



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

**New Site Request**

<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	SDSU
<b>DEGREE(S) AND PROGRAM:</b>	Geography (B.A.)
<b>NEW SITE(S):</b> <i>Include address of new physical locations. Delivery methods are defined in <a href="#">AAC Guideline 5.5</a>.</i>	Online
<b>INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:</b>	2020-2021 Academic Year
<b>CIP CODE:</b>	45.0701
<b>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</b>	Geography & Geospatial Sciences
<b>BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:</b>	SGGS
<b>UNIVERSITY DIVISION:</b>	Natural Sciences
<b>BANNER DIVISION CODE:</b>	3T

**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.*

*Barry H. Dunn*

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President of the University

5/5/2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 deliver an online B.A. in Geography. <sup>1</sup> In April 2015 SDSU received approval to deliver the B.S. in Geography online. The discipline of geography is both a natural science and a social science. Geographers believe that the challenges confronting humanity result from combinations of natural and human processes and how they interact. Thus, the discipline of geography is placed at the intersection of natural and human processes, making it a bridging discipline. The B.A. requirements also reflect the growing demand for interdisciplinary knowledge and skills. In an increasingly globalized world, knowledge and skills in different disciplines helps students compete in the workplace. In this spirit, the foundational requirements include natural science geography and

<sup>1</sup> The new site request corresponds with a substantive program modification that requests the creation of a B.A. degree for the existing Geography major.

geospatial techniques' courses in addition to coursework from other social sciences to better position graduates in their career endeavors. The students will benefit from a program that capitalizes on existing expertise on campus and the synergies that such a program cultivates. Many graduates with a B.A. in Geography work for federal, state, and local governmental agencies as well as for businesses, non-profit agencies, and non-governmental organizations. Careers locations range from the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency to entities dealing with planning, trade, disaster relief, national defense, policing, and intercultural exchanges. Overall, the knowledge and skills of graduates with a B.A. in Geography positions graduates to work with different professionals to bring projects to fruition. For example, as noted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, many graduates "work with urban planners, civil engineers, legislators, or real estate professionals to determine the best location for new public transportation".<sup>2</sup>

Delivery of the B.A. in Geography online will support SDSU's *Imagine 2023* strategic plan.<sup>3</sup> The degree helps to "Attain academic excellence" (Goal: Achieve Excellence Through Transformative Education). Specifically, it will:

- 1b. Develop and grow high-quality and distinct academic programs designed to meet the needs of diverse students and market demands;
- 1c. Increase programs offered which use a diversity of delivery methods, times, (or scheduling) and locations.

The Department of Geography and Geospatial Sciences seeks to offer this program both face-to-face in Brookings and online. The online variant is important because it will give access to South Dakotans who are unable to move or travel to Brookings. SDSU will not require additional resources. Current online Geography courses already are attracting many of these students.

**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. SDSU is the only Regental institution authorized for online delivery of the undergraduate program in Geography.

**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, which allow them to continue to live and work anywhere in the state while they are completing their degree. It is not expected that online delivery will have much impact on the enrollments in SDSU's face-to-face, on-campus courses.

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<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Geographers, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/geographers.htm> (visited February 21, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sdstate.edu/imagine-2023-aspire-discover-achieve>

	Fiscal Years*			
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Estimates</i>	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24
Students new to the university	2	6	10	13
Students from other university programs	2	4	6	8
=Total students in the program at the site	4	10	16	21
Program credit hours (major courses)**	48	120	192	252
Graduates	0	2	4	8

\*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?**

Delivering the B.A. in Geography online is not expected to negatively impact enrollment in SDSU’s face-to-face, on-campus courses, or enrollment in other Regental institutions. By adding an online delivery option, it would increase the accessibility for students who are looking to pursue their education and are place bound due to current employment, family, and other commitments.

**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.**

	Credit hours	Credit hours currently available from this university online	Credit hours currently available from other universities available online	Credit hours new to this university for online delivery
<b>B.A. in Geography</b>				
System General Education Requirements	30	30	30	0
<i>Subtotal, Degree Requirements</i>	30	30	30	0
College of Natural Sciences Requirements	9	9	6	0
Major Requirements	41	41	14	0
<i>Subtotal, Requirements of the Proposed Major</i>	50	50	0	0
Electives	40	40	40	0
<i>Total, Degree with Proposed Major</i>	120			

Requirements for the B.A. in Geography<sup>4</sup>  
*Bachelor of Arts in Natural Sciences*

System General Education Requirements

- Goal #1 Written Communication: SGR #1 Electives Credits: 6
- Goal #2 Oral Communication: SGR #2 Elective Credits: 3

<sup>4</sup> Program requirements reflect the proposed curriculum based on a corresponding substantive program modification to add a B.A. degree for the existing B.S. in Geography.

