



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

New Site Request

UNIVERSITY:	SDSU
DEGREE(S) AND PROGRAM:	Agricultural Science (A.S.)
NEW SITE(S):	Black Hills State University - Rapid City, Community College for Sioux Falls, and Online
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	2020-2021 Academic Year
CIP CODE:	01.0000
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences

Please check this box to confirm that:

- The individual preparing this request has read [AAC Guideline 2:11](#), which pertains to new site 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.

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

1/10/2020

Date

1. What is the need for offering the program at the new physical site or through distance delivery?

South Dakota State University (SDSU) requests authorization to offer the existing Associate of Science degree in Agricultural Science at three new sites: Black Hills State University - Rapid City, Community College for Sioux Falls, and online. This request is in response to students' needs, market demands, and an ever-changing society. The Agricultural Science program prepares students to manage a farm or ranch enterprise or work in the agricultural industry. Offering a flexible curriculum, the Agricultural Science program also works well for students who are combining multiple fields of interest or exploring areas of interest in agriculture. The associate degree program provides access to SDSU's rich academic environment for students who may not meet regular admissions criteria. These students can be admitted into the university through the associate degree program, and upon completing a fifteen-credit core

with good academic standing, may enter into a bachelor’s degree program. Some students also choose the associate degree who need or want to return to a family farm or ranch in a faster timeline.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences offers enough variety of agricultural coursework online in animal science, crop production, and agribusiness that students can complete this program in combination with the general education classes across the state from any of the SDSU degree sites.

Offering the A.S. in Agricultural Science program in these new sites will provide a pathway for working professionals to obtain degree credentials in the agriculture industry. Additionally, graduates of the associate degree will be prepared to continue their education in a main campus bachelor’s degree program, including the B.S. in Agricultural Science.

The 2019 South Dakota Agriculture Economic Contribution Study continues to show “that the agriculture industry in South Dakota is an important and growing piece of the state’s economy.” The agriculture sector contributes to 22% of jobs in South Dakota.¹

Workforce demand for careers related to agriculture, food, and natural resources is strong. The USDA Purdue study shows that job openings in agriculture exceed post-secondary graduates.²

Delivery of the Agricultural Science associate degree at these locations will support SDSU’s Imagine 2023 strategic plan, specifically in providing educational access to a broader audience by offering a diversity of delivery methods, times, and locations.

The University does not request new state resources or new student fees to support delivery at BHSU- RC, CCSF, or online. The program is currently delivered by SDSU on campus in Brookings and at Lake Area Technical Institute - Watertown.

2. Are any other Regental universities authorized to offer a similar program at the proposed site(s) or through distance delivery? If “yes,” identify the institutions and programs and explain why authorization is requested.

No other Regental universities offer a similar program at these sites.

3. Are students enrolling in the program expected to be new to the university or redirected from other existing programs at the university? Complete the table below and explain the methodology used in developing the estimates.

SDSU expects most of the students to be new to the university. Students like the flexibility of programs offered online or through locations which allow them to continue living and working anywhere in the state while completing their degree.

¹ 2019 South Dakota Agriculture Economic Contribution Study, https://sdda.sd.gov/office-of-the-secretary/publications/pdf/2019_FinalSD_AECS.pdf.

² USDA 2015-2020 Employment Opportunities - in Food, Agriculture, Renewable Natural Resources, and the Environment, <https://www.purdue.edu/usda/employment/>

In addition to capturing new students, this program is expected to capture a returning student population of working or place-bound professionals; students with previous coursework who never completed a degree may find this an accessible option for degree completion.

It is not expected that delivery online, in Sioux Falls, or in Rapid City will have much impact on the enrollments in SDSU’s face-to-face, on-campus courses.

The new sites are expected to attract 5 new students to the University the first year and then 10 students each year after, combined over the three sites. The estimates for the number of total students in the program include limited attrition from year to year. With the target audience for the A.S. degree at these sites, the University anticipates students may take part-time credits each term and therefore graduate in an average of three years. Once at equilibrium the program is expected to graduate 8 students a year.

<i>Estimates</i>	Fiscal Years*											
	1 st			2 nd			3 rd			4 th		
	FY 21			FY 22			FY 23			FY 24		
	Online	CCSF	BHSU-RC	Online	CCSF	BHSU-RC	Online	CCSF	BHSU-RC	Online	CCSF	BHSU-RC
Students new to the university	3	1	1	8	1	1	8	1	1	8	1	1
Students from other university programs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
=Total students in the program at the site	3	1	1	10	2	2	16	3	3	20	3	3
Program credit hours (major courses)**	18	6	6	60	12	12	96	18	18	120	18	18
Graduates	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	6	1	1

*Do not include current fiscal year.

