



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

Intent to Plan for a New Program

UNIVERSITY:	SDSU
DEGREE(S) AND TITLE OF PROGRAM:	Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Accounting
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	2023-2024 Academic Year

Please check this box to confirm that:

- The individual preparing this request has read [AAC Guideline 2.4](#), which pertains to new intent to plan requests for new programs, 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 intent to plan, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.



President of the University

3-28-2022

Date

1. What is the general nature/purpose of the proposed program? Please include a brief (1-2 sentence) description of the academic field in this program.

South Dakota State University (SDSU) and the Ness School of Management and Economics requests authorization to offer a B.A. and B.S. in Accounting. As exhibited by the Emsi report the accounting program area is outlined as having significant gaps in workforce preparation in South Dakota and SDSU is able to help alleviate this critical workforce gap. The Ness School of Management and Economics at SDSU offers a high-quality minor in Accounting that, when stacked onto a major in Business Economics, Agricultural Business, or Entrepreneurial Studies, mirrors the requirements of an accounting major at most business schools. The proposed B.A. and B.S. in Accounting will combine SDSU’s strong accounting coursework with its existing management and economics core to allow students in the program to transcript their program in an Accounting major and provide the solid foundation that will prepare students well for a variety of positions in private or public business and industry. With a major in accounting, graduates will find careers in a variety of fields. While some accounting graduates are working as Certified Public Accountants (CPAs), some are in related fields as auditors, financial analysts, business analysts, credit analysts, investment analysts, financial planners, bankers, loan officers, corporate finance support positions, corporate audit functions, tax examiners, tax managers, insurance underwriters, and entrepreneurs.

The University does not request new state resources.

2. What is the need for the proposed program (e.g., Regental system need, institutional need, workforce need, etc.)? What is the expected demand for graduates nationally and in South Dakota (provide data and examples; data sources may include but are not limited to the South Dakota Department of Labor, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Regental system dashboards, etc.)? Please cite any sources in a footnote.

The April 2021 Emsi report commissioned by the South Dakota Board of Regents outlines a clear need for more finance and accounting education in South Dakota. When job openings are compared to the state's supply of educational program completions, the analysis determines how well SDBOR university program offerings satisfy South Dakota's workforce demand. Accountants and auditors are singled out as the single biggest need for new programs in South Dakota, appearing at the top of the list of "Programmatic Areas of Opportunity at the Bachelor's Degree Level for SDBOR Universities"¹ In addition, accounting is listed as the #4 program in the "Top 10 Bachelor's Degree Level Programs at SDBOR Universities with a Gap" (the gap measures the projected annual job openings minus SDBOR annual completions).²

According to the Emsi report "Each SDBOR university should examine the occupations for institutional fit and whether an existing program can be adjusted to teach the skills related to the occupation or expand a current program training for the occupation to help meet the unmet annual need." We believe that SDSU is uniquely positioned to fill this gap as we are currently training accountants but are not recognized as such in the Emsi report since we do not have a transcribed major in accounting. (Minors and certificates were not included in the Emsi analysis.) The Ness School has the capacity and the growth potential to significantly shorten the gap in accounting workforce preparation without substantial restructuring of its program.

In addition to the workforce demand demonstrated in the Emsi analysis and a significant gap in employment reported by the SD CPA society, the SDBOR Employment Projections Dashboard also points to a demonstrated workforce demand. Using Bureau of Labor Statistics data, the dashboard shows that Accountant and Auditor employment positions are projected to grow by 9.8% from 2018-2028 in South Dakota, and 6.4% nationally. This compares with total employment in South Dakota expected increase of approximately 7.1 percent, and nationally 5.2 percent.³

3. How would the proposed program benefit students?

Students will benefit from transparency and the ability to transcript a major in a program that they are already pursuing. This will not only provide transparency for students but will also clearly communicate preparation with potential employers. As national and international corporations move into Sioux Falls and the surrounding area, they may not look to the regional workforce to fulfill their needs. SDSU graduates have the skills employers are looking for, but if they are not credentialed and accredited according to industry expectations and experiences, businesses may look past them.

