



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

Substantive Program Modification Form

UNIVERSITY:	SDSU
CURRENT PROGRAM DEGREE:	Master of Science (M.S.)
CURRENT PROGRAM MAJOR/MINOR:	Geography
CURRENT SPECIALIZATION:	N/A
CIP CODE:	30.4401
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Geography & Geospatial Sciences
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	SGGS
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE:	Natural Sciences
BANNER COLLEGE CODE:	3T

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

3/28/2024

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 checked="" 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: Master's Graduation Requirements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Modification requiring Board of Regents approval | |

Must have prior approval from Executive Director or designee

2. Effective date of change: 2024-2025 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. Is the program being modified associated with a current articulation agreement?

Yes No

a. If yes, will the articulation agreement need to be updated with the partner

institution following the approve of the program change? Please explain: N/A

7. Primary Aspects of the Modification:

<i>Existing Curriculum</i>				<i>Proposed Curriculum (highlight changes)</i>			
Prof.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.	Prof.	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
GEOG	790	Seminar (Geospatial Science)	1	GEOG	790	Seminar (Geospatial Science)	1
		<i>Select one of the following options:</i>				<i>Select one of the following options:</i>	
		<i>Option A: Thesis</i>				Thesis	
GEOG	798	Thesis	5-6	GEOG	798	Thesis	5-6
		Electives	17-18			Electives	17-18
		<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	2-5
		Electives	20-22			Electives	20-22
		<i>Option C: Coursework Only</i>				Non-Thesis	
		Electives	29			Electives	26
Total number of hours required for degree				Total number of hours required for degree			
		Option A	30			Thesis	30
		Option B	32			Non-Thesis	33
		Option C	36				

Master’s Graduation Requirements

Current:

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

Proposed:

Thesis

- Thesis Proposal
- Thesis and Oral Defense

Non-Thesis

- Research Project/Portfolio and Oral Defense

8. Explanation of the Change:

The SDSU Graduate School has revised SDSU Policy 2:17 Credit Requirements for Graduate Credential Programs. The Graduate School adjusted the language to no longer refer to master’s programs using Option A (Thesis Option), B (Research/Design Paper Option), C (Coursework Only), and D (Coursework Only – Professional Program) but to move forward with Thesis and Non-Thesis options that will require a minimum of 30 credits. The Department of Geography and Geospatial Sciences has requested to change the non-thesis option from 32 credits (Option B) and 36 credits (Option C) to 33 credits.