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

**Intent to Plan for a New Program**

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| <b>UNIVERSITY:</b>                      | <b>SDSU</b>                              |
| <b>DEGREE(S) AND TITLE OF PROGRAM:</b>  | <b>M.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies</b> |
| <b>INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:</b> |  |

and Qualifications). The associated white paper<sup>1</sup> states that faculty members teaching in a baccalaureate program must have completed a minimum of 18 credit hours of graduate coursework in their discipline of instruction. Some scope exists for faculty members to establish their qualifications by means of tested experience instead.

education does not by itself qualify a faculty member to teach a particular discipline at the baccalaureate level. These standards for faculty qualifications also apply to courses that are transferable to four-year institutions even if they are taught in high schools (dual credit) or two-year schools.

The revised accreditation standards place a burden on faculty members at many institutions, but especially those at tribal colleges and universities (TCUs). South Dakota houses three TCUs: Oglala Lakota College, Sinte Gleska University, and Sisseton Wahpeton College. A fourth, Sitting Bull College, serves the Standing Rock reservation, which straddles North and South Dakota. Collectively, these institutions offer 91 baccalaureate programs; faculty members teaching in these programs are among those most directly affected by the HLC requirements.

Nationally, a large proportion of faculty members at TCUs lack the credentials required by HLC for undergraduate instructors. According to the American Indian Higher Education Council (AIHEC), faculty credentials for the 2015-2016 academic year were as follows:<sup>2</sup>

| <b>Faculty Credential</b>              | <b>Percentage of Faculty</b> |
|--|------------------------------|
| No Degree    Expert in Field<br>Degree | 7%                           |







| <b>Prefix</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Course Title</b>                        | <b>Credit Hours</b> | <b>New (yes, no)</b> |
|---------------|---------------|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| various       | various       | Research Methods course                    | 3                   | No                   |
| various       | various       | Electives as approved by the POS committee | 12                  | No                   |
| various       | various       | Research/Design Paper                      | 4                   | No                   |
| Subtotal      |               |  | 34                  |                      |

Summary of Requirements Option C

| <b>Prefix</b> | <b>Number</b> | <b>Course Title</b>                        | <b>Credit Hours</b> | <b>New (yes, no)</b> |
|---------------|---------------|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| various       | various       | Primary Area Coursework                    | 18                  | No                   |
| various       | various       | Electives as approved by the POS committee | 18                  | No                   |
| Subtotal      |               |  | 36                  |                      |

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Students will:

- ⟨ demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the various disciplines incorporated into their Study Plan;
- ⟨ demonstrate an understanding of research methodology and research design, or creative activities appropriate to the interdisciplinary nature of their work;
- ⟨ identify and apply relevant theoretical framework of the disciplines incorporated into their Study Plan;
- ⟨ have fundamental knowledge of their disciplines and specific knowledge of their particular area of study;
- ⟨ demonstrate mastery of their subject matter on their Study Plan; and
- ⟨ understand the careers, professions, and/or future academic opportunities available to them upon completion of their studies.

Students who undertake a research-based thesis will be able to:

- ⟨ develop a testable hypothesis or explore research questions;
- ⟨ locate, retrieve and utilize appropriate information;
- ⟨ read, understand, and critically review the primary literature;
- ⟨ utilize appropriate methodology to conduct a research-based study;
- ⟨ analyze results using qualitative or quantitative techniques;
- ⟨ compare their results to previous studies;
- ⟨ explain the contribution of their study to the broader field of existing knowledge;
- ⟨ communicate the importance of their work in an oral presentation; and
- ⟨ communicate the importance of their work in written format.

