



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS
Program Termination or
Placement on Inactive Status

UNIVERSITY:	SDSU
DEGREE(S) AND PROGRAM:	Dietetics (M.S.)
CIP CODE:	51.3101
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	School of Health & Consumer Sciences
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	SHCS
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	Education & Human Sciences
BANNER DIVISION CODE:	3H

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.



 President of the University

1/29/2024

 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

5. TERMINATION WITH ENROLLED STUDENTS

a. Provide a justification for terminating the program:

The College of Education & Human Sciences requests to terminate the Dietetics (M.S.) program. The program is offered at SDSU through a collaboration with the Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (GPIDEA). GPIDEA is a consortium of public universities that offer collaborative online degree and certificate programs in human services and agriculture. To be admitted to the program, students must 1) have a bachelor's degree and 2) have the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) credential or be eligible to sit for the RDN exam after having completed an accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD).

¹ Note: Certificates, specializations, and minors may only be terminated and not placed on inactive status due to limitations in the student information system.

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.

The request for termination of the Dietetics (M.S.) program is based on low program enrollment and the availability of related majors at SDSU that meet student demand.

As of fall 2023, there are three students enrolled in the Dietetics (M.S.) program. Enrollment has decreased by 70% since fall of 2018 when enrollment was ten students. The total number of awarded degrees over a 5-year period is fifteen.

Declining enrollment in the SDSU Dietetics (M.S.) program can in part be attributed to a change in RDN exam eligibility requirements. Effective January 1, 2024, the minimum degree requirement to be approved for eligibility for the registration examination for dietitians will change from a bachelor's degree to a graduate degree. This decision was made by the Commission on Dietetics Registration (CDR) in 2012.

In response to the RDN exam graduate degree eligibility requirement, SDSU proposed and was approved to offer an accelerated bachelor's to master's degree program in December 2021. The first cohort of Nutrition & Dietetics (M.S.) students started in the fall of 2022 with expected graduation in May of 2025. Graduates of the Nutrition & Dietetics (M.S.) program will be eligible to sit for the RDN exam.

b. What is the plan for completion of the program by current students?

SDSU currently has three students enrolled in the Dietetics (M.S.) GPIDEA program which requires a minimum of thirty-six credits for completion. One of the students is expected to graduate in fall 2023 and the other two are expected to graduate fall 2024. Students can also transfer to another institution in the GPIDEA consortium if desired.

Per the GPIDEA policy handbook, institutions must complete their teaching commitments or secure support for an alternative arrangement (e.g., courses they have promised to teach) for at least one year following the announcement of their intention to leave the program. GPIDEA will be notified via a letter from the college of its intent to withdraw from the M.S. in Dietetics GPIDEA program affiliation.

c. What is the proposed date (day/month/year) program termination status begins (program status in the database changes to *Phasing Out* and last date a student may enroll in or declare the program)?

Fall 2023

d. What is the last date (day/month/year) in which a student may enroll in the program (program status in the database changes to *Phase Out*)?

Fall 2023

e. What is the last term or date (day/month/year) by which a student can graduate from the program?

Spring 2025

f. What are the potential cost savings of terminating the program and what are the planned uses of the savings?

There is not a cost savings associated with program termination to the School of Health and Consumer Sciences. With low enrollment in GPIDEA through SDSU, the university anticipates a better return on investment to utilize faculty time to teach courses specific to non-GPIDEA degree options in Nutrition and Dietetics such as the M.S. and Ph.D. program in Nutrition and Exercise Science and allowing current faculty to increase their

research workload to focus on securing extramural funding.

g. What are the resulting employee terminations and other possible implications including impact on other programs?

No employee terminations are necessary. Workload will be redirected to other programs in the college.