- Goal #3 Social Sciences/Diversity: SGR #3 Electives Credits: 6
- Goal #4 Arts and Humanities/Diversity: SGR #4 Electives Credits: 6
- Goal #5 Mathematics: SGR #5 Elective Credits: 3
- Goal #6 Natural Sciences: SGR #6 Electives Credits: 6

#### Department of Geography and Geospatial Sciences Requirements

##### Bachelor of Arts Requirements: 9+

- Modern Foreign Language Including the 202-Level Credits: 6+
- AHSS 111 - Introduction to Global Citizenship and Diversity Credits: 3
- One declared minor outside of the major prefix OR a second major OR a teaching specialization. The minor may be a traditional minor within one department or it may be interdisciplinary involving more than one department. The minor can be in a different college. The minor must be declared no later than the student's third semester of enrollment.
- Capstone course in the major discipline
- Upper division coursework Credits: 33

##### Major Requirements - Bachelor of Arts

- GEOG 131-131L - Physical Geography: Weather and Climate and Lab (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 4
- GEOG 132-132L - Physical Geography: Natural Landscapes and Lab (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 4
- GEOG 200 - Introduction to Human Geography (COM) [SGR #3] Credits: 3
- GEOG 210 - World Regional Geography (COM) [SGR #3] Credits: 3
- GEOG 372-372L - Introduction to GIS and Lab (COM) Credits: 3  
or GEOG 383-383L - Cartography and Lab Credits: 3
- GEOG 421-521 - Research Methods in Geography Credits: 3  
or HIST 480 - Historical Methods and Historiography (COM) Credits: 3
- GEOG 447-547 - Geography of the Future (COM) Credits: 3 (Capstone)  
or GEOG 454-554 - Sustainable Communities Credits: 3 (Capstone)

#### **Regional Geography**

Select six credits (one GEOG and one other prefix) from the following. Credits: 6

- FREN 385 - Travel Study Abroad Francophone (COM) Credits: 1-6
- FREN 433 - French Culture and Civilization Credits: 3
- GEOG 317 - Geography of Africa Credits: 3
- GEOG 320 - Regional Geography: (COM) Credits: 3
- GEOG 430-530 - Geography of Europe Credits: 3
- GER 380 - Deutschland Heute (COM) Credits: 3
- GER 435 - German Culture History (COM) [###PENDING BOR APPROVAL] Credits: 3
- HIST 476 - History of South Dakota (COM) Credits: 3
- POLS 447 - Latin American Politics (COM) Credits: 3
- SPAN 433 - Spanish Civilization and Culture (COM) Credits: 3
- SPAN 435 - Latin American Civilization and Culture Credits: 3

#### **Select from the following**

Select twelve credits from the following three categories - Political and Cultural Geography, Economic Geography and Social Geography, and Environmental

Geography. Select two of the categories and complete one GEOG and one other discipline in each of the two chosen categories. Credits: 12

*Political and Cultural Geography*

- GEOG 353 - Geography of Religion Credits: 3
- GEOG 405 - Historical Geography Credits: 3
- GEOG 459-559 - Political Geography (COM) Credits: 3
- GEOG 460-560 - Geopolitics Credits: 3
- GLST 480 - Ethics of Globalization Credits: 3
- HIST 368 - History and Culture of the American Indian (COM) Credits: 3
- HIST 378 - Social and Cultural History of the US Credits: 3
- HIST 462 - Formation of Federal Indian Policy Credits: 3
- POLS 341 - Europe Democratic Government (COM) Credits: 3
- POLS 350 - International Relations (COM) Credits: 3
- POLS 458 - Democracy & Authoritarianism Credits: 3
- SPAN 476 - 19th and 20th Century Spain Credits: 3
- SPAN 477 - 19th and 20th Century Latin America Credits: 3

*Economic Geography and Social Geography*

- ECON 413-513 - Macroeconomic Policy Credits: 3
- ECON 433-533 - Public Finance (COM) Credits: 3
- ECON 440-540 - International Economics Credits: 3
- GEOG 351 - Economic Geography Credits: 3
- GEOG 425-525 - Population Geography Credits: 3
- GEOG 454-554 - Sustainable Communities Credits: 3
- GEOG 461-561 - Urban Geography Credits: 3
- POLS 360 - Politics of Inequality Credits: 3
- SOC 350 - Race and Ethnic Relations (COM) Credits: 3
- SOC 440-540 - Urban Sociology (COM) Credits: 3
- SOC 462-562 - Population Studies (COM) Credits: 3

*Environmental Geography*

- AGECE 479 - Agricultural Policy Credits: 3
- ECON 472-572 - Resource and Environmental Economics (COM) Credits: 3
- GEOG 365 - Land Use and Planning Credits: 3
- GEOG 415-515 - Environmental Geography and Sustainability Credits: 3
- HIST 409-509 - Environmental History of the U.S. (COM) [##REVISIONS PENDING BOR APPROVAL] Credits: 3
- SOC 245 - Environment and Society Credits: 3

Electives

*Taken as needed to complete any additional degree requirements.*

Total Required Credits: 120

Academic Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 18 upper division credits in major courses and earn at least a “C” in each course used to meet the major requirements.

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

An academic advisor will be assigned to those distance students in the major. They will connect with the students using e-mail, phone, Skype, and numerous other technologies as they communicate. A student services facilitator is housed in Continuing and Distance Education and is available to assist students in connecting to necessary resources online and on campus. Finally, online tutoring support is available through Smarthinking (Pearson Education) and student services such as disability services accommodations will be available to students upon request.

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

- Students can contact librarians for research assistance. The librarian provides online 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 online 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.

**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).**

No.

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

No.

**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 Department of Geography and Geospatial Sciences is not requesting additional faculty or equipment to support online delivery of the B.A. in Geography. Tuition revenue generated from online tuition will adequately fund the program. Growth that requires additional courses will be met by self-support tuition.