Students who undertake a project will be able to:

- ⟨ develop a plan for the project or develop a plan for a scholarly or creative work;
- ⟨ locate, retrieve and utilize appropriate information;
- ⟨ read, understand, and critically review the primary literature or previous creative works;
- ⟨ utilize appropriate methodologies to conduct an applied study, implement a project, or utilize appropriate skills to produce a creative work;
- ⟨ analyze results using qualitative or quantitative techniques when appropriate;

- ◁ compare their results to previous studies when appropriate;
- ◁ explain the contribution of their work to the broader field of existing knowledge or to previously created works; and
- ◁ communicate the originality of, as well as the independent thinking and rationale for their work, in written format.

Students who undertake the course completion option will be able to:

- ◁ undertake scholarly or creative work as demonstrated in specific class assignments;
- ◁ locate, retrieve and utilize appropriate information;
- ◁ read, understand, and critically review the primary literature or previous creative works;
- ◁ analyze results using qualitative or quantitative techniques when appropriate;
- ◁ compare their results to previous studies when appropriate;
- ◁ explain the contribution of their work to the broader field of existing knowledge or to previously created works; and
- ◁ communicate the originality of, as well as the independent thinking and rationale for their work, in written format.

**6. Do related programs exist at public colleges and universities in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, and/or Wyoming?** *If a related program exists, enter the name of the institution and the title of the program; if no related program exists, enter “None” for that state. Add additional lines if there are more than two such programs in a state listed.*<sup>6</sup>

|                     | <b>Institution</b>                    | <b>Program Title</b>                         |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Minnesota</b>    | Minnesota State University (Mankato)  | M.S. in Cross-Disciplinary Studies           |
|                     | St. Cloud State University            | M.A./M.S. in Special Studies                 |
|                     | University of Minnesota (Duluth)      | Master of Liberal Studies (M.L.S.)           |
|                     | University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) | Master of Liberal Studies (M.L.S.)           |
|                     |                                       |  |
| <b>North Dakota</b> | None                                  |  |
|                     |                                       |  |
| <b>Montana</b>      | Montana Tech                          | M.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies            |
|                     | University of Montana (Missoula)      | Master of Interdisciplinary Studies (M.I.S.) |
|                     |                                       |  |
| <b>Wyoming</b>      | None                                  |  |

**7. Are students enrolling in this program expected to be new to the university or redirected from other existing programs at the university?**

Yes, students enrolling in the M.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies are expected to be new to the University. This program targets working adults in postsecondary institutions who need graduate

<sup>6</sup> This question addresses opportunities available through Minnesota Reciprocity and WICHE programs such as the Western Undergraduate Exchange and Western Regional Graduate Program in adjacent states. List only programs at the same degree level as the proposed program. For example, if the proposed program is a baccalaureate major, then list only related baccalaureate majors in the other states and do not include associate or graduate programs.







