

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

**Substantive Program Modification Form**

<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	<b>SDSU</b>
<b>CURRENT PROGRAM DEGREE:</b>	<b>Distinction</b>
<b>CURRENT PROGRAM MAJOR/MINOR:</b>	<b>Honors College</b>
<b>CURRENT SPECIALIZATION:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>CIP CODE:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</b>	<b>Van D. &amp; Barbara B. Fishback Honors College</b>
<b>BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY COLLEGE:</b>	<b>Van D. and Barbara B. Fishback Honors College</b>
<b>BANNER COLLEGE CODE:</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**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  
Vice President of Academic Affairs or  
President of the University

1/25/2022





policy are always welcome to reapply in the future if they are meeting the eligibility criteria or through the application process.

## 7. Explanation of the Change:

The Van D. and Barbara B. Fishback Honors College requests changes to their curriculum that will allow students more options and more flexibility as they pursue the Honors College distinction. These changes directly address the evolving needs of the future work force, leveraging current trends in Honors education to maximize each scholar's unique educational needs and goals. Additionally, many of the students come to SDSU with college credits already completed from AP and dual credit, so the existing model of asking students to complete half of their Honors credits in Honors general education courses is too prescriptive and leaves few options for students coming to SDSU with college credits who want to pursue the Honors College distinction. The current curriculum does not work for all students, so many students opt not to do Honors because they cannot see a way for the Honors requirements to fit in their degree path for their major/minor. The proposed changes enable students from all disciplines to customize their Honors education in ways that will fit their academic and professional goals while still maintaining a rigorous academic experience.

Long-standing Honors traditions that have surfaced as pedagogical successes are retained in the proposed model—including a requirement for students to complete an Honors Colloquium and Honors Capstone research/creative project. Honors designated courses and the option to contract courses within a student's major or minor also remain. The main change is that students will have additional academic, experiential, and enrichment learning options for earning Honors credit, and the minimum number of credits required will be removed for all options except Colloquium and the Honors capstone. Several neighboring institutions offer or require non-credit bearing experiential learning, often accompanied by a reduction in the total number of Honors credits required for distinction. Kansas State University and University of Wyoming require 13 and 15 Honors credits, respectively, in addition to the Honors project and experiential learning. Iowa State University offers goal-based curriculum with a higher experience to credit ratio, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln offers Honors experiences as part of their 24-credit curriculum. In the proposed curriculum, the Honors College embraces the hallmarks of modern Honors experiential education while maintaining academics as a foundational element of the distinction.

Students will be required to complete a total of 24 credits of Honors coursework and have a 3.5 cumulative GPA at graduation.

- HON 383 Honors Colloquium or HON 492 Topics (minimum of 3 credits required)
- HON 498 Undergraduate Research/Scholarship (Honors Capstone) (minimum of 2 credits required)
- Honors Designated Coursework (0-19 credits)
- Honors Contracted Coursework (0-19 credits)
- Experiential Learning (0-6 credits, maximum of 6 credits)
- Honors Enrichment (0-6 credits, maximum of 6 credits)

The proposed changes to the Honors curriculum will uphold the mission and values of the Fishback Honors College by providing students with personalized, engaging, distinctive academic and enrichment experience that will position them for success as lifelong learners and leaders. The Honors College will continue to offer academic quality, opportunities for collaboration, global perspectives, and research/scholarship/creative activity. Additionally, the updated curriculum will offer more direct opportunities for students to participate in engagement, service, and leadership development as part of their Honors path. The Honors College requirements are integrated with the requirements for student's majors/minors.

### Proposed Automatic Eligibility Criteria

The Honors College will remove class rank from their automatic eligibility criteria for incoming students to join the Honors College as many schools don't use class rank and the information is not available until after the student graduates. The ACT and high school GPA are in line with the eligibility criteria for Honors colleges and programs at peer institutions.

Proposed