



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

**Revised Course Request: Unique Course
(Substantive Modification)**

SDSU Institution	Riley Moundson Form Initiator	Jim Connors Dean's Approval Signature	1/30/2025 Date
	Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences / Natural Resource Management	Dennis D. Hedge Institutional Approval Signature	2/13/2025 Date

Section 1. Existing Course Title and Description

Prefix & No.	Course Title	Credits
NRM 475	Natural Resource Law Enforcement Investigations and Report Writing	3

Course Description

This writing intensive course will focus on conducting and documenting a variety of natural resource related criminal investigations. Major topics will include setting up and conducting criminal investigation, interviewing witnesses and suspects, taking verbal and written statements, writing case reports and search warrant affidavits, collecting and preserving evidence, completing citations, and using a variety of investigative tools to solve cases.

Section 2. Modification(s) Requested

2.1. This modification will include:

- Credit Hours** 3 to 2
- Course prerequisites** None to WL 420
- Addition of a lab component**

Prefix & No.	Course Title	Credits
NRM 475L	Natural Resource Law Enforcement Investigations and Report Writing Lab	1

NRM 475L Course Description

Laboratory experience to accompany NRM 475. This laboratory will be focused on applying law enforcement topics and skills to real-world situations in a constitutional and lawful manner.

If the addition of a lab/lecture component requires a change in pre-requisites or co-requisites, indicate below

Prefix & No.	Course Title	Pre-Req/Co-Req?
NRM 475L	Natural Resource Law Enforcement Investigations and Report Writing Lab	Co-Req

Will the grade for this lab/lecture component be limited to S/U (pass/fail)? Yes No

Will section enrollment for the lab/lecture component be capped? Yes, max per section: No

Instructional Method: NRM 475L: L - Laboratory

Delivery Method: NRM 475L: 001 - Face-to-Face

Effective term of the change: Fall 2025

2.2. Add justification for all changes noted above:

Revised course prerequisites are requested to ensure students are prepared to take the course. Students that do not take WL 420 Wildlife Law Enforcement prior to taking NRM 475 are at a severe disadvantage as they lack knowledge of topics such as use of force and search and seizure that are covered extensively in Wildlife Law Enforcement. This change should have minimal impact on student schedules and increase both student success in Natural Resource Law Enforcement Investigations and Report Writing as well as allowing for the quality of instruction to improve to provide further challenge and employable skills/experiences to Natural Resource Law Enforcement graduates.

The addition of the lab component is necessary to improve education quality of this course for students. The department is trying to give students skills and experience that will translate to their future careers and make them a more employable student post-graduation. The addition of the lab would allow for more scenario-based learning that will greatly enhance their knowledge and application of hands-on skills such as investigations and search/seizure. Currently, without the lab, there is not enough time to run through scenarios in the class time allotted. Adding the lab section would provide enough time to set up and run high-quality realistic scenarios.

Section 3. Other Course Information

3.1. Will this course equate (i.e., be considered the same course for degree completion) with any other unique or common courses in the common course database? Yes No

Section 4. Department and Course Codes (Completed by University Academic Affairs)

	<u>Current</u>		<u>New</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Change in University Department	Natural Resource Management	to	No change
<input type="checkbox"/> Change in Banner Department Code	SNAR	to	No change
<input type="checkbox"/> Change in CIP Code	22.0207	to	No change