¹ Program Demand Gap Analysis: Economic Overview and Review of Academic Programs South Dakota Board of Regents, Emsi, April 2021, page 77

² Emsi, page 12

³ SDBOR Employment Projections Dashboard <https://www.sdbor.edu/dashboards/Pages/Employment-Projections-Dashboard.aspx> accessed 12/20/2021

The Ness School of Management and Economics at SDSU offers a high-quality Accounting Minor that, when stacked onto a major in Business Economics, Agricultural Business, or Entrepreneurial Studies, mirrors the requirements of an accounting major at most business schools. The 50-credit management and economics core that is common to these three majors is a fairly standard core for any business program, providing the solid foundation that will prepare students well for a variety of positions in private or public industry. As of Spring 2021 term, 103 SDSU students had declared the Accounting Minor.

SDSU has a solid track record of providing the undergraduate education to provide the foundation for students to enter careers as Certified Public Accountants, accountants in Agribusinesses, and further graduate studies. According to data compiled by the South Dakota Board of Accountancy, SDSU students who sit for the CPA exam in South Dakota, when compared with graduates of other South Dakota universities, consistently score at or near the top of the list of highest average score on all four parts of the CPA exam - AUD (Audit), BEC (Business & Economics), FAR (Financial accounting), and REG (Tax & Business law).

The accounting profession licensure is evolving, dubbed the CPA Evolution Initiative by the American Institute of Certified Professional Accountants (AICPA) and the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA), including a restructured CPA exam expected in 2024. Accounting students will be expected to have a deeper skill set, growing competencies, and a greater knowledge of emerging technologies.⁴ SDSU's accounting faculty are well prepared to guide their accounting students in preparation to meet the progressing needs of the industry.

4. How does the proposed program relate to the university's mission as provided in South Dakota Statute and Board of Regents Policy, and to the current Board of Regents Strategic Plan 2014-2020?

The proposed Accounting major supports the mission of SDSU as provided in SDCL 13-58-1: *Designated as South Dakota's land grant university, South Dakota State University, formerly the state college of agriculture and mechanical arts, shall be under the control of the Board of Regents and shall provide undergraduate and graduate programs of instruction in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education in agriculture, education, engineering, home economics, nursing and pharmacy, and other courses or programs as the Board of Regents may determine.*

As the state's Land Grant university, South Dakota State University and the Ness School have a unique connection with rural communities and, in particular, with the small businesses throughout the state. Thus, SDSU is strategically positioned to provide educational opportunities that will strengthen the labor force and economy of the rural areas throughout the state.

The proposed major also supports the goals stated in the South Dakota Board of Regents Strategic Plan 2014-2020:

Goal I -Student Success

- Grow the number of undergraduate degrees awarded.

⁴ Accounting program curriculum gap analysis, AICPA and NASBA, <https://evolutionofcpa.org/Documents/Accounting%20Program%20Curriculum%20Gap%20Analysis%20Report%2003.15.2021.pdf>

- SDSU and the Ness School have the capacity and are well positioned to fill the gap in training and degrees awarded to meet the workforce needs for accountants throughout the state.

Goal 2 -Academic Quality and Performance

- Improve the pass rates on licensure and certification exams.
 - SDSU’s accounting students do well on the CPA exam. As more students are trained in a continuously improving program, a higher pass rate will ensue.
- Increase the number of accredited programs.
 - The SDSU Ness School of Management and Economics is in the final phases of seeking accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The proposed Accounting major will be part of the accreditation, thus guaranteeing a high level of quality in the program. AACSB offers separate accreditation for accounting programs, an avenue which SDSU may pursue.
- Grow the number of students participating in experiential learning
 - The Ness School has a very active VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program, with 30-40 students volunteering their time every spring to prepare taxes for low-income individuals while gaining valuable hand-on experience. SDSU’s students also can take advantage of the experiential training offered through the facilities of the First Dakota National Bank eTrading Lab.

5. Do any related programs exist at other public universities in South Dakota? If a related program already exists, explain the key differences between the existing programs and the proposed program, as well as the perceived need for adding the proposed new program. Would approval of the proposed new program create opportunities to collaborate with other South Dakota public universities?