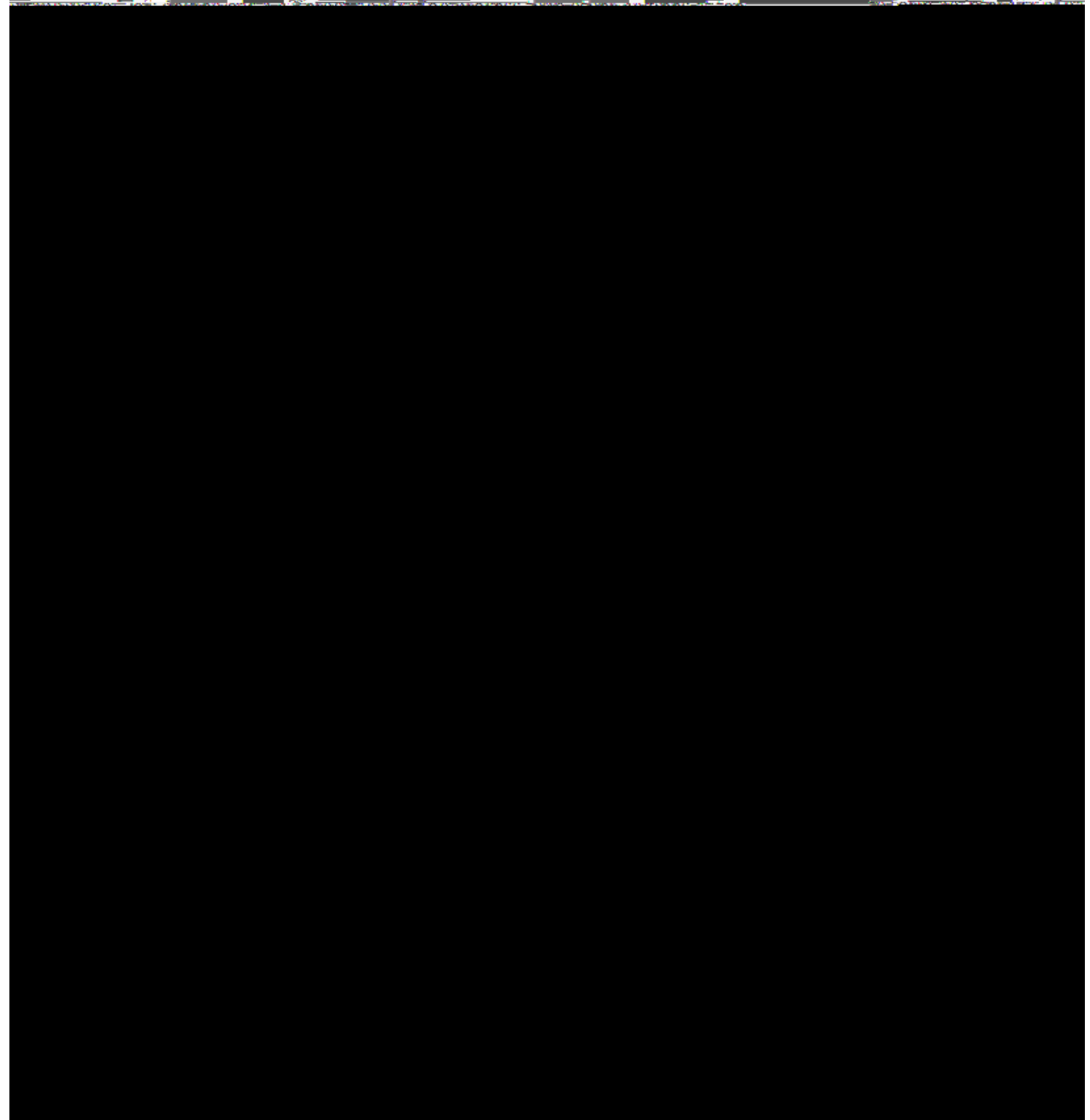
**Appendix A**

**Master's of Interdisciplinary Studies (M.I.S.) – University of Montana**

Additional information regarding the Master of Interdisciplinary Studies (M.I.S.) may be found at:  
<http://www.umt.edu/grad/Interdisciplinary%20Graduate%20Programs/Prospective%20Students/MIS.php>

**Master's of Interdiscinlinary Studies (M.I.S.)**

The M.A./M.S. program allows students, in consultation with faculty, to combine the a

