



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

Substantive Program Modification Form

UNIVERSITY:	SDSU
CURRENT PROGRAM TITLE:	Geography (M.S.) – Geographic Information Sciences Specialization
CIP CODE:	45.0702
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Geography
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	Graduate School

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.

Dennis D. Hedge

3/27/2019

Vice President of Academic Affairs or
President of the University

Date

1. This modification addresses a change in:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total credits required within the discipline | <input type="checkbox"/> Total credits of supportive course work |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total credits of elective course work | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total credits required for program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program name | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing specialization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CIP Code | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Add Option C |

2. Effective date of change: 2019-2020 Academic Year

3. Program Degree Level: Associate Bachelor's Master's Doctoral

4. Category: Certificate Specialization Minor Major

5. If a name change is proposed, the change will occur:

- On the effective date for all students
- On the effective date for students new to the program (enrolled students will graduate from existing program)

Proposed new name:

6. Primary Aspects of the Modification:

Existing Curriculum

Proposed Curriculum (highlight changes)

Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.	Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.
GEOG	710	Evolution of Geographic Thought	3	GEOG	710	Evolution of Geographic Thought	3
GEOG	714	Research and Writing	3	GEOG	714	Research and Writing	3
<i>Select 3 of the following:</i>			9	<i>Select 3 of the following:</i>			9
GEOG	573-573L	GIS: Data Creation and Integration Lab	3	GEOG	573-573L	GIS: Data Creation and Integration Lab	3
GEOG	574-574L	GIS: Vector and Raster Modeling and Lab	3	GEOG	574-574L	GIS: Vector and Raster Modeling and Lab	3
GEOG	575-575L	GIS Applications and Lab	3	GEOG	575-575L	GIS Applications and Lab	3
GEOG	576-576L	Web GIS and Lab	3	GEOG	576-576L	Web GIS and Lab	3
GEOG	577-577L	Spatial Databases and Lab	3	GEOG	577-577L	Spatial Databases and Lab	3

Existing Curriculum

Proposed Curriculum (highlight changes)

Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.	Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.
GEOG	583-583L	Aerial Remote Sensing and Lab	3	GEOG	583-583L	Aerial Remote Sensing and Lab	3
GEOG	584-584L	Remote Sensing and Lab	3	GEOG	584-584L	Remote Sensing and Lab	3
GEOG	585-585L	Quantitative Remote Sensing and Lab	3	GEOG	585-585L	Quantitative Remote Sensing and Lab	3
GEOG	741	Quantitative Remote Sensing for Terrestrial Monitoring	3	GEOG	741	Quantitative Remote Sensing for Terrestrial Monitoring	3
GEOG	743	Geospatial Analysis	3	GEOG	743	Geospatial Analysis	3
GEOG	760	Advanced Methods in Geospatial Modelling: Topical Credits	3	GEOG	760	Advanced Methods in Geospatial Modelling: Topical Credits	3
GEOG	786	Geographic Information Systems	3	GEOG	786	Geographic Information Systems	3
<i>Select one of the following options:</i>				<i>Select one of the following options:</i>			
<i>Option A: Thesis</i>				<i>Option A: Thesis</i>			
GEOG	798	Thesis	6	GEOG	798	Thesis	6
		Electives	9			Electives	9
<i>Option B: Research/Design Paper</i>				<i>Option B: Research/Design Paper</i>			
GEOG	788	Research Paper in Geography	6	GEOG	788	Research Paper in Geography	6
		Electives	11			Electives	11
<i>Option C: Coursework Only</i>				<i>Option C: Coursework Only</i>			
						Electives	21
Total number of hours required for specialization				Total number of hours required for specialization			
		Option A	30			Option A	30
		Option B	32			Option B	32
						Option C	36
Total number of hours required for degree				Total number of hours required for degree			
		Option A	30			Option A	30
		Option B	32			Option B	32
						Option C	36

7. Explanation of the Change:

The purpose of this change is to add *Option C: Coursework Only* to the to the existing degree options of Options A: *Thesis* and B: *Research/Design Paper*, which increasingly have become a less desirable fit for many students. As the field of Geography evolves, especially the geospatial technologies, Option C would better address many of the changes and satisfy the students and improve their opportunities in the workforce.