Yes. Black Hills State University (B.S. in Business Administration – Accounting Specialization), Dakota State university (B.B.A. in Business – Accounting Specialization), Northern State University (B.S. in Accounting), and University of South Dakota (B.B.A. in Accounting) offer majors or specializations in accounting. The duplication is necessary because the Emsi report clearly indicates that there is a need for more accounting programs in South Dakota. Undergraduate accounting programs typically offer a fairly standard program of courses. As such, SDSU’s program will provide the same solid foundational skills as our sister institutions. SDSU students will have the advantage of the use the First Dakota National Bank eTrading Lab, a state-of-the-art facility offering complementary finance and investment skills.

SDSU currently collaborates with NSU, prompted by an agreement with Dacotah Bank, where SDSU students pursue the Banking & Financial Services minor from NSU, and NSU students pursue the Agricultural Business minor from SDSU, all without having to leave the home institution. Additional opportunities to collaborate with sister BOR institutions will likely focus on specialized electives within the major.

6. Do related programs exist at public colleges and universities in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, and/or Wyoming?

	Institution	Program Title
<i>Minnesota</i>	Augsburg University	Accounting (B.A.)
	Bemidji State University	Accounting (B.S.)
	Bethel University	Accounting (B.S.)

	Institution	Program Title
	Capella University	Accounting (B.S.)
	College of St. Benedicts/St. John's University	Accounting (B.S.)
	College of St. Scholastica	Accounting (B.A.)
	Concordia College - Moorhead	Accounting (B.A.)
	Concordia University, St. Paul	Accounting (B.S.)
	Gustavus Adolphus College	Accounting (B.S.)
	Hamline University	Business Administration (B.B.A.) - Accounting Concentration
	Metropolitan State University	Accounting (B.S.)
	Minnesota State University - Mankato	Accounting (B.S.)
	Minnesota State University - Moorhead	Accounting (B.S.)
	North Central University	Accounting & Finance (B.S.)
	Rasmussen College	Accounting (B.S.)
	Southwest Minnesota State University	Accounting (B.S.)
	St. Catherine University	Accounting (B.A. & B.S.)
	St. Cloud State University	Accounting (B.S.)
	St. Mary's University	Accounting (B.A.)
	University of Minnesota	Accounting (B.S.B.)
	University of Minnesota - Crookston	Accounting (B.S.)
	University of Minnesota - Duluth	Accounting (B.Acc.)
	University of Northwestern - St. Paul	Accounting (B.S.)
	University of St. Thomas	Business Administration (B.A.) – Accounting Specialization
	Winona State University	Accounting (B.S.)
North Dakota	University of North Dakota	Accountancy (B.Acc.), Managerial Finance & Accounting (B.B.A.)
	North Dakota State University	Accounting (B.S.)
	Minot State University	Accounting (B.S.)
	University of Jamestown	Accounting (B.A.)
	University of Mary	Accounting (B.S.)
	Dickinson State University	Accounting (B.B.A.)
Montana	Carroll College	Accounting & Strategic Finance (B.A.)
	Rocky Mountain College	Business Administration (B.S.) – Accounting Concentration
	The University of Montana	Accounting (B.S.)
	Montana State University	Business (B.S.) – Accounting Emphasis
Wyoming	University of Wyoming	Accounting (B.S.)

7. Are students enrolling in this program expected to be new to the university or redirected from other existing programs at the university?

There will be a mix of new enrollment and redirection from existing programs. New students will be attracted to the program by the state-of-the-art facilities and faculty resources combined with transparency of the program. A significant number of students currently majoring in Business Economics with a minor in accounting would be redirected into an accounting major.

8. What are the university’s expectations/estimates for enrollment in the program through the first five years? What are the university’s expectations/estimates for the annual number of graduates from the program after the first five years? Provide an explanation of the methodology the university used in developing these estimates.

The Ness School anticipates that approximately 50-75% of the students who currently are pursuing a Business Economics major with an accounting minor would opt to pursue an accounting major instead. There are currently slight over 100 students pursuing the accounting minor. Enrollment in the accounting major therefore projects to approximately 50-75 students by the end of the first five years.

In AY22, the upper division ACCT courses had 25-30 students enrolled in each course. It is anticipated that the majority of these students would pursue the accounting major. Therefore, Ness School anticipates approximately 20 students graduate with the Accounting major each academic year.

In addition to the students who are drawn from other programs on campus, primarily the Business Economics program, Ness School anticipates approximately 5 new students to SDSU will be drawn to the program each year and at least 10 students after the first five years.

