



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

**New Specialization**

<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	<b>SDSU</b>
<b>TITLE OF PROPOSED SPECIALIZATION:</b>	<b>Health Promotion</b>
<b>NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM IN WHICH SPECIALIZATION IS OFFERED:</b>	<b>Health Studies (B.S.)</b>
<b>BANNER PROGRAM CODE:</b>	
<b>INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:</b>	<b>Fall 2025</b>
<b>PROPOSED CIP CODE:</b>	<b>51.2208</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</b>	<b>School of Health &amp; Human Sciences</b>
<b>BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:</b>	<b>SHHS</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY DIVISION:</b>	<b>College of Education &amp; Human Sciences</b>
<b>BANNER DIVISION CODE:</b>	<b>3H</b>

**Please check this box to confirm that:**

- The individual preparing this request has read [AAC Guideline 2.3.2.2.B](#), which pertains to new specialization 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.*

Dennis D. Hedge

10/22/2024

Institutional Approval Signature

Date

*President or Chief Academic Officer of the University*

**1. Level of the Specialization:**

Baccalaureate  Master's  Doctoral

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

The School of Health and Human Sciences in collaboration with the College of Nursing has restructured program requirements and renamed the B.S. in Community and Public Health. The title of the Community and Public Health major will be changed to Health Studies. The restructured Health Studies program will include the addition of two new specializations – 1) Health Promotion and 2) Innovative Healthcare Leadership.

The Health Studies (B.S.) - Health Promotion Specialization will prepare students to promote

health and wellness in individuals, communities, and populations. Graduates will enter a growing job market and be equipped to work in diverse settings, including community health organizations, schools, healthcare facilities, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. Students can also use this specialization as a preparatory degree for advancement into healthcare related graduate programs.

This interdisciplinary program provides a comprehensive curriculum in analyzing how economic stability, education, healthcare access, community support structures, policy and other determinants impact community health. Like students in the Health Studies major, the health promotion specialization students are prepared to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate health promotion strategies aimed at improving population health. The rapidly growing use of information and communication technologies in healthcare such as telehealth and health informatics are included in the curriculum, preparing students to meet the dynamic and evolving landscape of healthcare. The Health Promotion specialization requires additional coursework in the principles of community health, health coaching, nutrition, exercise, and engages students in practicing their skills with a required practicum experience.

The Health Studies (B.S.) – Health Promotion Specialization will prepare students to seek eligibility and take the Certified Health Education Exam (CHES<sup>®</sup>) through the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (<https://www.nchec.org/>). Graduates may also seek eligibility to be a Certified Wellness Practitioner (CW) through the National Wellness Institute certification program (<https://nationalwellness.org/>).

### **3. Provide a justification for the specialization, including the potential benefits to students and potential workforce demand for those who graduate with the credential.**

Like the existing Community and Public Health major, the Health Promotion specialization offers students who don't seek traditional clinical roles (i.e. nurse, dietitian, doctor) in healthcare with an opportunity to work in "health" and improve quality of life for a variety of populations. The Health Promotion specialization's curriculum is designed to meet curricular requirements of eligibility for students to seek post-graduation certification routes which can increase a graduate's employability for selected jobs.

Health promotion has been and will continue to be a high priority need area for strengthening health systems and responding to the health needs of individuals, families, and communities. As stated by the World Health Organization (WHO), "The health sector must make health promotion more relevant and concrete, work with communities to create healthy living conditions, based on primary health care. Health promotion is also an essential function of public health, which must be included in the processes of evaluation, policy development, resource allocation, and in the dimensions of access to health services."<sup>1</sup>

Non-clinical healthcare employees (i.e. patient navigators, community health workers, health coaches) in a variety of settings are playing vital roles in efforts to improve patient care, improve health outcomes, prevent disease and reduce healthcare costs.<sup>2,3</sup> Workforce demand

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<sup>1</sup> Strategy and Plan of Action on health promotion in the context of the SDGs 2019-2030. Pan American Health Organization, World Health Organization. <https://www.paho.org/en/topics/health-promotion>. Accessed July 26, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Penn Center for Community Health Workers and its IMPACT<sup>™</sup>. <https://www.impactcarehq.com/>

<sup>3</sup> Kangovi, S., Mitra, N. Norton, L., et al. Effect of Community Health Worker Support on Clinical Outcomes of Low-Income Patients Across Primary Care Facilities, A Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2018;178(12):1635-1643. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2018.4630

for non-clinical employees in healthcare has been increasing and this trend is expected to continue. Health education specialists are employed in a variety of settings, including hospitals, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. Employment of health education specialists is projected to grow 7% from 2022 to 2032, faster than the average for all occupations.<sup>4</sup> Community health workers promote wellness by helping people adopt healthy behaviors. They implement programs and advocate for people who may have limited access to health resources and social services. Employment of community health workers is projected to grow 14% from 2022 to 2032, much faster than the average for all occupations.<sup>5</sup> About 6,600 openings for health education specialists and 8,000 openings for community health workers are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire.

