who are masters prepared in the state.

South Dakota CES has roughly 85 employees. CES positions vary in the degree of education required, but more than half of the positions require a Master’s degree. Many positions in CES from the county offices to the state staff have some type of an educational component with their position. This might include education of youth or adults. The addition of this program will allow CES employees to pursue professional growth opportunities related to the content area they work with South Dakota residents with on a daily basis. In addition to the content area this program will allow CES to expand educational practices and pedagogies to the benefit of their clients.. On a yearly basis we project to have 3-6 employees potentially enrolled.

Many of the instructors hired at the technical institutes in South Dakota and in our region have a significant amount of industry experience, but have limited to no experience as an instructor. Technical schools experience a very high turnover in positions due to the lack of educational experience their instructors have in educating students. Many of the instructors are seeking ways to become better educators along with the technical school administrators wanting their instructors to seek additional education to help them become better instructors.

Professionals in non-profit organizations in our region vary, but many of these professionals are seeking to advance themselves personally and professionally. This pool of potential students is significant.

For all target audiences the program will focus on recruiting in South Dakota and in the region. For the target sector of agricultural education the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) will be used to help recruit potential candidates. NAAE is a national association of agricultural educators with more than 7,800 members. Members are involved in school-based agricultural education from middle school to postsecondary. List serves and publications will be utilized to recruit along with attendance at the National Association of Agricultural Educators annual meeting each year.

The extension and non-profit sector will begin focusing on the Midwest region. Specifically the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana and Iowa. The program will also utilize the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cooperative Extension System list serve and meeting venues to market this program.

2. What is the relationship of the proposed program to the University's mission as provided in South Dakota statute and Board of Regents Policy?

The statutory mission of South Dakota State University in SDCL 13-58-1:

Designated as South Dakota's land grant university, South Dakota State University, formerly the state college of agriculture and mechanical arts, shall be under the control of the Board of Regents and shall provide undergraduate and graduate programs of instruction in the liberal arts and science and professional education in agriculture, education, engineering, human sciences, nursing and pharmacy, and other course or programs as the Board of Regents may determine.

Board Policy 1:10: 2 South Dakota State University Mission Statement provides:

The legislature established South Dakota State University as the Comprehensive Land Grant University to meet the needs of the State and region by providing undergraduate and graduate programs of instruction in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education in agriculture, education, engineering, human sciences, nursing, pharmacy, and other courses or programs as the Board of Regents may determine (SDCL 13-58-1). The Board implemented SDCL 13-58-1 by authorizing South Dakota State University to serve students and clients through teaching, research, and extension activities. The University's primary goal is to provide undergraduate and graduate programs at the freshman through the doctoral levels. The university complements this goal by conducting nationally competitive strategic research and scholarly and creative activities. Furthermore, South Dakota State University facilitates the transference of knowledge through the Cooperative Extension Service with a presence in every county and through other entities, especially to serve the citizens of South Dakota. South Dakota State University is unique within the South Dakota System of Higher Education because of its comprehensive land grant mission. The mission is implemented through integrated programs of instruction, the Cooperative Extension Service, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and numerous auxiliary and laboratory services.

The proposed Master of Science in Agricultural Education supports the mission of SDSU and aligns with IMPACT 2018 (<http://sdstate.edu/impact2018/>). Specifically, in the area of:

Goal 1- Promote academic excellence through quality programs, engaged learners and an innovative teaching and learning environment.

Goal 3- Extend the reach and depth of the university by developing strategic programs and collaborations.

3. Are there any related programs in the regental system? If there are related programs, why should the proposed program be added? If there are no related programs within the system, enter "None."

None

4. Are there related programs at public colleges and universities in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming?¹ If there are related programs in these states list below under each state and explain why the proposed program is needed in South Dakota. If there are no related programs in a state, enter “None” for that state.

Minnesota

University of Minnesota- Master of Science in Agricultural Education
- Not offered online

North Dakota

North Dakota State University- Master of Science in Agricultural Education
- Not offered online

Montana

None

Wyoming

None

The state of South Dakota needs this proposed online Masters of Science in Agriculture Education because educators, extension professionals and agricultural professionals do not currently have an accessible degree program delivered via distance. The only programs similar to the proposed program in the region include Master of Science degrees in Agricultural Education at North Dakota State University and University of Minnesota, neither of which are available online.

5. Are students expected to be new to the university or redirected from other programs? How many majors are expected in the first years of the program? How many graduates are expected?

The majority of students attracted to this program will be new to South Dakota State University, because no other program is available in the state. The program is projected to attract 5-7 new graduate students per year. As a result the program will plan to graduate 4-5 students per year.

6. Does the university intend to seek authorization to deliver this entire program at any off-campus locations? If yes, enter location(s) and intended start date(s). Does the university intend to seek authorization to deliver this entire program by distance technology? If yes, identify delivery method(s) and intended start date(s).

Off-campus	N/A
Distance delivery	Yes, Fall 2015 – Online

¹ This question addresses opportunities available through Minnesota Reciprocity and the Western Undergraduate Exchange in adjacent states. List only programs at the same degree level as the proposed program. For example, if the proposed program is a baccalaureate major, then list only related baccalaureate majors in the other states and do not include associate or graduate programs.

7. What are the University’s plans for obtaining the resources needed to implement the program? Indicate “yes” or “no” in the columns below.

	Development/Start-up	Long-term Operation
Reallocate existing resources	Yes	Yes
Apply for external resources	No	No
Ask Board to seek new State resources	No	No
Ask Board to approve new or increased student fee	No	No

The courses proposed to be used in this graduate program will come largely from courses currently being offered in existing graduate programs in the Colleges of Education and Human Sciences and Agricultural and Biological Sciences. The students for this proposed graduate program will help bolster the enrollment in existing courses.

8. Curriculum Example: Provide (as Appendix A) the curriculum of a similar program at another college or university. *The Appendix should provide the required and elective courses in the program. Catalog pages or web materials may be used. Identify the college or university and explain why the program may be used as one model when the proposed program is developed.*

Iowa State University is a model which will be used to help develop the proposed program because it is designed to reach a similar target audience. This program has proven to be very successful as it has attracted students from across the country. Iowa State University has a Master’s of Science in Agricultural Education. This graduate program requires 30 credit hours for a thesis or non-thesis option.

Appendix A

EXAMPLE: Iowa State University Master of Science in Agricultural Education

Additional information regarding the Master of Science in Agricultural Education program at Iowa State University may be found at: <http://www.ageds.iastate.edu/graduate/agedms.html>

Program Requirements:

Program of Study Requirements- Non thesis option

Program Requirements	Required Course or Equivalent	Credits
Introduction to Research	AGEDS 510	3
Instructional Methods	AGEDS 520	3
Program Planning	AGEDS 524	3
Learning Theory	AGEDS 533	3
Foundations of Agricultural Education	AGEDS 550	3
Creative Component	AGEDS 599	2
Electives		13
Total Required Credits		30

Program of Study Requirements- Thesis Option

Program Requirements	Required Course or Equivalent	Credits
Introduction to Research	AGEDS 510	3
Instructional Methods	AGEDS 520	3
Program Planning	AGEDS 524	3
Learning Theory	AGEDS 533	3
Foundations of Agricultural Education	AGEDS 550	3
Statistics Elective	Elective	3
Research	AGEDS 699	3
Electives		10
Total Required Credits		30