

# Intent to Plan for a New Program

South Dakota Board of Regents

Academic Affairs Forms

Internal Ticket ID: 4353

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Modified: 10/19/2022

Use this form to request authorization to plan a new baccalaureate major, associate degree program, or graduate program; formal approval or waiver of an Intent to Plan is required before a university may submit a related full proposal request for a new program. The Executive Director and/or their designees may request additional information. After the university President approves the Intent to Plan, submit a signed copy to the Executive Director through the System Academic Officer through the proper process. Only post the Intent to Plan to the university website for review by other universities after approval by the Executive Director, System Academic Officer or designee. This form is meant to capture critical elements for stakeholders to review prior to a full proposal.

## Initiation of Academic Program Request

University SDSU - South Dakota State University

Degree BS : Bachelor of Science

Name of Major X999 : New Major Requested

Special Education

No

Specialization Required?

Note: If the new proposed program includes specific specializations within it, complete and submit a New Specialization Form for each proposed specialization and attach it to this form. Since specializations appear on transcripts, they require Board approval.

College/Department

3H : SDSU Education & Human Science/SECH : School Ed/Counsel/Human  
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Intended Date of Full Proposal

Fall 2023

# Strategic Impact

2. Describe how the program fits in with the institutional mission, strategic plan, existing institutional program array, and academic priorities.

SDSU currently offers education programs including Early Childhood Education (B.S.) - Birth to 8 Specialization, Early Childhood Education (B.S.) - Cooperative Elementary Education Program with DSU, and various secondary education majors and specializations. The proposed Special Education major supports the mission of SDSU as provided in SDCL 13-58-1: Designated as South Dakota's Land-grant University, South Dakota State University, formerly the State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, located at Brookings SD, in Brookings County, shall be under the control of the Board of Regents and shall provide undergraduate and graduate programs of instruction in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education in agriculture, education, engineering, home economics, nursing and pharmacy, and other courses or programs as the Board of Regents may determine. In addition, the B.S. in Special Education will align with the South Dakota State University's mission and strategic plan Imagine 2023: Aspire. Discover. Achieve. As the state's land grant institution, SDSU's mission is to offer a rich academic experience in an environment of inclusion and access through inspired, student-centered education, creative activities and research, innovation and engagement that improve the quality of life in South Dakota, the region, the nation and the world. Specifically, the new program aims to achieve excellence through transformative education. The new program will support strategic goal 1 by increasing the number of accredited programs and developing and growing high-quality and distinct academic programs designed to meet the needs of diverse students and market demands.

If the program does not align to the strategic plan, provide a compelling rationale for the institution to offer the program.

N/A

3. How does the program connect to the Board of Regent Strategic Plan?

The proposed program also aligns with the Board of Regents Strategic Plan 2022-2027, Goal 3: Academic Excellence, Student Outcomes, Educational Attainment, and Goal 4: Workforce and Economic Development. In keeping with the SDBOR and SDSU's mission, the university aspires to offer student-centered options for individuals who wish to become special education teachers with the addition of a B.S. in Special Education. This new program also leverages the expertise of SDSU's faculty to respond to the workforce needs of South Dakota.

# Program Summary

4. If a new degree is proposed, what is the rationale?

This question refers to the type of degree, not the program. For example, if your university has authorization to offer the Bachelor of Science and the program requested is a Bachelor of Science, then the request is not for a new degree.

This is not a new degree.

5. What modality/modalities will be used to offer the new program?

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.

	Yes/No	Intended Start Date	
On Campus	Yes	(n/a) 2023	
	Yes/No	Location(s)	
Off Campus Location	No	(n/a)	(n/a)
	Yes/No	Delivery Method(s)	
Distance Delivery	No	(n/a)	(n/a)

Does another BOR institution already have authorization to offer the program online?

Yes

Dakota State University

6. If the program will be offered through distance delivery, identify the planned instructional modality:

Not Applicable : Program will not be offered through distance delivery.

## Academic Quality

7. What peer institutions and current national standards will be referenced to develop the curriculum for this program? Include links to at least 3 comparable programs at peer institutions and links to national or accreditation standards, if any.



†Augustana University †Special Education (B.A.), 8 conferred bachelor ¶s degrees†University of Sioux Falls †Special Education (B.A.), 3 conferred bachelor ¶s degrees†Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall †Special Education - Academic and Behavioral Strategist (B.S.), 12 conferred bachelor ¶s degrees

B. What evidence suggests there is unmet student demand for the proposed program, or that the proposed program would attract students away from the existing program?

There are eleven educator preparation programs (EPP) in South Dakota that are approved to train educators and contribute to building the workforce of teachers. Of those, S12 conferred (is /o-9 ((to )-1.8 u1

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The immediate need for additional teachers, including special education teachers, is evident nationally<sup>[13]</sup>, regionally<sup>[14]</sup>, and locally.<sup>[15]</sup> Although teacher vacancies in South Dakota were high in 2021, projections in 2022 have posed an even greater challenge. On July 29, 2022, the Associated School Boards of South Dakota reported 309 teacher openings remained just weeks before the beginning of 2022-23 school year. Special Education positions represented 60 of the educator vacancies in South Dakota.<sup>[16]</sup> Exacerbating the challenges created by current teacher vacancies are the projections that the demand for special education teachers is growing. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects 4% job growth for Special Education teachers from 2021-2031. About 37,600 openings for special education teachers are

The immediate need for additional teachers, including special education teachers, is evident nationally<sup>[33]</sup>, regionally<sup>[34]</sup>, and locally.<sup>[35]</sup> Although teacher vacancies in South Dakota were high in 2021, projections in 2022 have posed an even greater challenge. On July 29, 2022, the Associated School Boards of South Dakota reported 309 teacher openings remained just weeks before the beginning of 2022-23 school year. Special Education positions represented 60 of the educator vacancies in South Dakota.<sup>[36]</sup> Exacerbating the challenges created by current teacher vacancies are the projections that the demand for special education teachers is growing. About 37,600 openings for special education teachers are projected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics each year, on average, over the decade.<sup>[37]</sup> The South Dakota Education Preparation Providers collectively produced 97 special education teachers in 2021<sup>[38]</sup>, and SDSU recognizes transitioning those graduates to South Dakota classrooms at a high rate is a challenge.<sup>[39]</sup> Both the USDOE and SDDOE include Special Education (above age 5) as areas of shortage for 2022-23.<sup>[40, 41]</sup>

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[33] U.S. Department of Education, Teacher Shortage Areas Nationwide Listing 1990 ±1991through 2017 ±2018 <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/pol/bteachershortageareasreport201718.pdf>, Retrieved Sept. 7, 2022)

[34] Council for Exceptional Children, The Special Education Teacher Shortage: A Policy Analysis (June, 2021) <https://sd.edu>

University Name	State	Program Name	Number of Degrees Conferred in Program	Total Number of Conferrals at Level (Undergrad or Grad)
Mankato		Behavioral Strategist (B.S.)		
Saint Cloud State University	MN : Minnesota	Special Education (B.S.)	25	1787
University of Minnesota ± Twin Cities	MN : Minnesota	Special Education (B.S.)	25	8470

17. What evidence suggests there is interest from prospective students for this program at the university?

There are eleven educator preparation programs (EPP) in South/TD <</Mth/TD <</rty?stCI 842p.C /P (or )