**This is the total number of credit hours generated by students in the program in the required or elective program courses. Use the same numbers in Appendix B – Budget.

4. What is the perceived impact of this request on existing programs in the Regental system?

No negative impact is anticipated. The A.S. in Agricultural Science can provide a pathway for working or place-bound professionals to obtain degree credentials in the agriculture industry. Additionally, graduates of the associate degree will be prepared to continue their education in the B.S. in Agricultural Science or other bachelor’s degree programs.

5. Complete the table and explain any special circumstances. Attach a copy of the program as it appears in the current catalog. If there are corresponding program modifications requested, please attach the associated form. Explain the delivery of the new courses and attach any associated new course request forms.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE (A.S)	Credit hours	SDSU credit hours @ CCSF	Other BOR credits available @ CCFS	New credit hours proposed @ CCFS	SDSU credit hours @ BHSU-RC	Other BOR credits available @ BHSU-RC	New credit hours proposed @ BHSU-RC	SDSU credit hours available online	Other BOR credits available online	New credit hours proposed online
System General Education Requirements	24	8	24	0	0	24	0	24	24	0
Major Requirements	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	16 ³	0	0
Electives	18	0	18	0	0	18	0	18	18	0
<i>Total, Degree with Proposed Major</i>	60									

³ The Agricultural Science program currently requires a First Year Seminar class. ACS 119 – First Year Seminar (2 credits) may be substituted for ABS 119 – First Year Seminar within the plan of study. ACS 119 is available online and offered at the other sites.

All of the courses listed in the curriculum are offered on the SDSU main campus in Brookings and/or online. Based on the flexibility of the program, students will also be able to complete 24 credit hours of System General Education Requirements at CCSF and BHSU-RC.

Requirements for the Agricultural Science Major

Associate of Science in Agriculture

System General Education Requirements: 24 credits

- Goal #1: Written Communication: ENGL 101 Composition I and SGR #1 Elective (6 credits)
- Goal #2: Oral Communication: SPCM 101 Fundamentals of Speech (3 credits)
- Goal #3: Social Sciences/Diversity (3-6 credits)*
- Goal #4: Arts and Humanities/Diversity (3-6 credits)*
- Goal #5: Mathematics (3 credits)
- Goal #6: Natural Sciences (3-6 credits)*

** Three additional credits selected from approved list of courses for Goals #3, #4, or #6 to reach 24 System General Education Requirements for the Associate Degree.*

Major Requirements: 18 credits

- Major Field of Concentration (Courses prefixed ABS, AGECE, AGED, AS, AST, DS, EES, FS, HO, NRM, PRAG, PS, RANG, VET, and WL) (16 credits)
- ABS 119 - First Year Seminar (2 credits)

Electives: 18 credits

Total Credit Hours Required: 60 credits

6. How will the university provide student services comparable to those available for students on the main campus?

Students engaged in the Associate of Science in Agricultural Science in Rapid City, Sioux Falls, or online will have access to various support services and facilities throughout the academic program. SDSU does have academic advising personnel housed physically at both BHSU-Rapid City and the Community College for Sioux Falls who will be available to assist them in pursuing the associate degree. Those pursuing the degree online will work with the main campus program advisor. Students will also have access to the support staff and services available at the off-campus centers or through Continuing and Distance Education at SDSU.

The South Dakota State University Hilton M. Briggs library has long served students engaged in coursework away from campus. This includes students enrolled at off-campus centers and online. Library support services will be available to students through a variety of means:

- Students can contact librarians for research assistance. The librarian provides on-line research guides and is available for consultations with faculty and students.
- Distance Library Services include book and article delivery for materials owned by the library. Students may request materials not held by the library through interlibrary loan.
- SDSU students have on-line access to research databases such as Web of Science, EBSCOhost MegaFILE, and JSTOR.

Students will have access to technical support provided by SDSU's Information Technology Services or onsite services.

Other student services such as disability services accommodations will be available to students upon request.

7. Is this program accredited by a specialized accrediting body? If so, address any program accreditation issues and costs related to offering the program at the new site(s).

There is not an accreditation available for this discipline.

8. Does the university request any exceptions to Board policy for delivery at the new site(s)? Explain requests for exceptions to Board policy.

SDSU will waive the requirement that 8 of the last 15 credits for the associate degree must be completed as institutional credits.

9. Cost, Budget, and Resources related to new courses at the site: Explain the amount and source(s) of any one-time and continuing investments in personnel, professional development, release time, time redirected from other assignments, instructional technology & software, other operations and maintenance, facilities, etc., needed to implement the proposed minor. Complete Appendix B – Budget using the system form.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences does not request new state resources or new student fees to support delivery of the A.S. in Agricultural Science in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, or online. Any addition of courses to meet growth will be met by off-campus tuition.