9. Complete the following charts to indicate if the university intends to seek authorization to deliver the entire program on campus, at any off campus location (e.g., USD Community College for Sioux Falls, Black Hills State University-Rapid City, Capital City Campus, etc.) or deliver the entire program through distance technology (e.g., as an on-line program)?

Note: The accreditation requirements of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) require Board approval for a university to offer programs off-campus and through distance delivery.

	Yes/No	Intended Start Date
On campus	Yes	2023-2024 Academic Year

	Yes/No	If Yes, list location(s)	Intended Start Date
Off campus	No		

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods <i>Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 5.5.</i>	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	No		
Does another BOR institution already have authorization to offer the program online?	Yes	If yes, identify institutions: DSU – Business (B.B.A.) – Accounting Specialization NSU – Accounting (B.S.)	

10. What are the university’s plans for obtaining the resources needed to implement the program? Indicate “yes” or “no” in the columns below.

	Development/ Start-up	Long-term Operation
Reallocate existing resources	Yes	Yes
Apply for external resources	No	No
Ask Board to seek new State resources	No	No
Ask Board to approve a new or increased student fee	No	No

SDSU will request the same discipline fees that are associated with all current Ness School programs/classes.

11. Curriculum Example: Provide (as Appendix A) the curriculum of a similar program at another college or university. The Appendix should include required and elective courses in the program. Catalog pages or web materials are acceptable for inclusion. Identify the college or university and explain why the selected program is a model for the program under development.

Represented in Appendix A are the requirements for the accounting programs at BHSU, DSU, NSU, and USD.

Appendix A

Curriculum Examples – Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, and University of South Dakota

Black Hills State University - Business Administration (B.S.) – Accounting Specialization

Additional information regarding the Business Administration (B.S.) – Accounting Specialization may be found at:

https://catalog.bhsu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=31&poiid=3738&returnto=798

Business Core (51 Credits)

- ACCT 210 - Principles of Accounting I
- ACCT 211 - Principles of Accounting II
- BADM 220 - Business Statistics
- BADM 310 - Business Finance
- BADM 320 - Quantitative Decision Analysis
- BADM 321 - Business Statistics II
- BADM 344 - Managerial Communications
- BADM 350 - Legal Environment of Business
- BADM 369 - Organization and Management
- BADM 370 - Marketing
- BADM 407 - International Business
- BADM 425 - Production/Operations Management
- BADM 482 - Business Policy and Strategy
- ECON 201 - Principles of Microeconomics
- ECON 202 - Principles of Macroeconomics
- MIS 205 - Advanced Computer Applications
- MIS 325 - Management Information Systems
- 300/400 level ECON elective

Specialization in Accounting (18 Credits)

- ACCT 310 - Intermediate Accounting I
- ACCT 311 - Intermediate Accounting II
- ACCT 430 - Income Tax Accounting
- ACCT 450 - Auditing
- ACCT 460 - Managerial Accounting
- ACCT 480 - Advanced Accounting

Dakota State University - Business (B.B.A.) – Accounting Specialization

Additional information regarding the Business Administration (B.S.) – Accounting Specialization may be found at:

https://catalog.dsu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=33&poiid=2663&returnto=1545

Required Courses (60 Credits)

- ACCT 210 - Principles of Accounting I
- ACCT 211 - Principles of Accounting II
- BADM 101 - Survey of Business
- BADM 220 - Business Statistics
- BADM 310 - Business Finance
- BADM 321 - Business Statistics II
- BADM 344 - Managerial Communications

- BADM 350 - Legal Environment of Business
- BADM 360 - Organization and Management
- BADM 370 - Marketing
- BADM 405 - International Trade & Finance
- BADM 425 - Production and Operations Management
- BADM 457 - Business Ethics
- BADM 482 - Business Policy and Strategy
- CIS 325 - Management Information Systems
- CSC 105 - Introduction to Computers
- ECON 201 - Principles of Microeconomics
- ECON 202 - Principles of Macroeconomics
- CSC 150 - Computer Science I
- Choose three credits from the following
 - CIS 206 - Advanced Applications:
 - CIS 207 - Advanced Applications: Spreadsheets
 - CIS 208 - Advanced Applications: Database
 - CIS 209 - Advanced Applications: SAS
 - CIS 210 - QuickBooks I
 - CIS 211 - QuickBooks II ****Note - CIS 210 is a prerequisite for this course.**

Accounting Specialization (21 Credits)

- ACCT 310 - Intermediate Accounting I
- ACCT 311 - Intermediate Accounting II
- ACCT 320 - Cost Accounting
- ACCT 360 - Accounting Systems
- ACCT 430 - Income Tax Accounting
- ACCT 431 - Advanced Income Tax
- ACCT 450 - Auditing

Northern State University - Accounting (B.S.)