**4. List the proposed curriculum for the specialization (including the requirements for completing the major – *highlight courses in the specialization*):**

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
		<b>Required System General Education Courses</b>	<b>31</b>	
		<b>System General Education Requirements - Electives</b>	<b>21</b>	
		SGR #1 Written Communication	3	No
		SGR #1 Written Communication	3	No
		SGR #2 Oral Communication	3	No
		SGR #3 Social Sciences	3	No
		SGR #4 Arts and Humanities	3	No
		SGR #5 Mathematics	3	No
		SGR #6 Natural Sciences	3	No
		<b>System General Education Requirements - Required</b>	<b>10</b>	
PSYC	101	General Psychology (SGR #3)	3	No
MCOM	151	Introduction to Mass Communication (SGR #4)	3	No
CHEM OR CHEM	106-106L 112-112L	Chemistry Survey & Lab (3, 1) (SGR #6) General Chemistry I & Lab (3, 1) (SGR #6)	4	No
		<b>College Requirements</b>	<b>4</b>	
EHS	119	EHS Seminar	2	No
EHS	319	Life, Love, and Money	2	No
		<b>Major Requirements</b>	<b>56</b>	
BIOL	221	Human Anatomy	3	No
BIOL	221L	Human Anatomy Lab	1	No
BIOL	325	Physiology	3	No
BIOL	325L	Physiology Lab	1	No
CHRD	353	Ethics and the Helping Professions	3	No
<b>CMST</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>Health Communication</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>No</b>

<sup>4</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Health Education Specialists, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/health-educators.htm> (visited August 28, 2024).

<sup>5</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Community Health Workers, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/community-health-workers.htm> (visited August 28, 2024).

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
EXS or PE	350 300	Exercise Physiology (3 cr.) Applied Sport and Exercise Science (3 cr.)	3	No
HDFS	210	Lifespan Development	3	No
HIM	150	Introduction to Digital Health Informatics and Information Management (DSU) <sup>6</sup>	3	No
HLTH	350	Health Promotion Professional Development	3	No
HLTH	405	Health Coaching Concepts and Skills	3	No
HLTH/ BLAW	451	Public Health Law	3	No
HLTH	475	Principles of Community Health Education	3	No
HLTH	479	Health Promotion Programming and Evaluation	2	No
HSC	443	Public Health Science	3	No
HSC	445	Epidemiology	3	No
HSC	452	Interprofessional Issues in Healthcare	3	No
HSC	480	Telehealth for the Interprofessional Team	3	Yes
NURS	201	Medical Terminology	1	No
NUTR OR NUTR OR NUTR	221 225 315	Survey of Nutrition (3 cr.) Nutrition for Exercise and Sport (3 cr.) Human Nutrition (3 cr.)	3	No
PSYC	417	Health Psychology	3	No
<b>Electives</b>			<b>29</b>	

Total number of hours required for completion of major core  
 Total number of hours required for completion of specialization  
 Total number of hours required for completion of major  
 Total number of hours required for completion of degree

22
34
70
120

### Academic Requirements

A minimum final grade of “C” is required in all Major Requirements courses.

### 5. Delivery Location

*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.*

**A. Complete the following charts to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver the entire program on campus, at any off campus location (e.g., UC Sioux Falls, Capital University Center, Black Hills State University-Rapid City, etc.) or deliver the entire specialization through distance technology (e.g., as an on-line program)?**

	Yes/No	Intended Start Date
<b>On campus</b>	Yes	Fall 2025

<sup>6</sup> HIM 150 Introduction to Digital Health Informatics and Information Management is offered by Dakota State University. A minor course modification will be routed by DSU to change HIM 150 from 4 to 3 credits.

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

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods <i>Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline <a href="#">2.4.3.B.</a></i>	Intended Start Date
<b>Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)</b>	No		

**B. Complete the following chart to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver more than 50% but less than 100% of the specialization through distance learning (e.g., as an on-line program)? This question responds to HLC definitions for distance delivery.**

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods	Intended Start Date
<b>Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)</b>	No		

**6. Additional Information:**

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the Health Studies (B.S.) – Health Promotion Specialization, students will:

- Describe major systems of the human body, primary functions, and impact on health and disease.
- Critically appraise research and sources of health information for credibility, relevance, and applicability.
- Analyze how economic stability, education, healthcare access, community support structures, policy, and other social determinants of health impact community health.
- Assess the needs, assets, and capacity of a community population relevant to health and improvement in health outcomes.
- Develop effective and credible health communication strategies, tailored to meet audience needs and respective of diverse populations.
- Work collaboratively in an interprofessional environment to plan, implement, and evaluate health promotion strategies aimed at improving population health.
- Assess the impact of digital health and informatics on healthcare delivery, patient/client engagement, and health outcomes.
- Exhibit professional conduct and ethical behavior in all aspects of practice, including confidentiality, integrity, and respect for individuals and communities.
- Identify opportunities and effectively advocate for the role of health promotion professionals in shaping policy and driving meaningful change within communities.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the foundational principles and theories of health coaching, including behavior change models and motivational interviewing techniques.
- Integrate principles of nutrition and exercise science to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent chronic diseases within the scope of practice for health promotion.