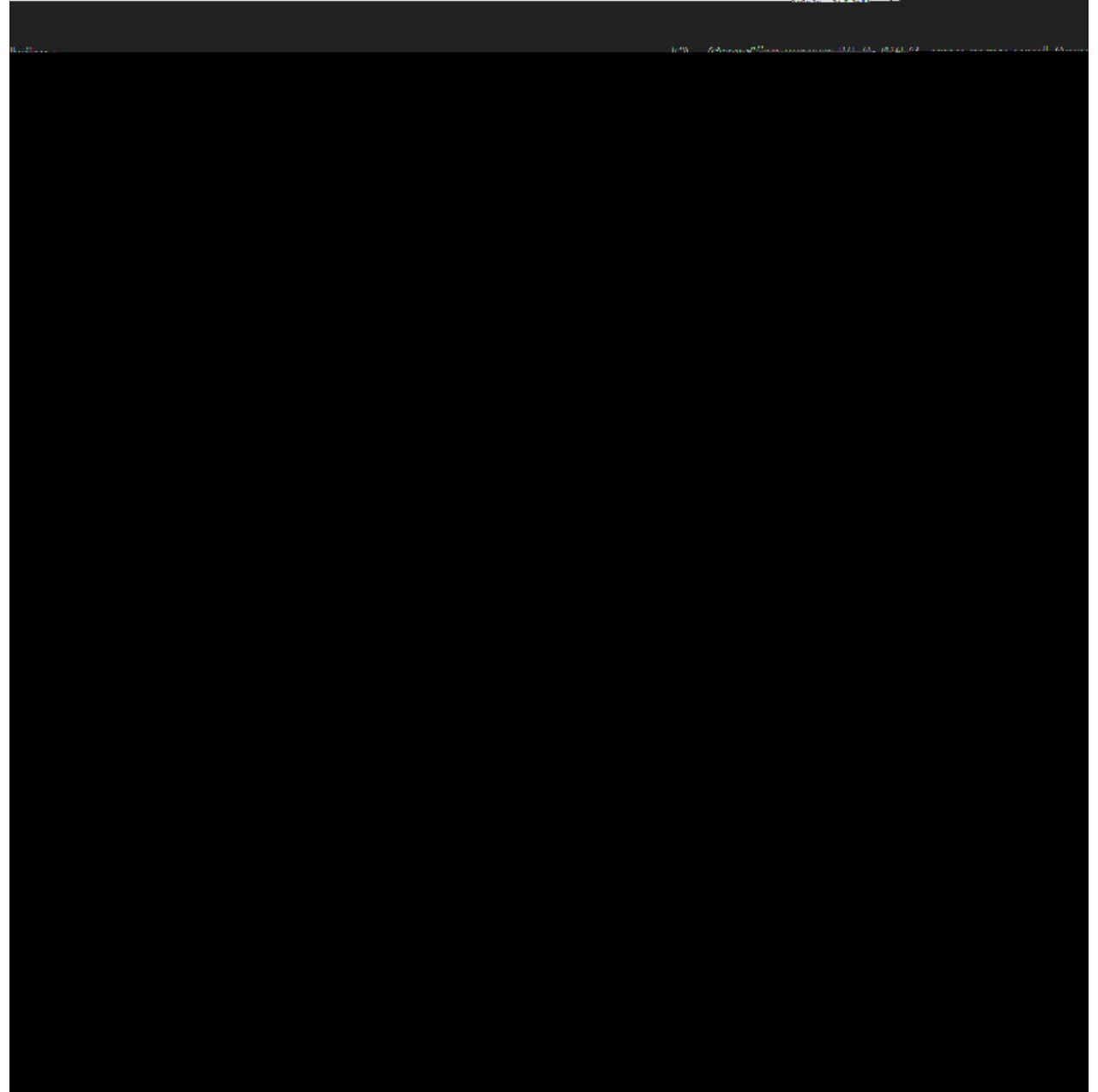




• Please note that applicants admitted as graduate non-degree students are NOT ELIGIBLE for financial aid.  
Graduate credit earned at other institutions for grad level 500 or above and 700  
all credits taken.

Graduate credit earned at other institutions for grad level 500 or above and 700  
all credits taken.

1 semester credits for thesis or research courses) must be at the 500 or above level. • Half of the credits (excluding up to 10  
600 level



**Financial Assistance**

Students in the interdisciplinary programs may apply for a Graduate Teaching Assistantship. Discretionary University funds for Graduate Teaching Assistantships are available to students who have completed a graduate-level research thesis or dissertation. For additional information about financial assistance, please contact the Graduate Office at [gradoffice@sdstate.edu](mailto:gradoffice@sdstate.edu).

**Program Limitations**

More recognizable traditional degree programs may provide the opportunity to bridge over interest in disciplines. More recognizable traditional degree programs may provide the opportunity to bridge over interest in disciplines.

