



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

**Substantive Program Modification Form**

<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	SDSU
<b>CURRENT PROGRAM TITLE:</b>	Geography (M.S.)
<b>CIP CODE:</b>	45.0701
<b>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</b>	Grad Study Geography & Geospatial Sciences
<b>BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:</b>	SGGO
<b>UNIVERSITY DIVISION:</b>	Graduate School
<b>BANNER DIVISION CODE:</b>	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.*

Dennis D. Hedge

5/3/2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 type="checkbox"/> Total credits required for program                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program name  | <input type="checkbox"/> Existing specialization                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CIP Code  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Additional Admission Requirements |

**2. Effective date of change:** 2021-2022 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
				<b>GEOG</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>Seminar (Geospatial Science)</b>	<b>1</b>
<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	5-10	GEOG	798	Thesis	<b>5-6</b>
		Electives	14-19			Electives	<b>17-18</b>
<i>Option B: Research/Design Paper</i>				<i>Option B: Research/Design Paper</i>			
GEOG	788	Research Paper in Geography	2-5	GEOG	788	Research Paper in Geography	<b>3-5</b>

<i>Existing Curriculum</i>				<i>Proposed Curriculum (highlight changes)</i>			
Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.	Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.
		Electives	21-24			Electives	20-22
<i>Option C: Coursework Only</i>				<i>Option C: Coursework Only</i>			
		Electives	30			Electives	29
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			Option C	36

### Master's Graduation Requirements

#### Option A - Thesis

- Thesis Proposal
- Thesis and Oral Defense

#### Option - B - Research/Design Paper

- Research Project Proposal
- Research Project and Oral Defense

#### Option C - Coursework Only

- Oral Defense of Course Work

### Additional Admission Requirements

*Current:*

GRE: Required

TOEFL: Department requirement of 590 paper-based, 80 Internet-based

IELTS: 6.5

The Department of Geography has listed the following additional admission requirements:

- Submission of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores.
- Submission of 1-2 page statement describing applicants' interests in the master's program in Geography at SDSU.
- Submission of two (2) letters of recommendation from persons acquainted with the academic ability and professional competency of the applicant.
- Bestow conditional status on those applicants who have not completed the following courses or their equivalents prior to entering the program:
  - GEOG 131 (Physical Geography: Weather & Climate) or GEOG 132 (Physical Geography: Natural Landscapes)
  - GEOG 200 (Human Geography) or GEOG 210 (World Regional)
  - GEOG 372 (Introduction to GIS)

These courses may be completed pass/fail.

*Proposed:*

GRE: Not Required

TOEFL: 79 Internet-based

IELTS: 6.5

Duolingo: 110

The Department of Geography has listed the following additional admission requirements:

- Submission of 1-2 page statement describing applicants' interests in the master's program in Geography at SDSU.
- Submission of two (2) letters of recommendation from persons acquainted with the academic ability and professional competency of the applicant.
- A minimum of 9 semester credits of undergraduate coursework in geography, preferably physical geography. An additional 6 credits in the fields cognate to geography are required.

#### **7. Explanation of the Change:**

The changes aid in the alignment of the MS and PhD programs in our department.