Additional information regarding the Accounting (B.S.) may be found at:

http://catalog.northern.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=13&poid=3292&returnto=1082

Business Core Courses (48 Credits)

- ACCT 210 - Principles of Accounting I
- ACCT 211 - Principles of Accounting II
- BADM 102 - Professional Development and Planning
- BADM 220 - Business Statistics
- BADM 244 - Business Communications
- BADM 310 - Business Finance
- BADM 350 - Legal Environment of Business
- BADM 360 - Organization and Management
- BADM 370 - Marketing
- BADM 457 - Business Ethics
- BADM 482 - Business Policy and Strategy
- CSC 273 - Spreadsheet Data Analysis
- ECON 201 - Principles of Microeconomics
- ECON 202 - Principles of Macroeconomics
- MIS 325 - Management Information Systems
- IDL 190 - Seminar

Program Requirements (27 Credits)

Students majoring in accounting must also complete business core courses and meet School of Business exit requirements.

- ACCT 310 - Intermediate Accounting I
- ACCT 311 - Intermediate Accounting II
- ACCT 320 - Cost Accounting
- ACCT 360 - Accounting Systems
- ACCT 430 - Income Tax Accounting
- ACCT 450 - Auditing
- ACCT 470 - Non-Profit Accounting
- BADM 351 - Business Law
- Choose one of the following courses:
 - ACCT 431 - Advanced Income Tax
 - ACCT 531 - Advanced Income Tax
 - ACCT 440 - Accounting Theory
 - ACCT 540 - Accounting Theory
 - ACCT 451 - Internal Auditing
 - ACCT 551 - Internal Auditing
 - ACCT 480 - Advanced Accounting
 - ACCT 580 - Advanced Accounting

The University of South Dakota – Accounting (B.B.A.)

Additional information regarding the Accounting (B.B.A.) may be found at:
http://catalog.usd.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=32&poid=5996

Pre-Major Business Core (25-30 Credits)

- ACCT 210 - Principles of Accounting I
- ACCT 211 - Principles of Accounting II
- BADM 101 - Survey of Business
- BADM 220 - Business Statistics
- CMST 210 - Interpersonal Communication for Professionals
- ECON 201 - Principles of Microeconomics
- ECON 202 - Principles of Macroeconomics
- MATH 121 - Survey of Calculus or MATH 123 - Calculus I

Program Requirements (54 Credits)

- ACCT 310 - Intermediate Accounting I
- ACCT 311 - Intermediate Accounting II
- ACCT 320 - Cost Accounting
- ACCT 360 - Accounting Systems
- ACCT 430 - Income Tax Accounting
- ACCT 450 - Auditing
- BADM 310 - Business Finance
- BADM 321 - Business Statistics II
- BADM 323 - Information Systems for Data Analytics
- BADM 350 - Legal Environment of Business
- BADM 369 - Organizational Behavior & Theory
- BADM 370 - Marketing
- BADM 425 - Production/Operations Management

- BADM 482 - Business Policy and Strategy
- BLAW 351 - Business Law
- PHIL 322 - Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility in Business
- School of Business Elective (300/400 level)
- Choose one of the following courses:
 - ECON 301 - Intermediate Microeconomics
 - ECON 302 - Intermediate Macroeconomics
 - ECON 330 - Money and Banking
 - ECON 421 - Econometrics
 - ECON 433 - Public Finance
 - ECON 441 - International Trade
 - ECON 445 - International Macroeconomics
 - ECON 451 - Economics for Managers
 - ECON 482 - Labor Economics

Additional Requirements

- Students must also complete enough Advanced Electives to achieve a minimum of 60 credits at the 300/400 level. Most accounting majors must complete 9 credits of Advanced Electives to meet this minimum.