SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

Program Termination or
Placement on Inactive Status

UNIVERSITY:	SDSU
DEGREE(S) AND PROGRAM:	Sociology (Ph.D.) [SPHD.SOC]
CIP CODE:	45.1101
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Grad Study Sociology & Rural Studies
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	SGSS
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	Graduate School
BANNER DIVISION CODE:	3G

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.

_____   5/6/2020

President of the University   Date

1. **Program Degree Level:**

   Associate ☐   Bachelor's ☐   Master's ☐   Doctoral ☒

2. **Category:**[1]

   Certificate ☐   Specialization ☐   Minor ☐   Major ☒

3. **The program action proposed is:**[2]

   Inactive Status ☒   Termination ☐

4. **INACTIVE STATUS**

   A. **Provide a justification for inactivating the program:**

   Enrollment in the Ph.D. in Sociology has fallen from a recent high of 39 students in fall 2015 down to 16 students in fall 2019. This program shares only one required course with the M.S. in Sociology and shares no common courses with the M.S. in Sociology – Community Development Specialization. As a result, the department currently must

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[1] Note: Certificates, specializations, and minors may only be terminated and not placed on inactive status due to limitations in Colleague.

[2] Note: An inactive program is a program a university has authority to offer, but the program is not admitting new students and has not formally terminated. A presumption exists that inactive status is a temporary status; universities review inactive programs periodically to determine the feasibility of reactivating or terminating the program. Programs can remain inactive for five (5) consecutive years at which time a university must terminate the program. A terminated program is a program for which a university ceases to have authority to offer. Reinstatement of a terminated program requires university and BOR approval through the prescribed new program approval processes.

maintain three separate curricula of graduate-level coursework in addition to its undergraduate curriculum. This arrangement has become financially unsustainable and has eroded the academic quality of all of the department's undergraduate and graduate programming.

The Ph.D. program places a particular strain on the department's resources. Doctoral students require intensive advising prior to and during their dissertation stage to complete the degree successfully. Students who just meet the program's minimum admissions standards require additional support and mentorship. The department cannot provide the necessary level of graduate advising while simultaneously offering a high-quality undergraduate program given its current staffing.

The department proposes to place the M.S. and Ph.D. in Sociology on inactive status to allow for a reevaluation of the programs. SDSU believes that these consolidations will result in an improved academic experience for students in continuing programs. SDSU will allow the Ph.D. in Sociology to terminate if the department is unable to redesign the program to allow for efficient, sustainable, and high-quality delivery.

B. If there are current students in the program, what are the implications of placing the program on inactive status?
Admission to the program will be immediately suspended, so there will be no first year class effective fall 2020. The department will commit to offering a highly-curated selection of courses that will allow returning students to complete their coursework over the next two academic years (2020-2021 and 2021-2022). It will continue to provide academic support as needed for students in the dissertation stage, with this obligation naturally falling over time as students graduate.

C. What is the last date (day/month/year) by which a student can graduate in the program?
Spring 2024

D. What is the proposed date (day/month/year) inactive status takes effect (the proposed date for inactive status is also the last date a student may enroll in or declare the program)?
Spring 2020