SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

New Site Request

UNIVERSITY:	**SDSU**
DEGREE(S) AND PROGRAM:	**Sociology (B.A.)**
NEW SITE(S):	**Online**
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	**Fall 2024**
CIP CODE:	**45.1101**
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	**School of Psychology, Sociology & Rural Studies**
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	**SPSR**
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	**Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences**
BANNER DIVISION CODE:	**3S**

☒ **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

President of the University — 11/21/23 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 B.A. in Sociology via online delivery. SDSU currently has approval to offer the B.S. degree in Sociology online. The College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences would like to move forward at this time with being able to promote both B.S. and B.A. options for the Sociology major. Offering the B.A. in Sociology online will better serve distance students who wish to supplement their training in the discipline with a modern language, instead of additional science credits.

Sociologists ask lots of "why", "how", and "what" questions. Sociologists study the big picture, focusing on the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. They study trends and seek to improve people's lives based upon those trends. Sociology encompasses a wide range of topics including family dynamics, social deviance and crime, government policies, social and demographic trends, and the impact of contemporary issues on businesses, corporations, schools, and other public and private

institutions. Students receive a broad education that will qualify them for many kinds of occupations, working in business, government, and the nonprofit sectors. Sociology majors manage programs and people, provide services in a variety of settings, analyze and collect data, and pursue careers in law enforcement and victim services. The projected employment growth for Sociology is 7.2% for 2023-2028.[1]

SDSU will not require additional resources. All courses are available online.

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. While regental universities including Black Hills State University, Northern State University and the University of South Dakota offer a major in Sociology on their main campus, none of these universities offers a Sociology major online. SDSU is the only Regental institution authorized for online delivery of the Sociology major.

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.

The students are expected to be a combination of new students and students who are changing their major to Sociology. The School of Psychology, Sociology & Rural Studies anticipates growth in the B.A. enrollment given the appeal of an online option. The online B.A. in Sociology is expected to attract 1-3 students per year. Most Sociology majors pursue the B.S. degree; but there is a small number who would like to pursue the B.A. option. There are currently 14 majors in the online B.S. in Sociology program. 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.

	Fiscal Years*			
	1st	**2nd**	**3rd**	**4th**
Estimates	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28
Students new to the university	1	2	2	2
Students from other university programs	1	1	1	1
=Total students in the program at the site	2	5	8	11
Program credit hours (major courses)**	0	12	42	84
Graduates	0	0	0	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 impact on existing Regental programs is anticipated. By adding online delivery for the B.A. program, it would increase flexibility and accessibility for students who are looking to pursue their education and are place bound due to current employment, family, and other

[1] Lightcast (2023). Sociology (B.A./B.S.). Retrieved from https://catalog.sdstate.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=49&poid=11271 (visited *October 27, 2023*)

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.

B.A. in Sociology	Credit hours	Credit hours currently available from this university online	Credit hours currently available from other universities online	Credit hours new to this university
System General Education Requirements	30	30	30	0
Subtotal, Degree Requirements	30	30	30	0
College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Requirements	6	6	6	0
Major Requirements	33	33	24	0
Subtotal, Requirements of the Proposed Major	39	39	30	0
Free Electives	51	51	51	0
Total, Degree with Proposed Major	120	120	111	0

Requirements for Sociology Major: 120 Credits
Bachelor of Arts
Bachelor of Science

System General Education Requirements

- Goal #1 Written Communication: SGR #1 Electives Credits: 6
- Goal #2 Oral Communication: SGR #2 Elective Credits: 3
- Goal #3 Social Sciences: SGR #3 Electives Credits: 6
- Goal #4 Arts and Humanities: SGR #4 Electives Credits: 6
- Goal #5 Mathematics: SGR #5 Elective Credits: 3
- Goal #6 Natural Sciences: SGR #6 Electives Credits: 6

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Requirements - Bachelor of Arts Requirements

- Modern Foreign Language Including the 202-Level Credits: 6+
- One declared minor outside of the major discipline OR a second major OR a teaching specialization. The minor may be a traditional minor within one department or school or it may be interdisciplinary involving more than one department or school. 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

System General Education and/or major coursework may satisfy some or all of the above requirements. Consult program advisor for details. See the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences for additional information about Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science specifications.

Major Requirements

- SOC 284 – Investigating the Social World Credits: 3
- SOC 307 – Research Methods I (COM) Credits: 3
- SOC 308 – Research Methods II (COM) Credits: 3
- SOC 403 – Sociological Theory (COM) Credits: 3

- SOC 489 – Capstone (COM) Credits: 3
- SOC/ANTH Electives: 18

Electives
- Taken as needed to complete any additional degree requirements

Total Required Credits: 120

Academic Requirements
- A minimum GPA of 2.2.
- A grade of C or better in all SOC courses.
- SOC courses applied to the Sociology major requirements (including the required 15 credit core and 18 credit SOC/ANTH electives) may not be applied to the Criminal Justice minor.

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 online and distance learners in the major. Advising can be done using e-mail, phone, Zoom, and other technologies.

The Office of Continuing and Distance Education (CDE) provides support to new online and distance learners through a dedicated onboarding process, Orientation for Online Learners, and Virtual Move-In Day. CDE staff also provides ongoing support through enrollment and student success coordinators that are available to assist students in connecting to necessary resources online and on campus, through the SDSU Virtual Student Union, student success videos, online tutoring support through Tutor.com. Additional 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 also 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).

This undergraduate program in Sociology is not accredited.

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

None.

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 School of Psychology, Sociology & Rural Studies is not requesting additional faculty or resources to deliver the B.A. in Sociology program online. All courses needed for this program are already offered in an online format by current faculty. Tuition revenue generated from online tuition will adequately fund the program. Growth that requires additional courses will be met by self-support tuition.