

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 6 – F (2)
DATE: December 11-12, 2024

SUBJECT

Request to Seek Accreditation – SDSU – United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF)

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 2.3.5](#) – Accreditation
[AAC Guideline 2.3.5.B](#) – Request to Seek Program Accreditation

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

AAC Guideline 2.3.5.B specifies that universities must seek and receive Board approval before applying for initial accreditation for academic programs. South Dakota State University requests approval to seek accreditation from the following accrediting agency:

Accrediting Agency: United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF)

Program: Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) Graduate Certificate

Advantages: Accreditation will give students who earn the graduate certificate a credential when seeking jobs in national security, especially by the geospatial intelligence community. The GEOINT minor at SDSU was previously awarded accreditation by USGIF in April 2024.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

SDSU anticipates a one-time application fee of \$350 for initial accreditation, and an annual fee of \$2,500 to be covered through department funds. SDSU will only pay one fee for both the minor and the graduate certificate. Other costs would include roughly \$5,000 for travel expenses for the evaluation & site visit.

Board staff recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – SDSU Request to Seek Accreditation Form: United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF)

DRAFT MOTION 20241211_6-F(2):

I move to approve SDSU’s request to seek accreditation from the United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF) for their graduate certificate in Geospatial Intelligence.



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

Request to Seek Accreditation

Use this form to request permission to seek accreditation of an approved program. Board of Regents (BOR) action is required to seek program accreditation.

UNIVERSITY:	SDSU
PROGRAM:	Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) Graduate Certificate
CIP CODE:	43.0407
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Geography & Geospatial Sciences
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	Natural Sciences

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.

President of the University

Click here to enter a
8-22 date 2024

Date

1. Level of program seeking accreditation (place an "X" in the appropriate box):

- Certificate
 Associate
 Bachelor's
 Doctoral
 Master's

2. Accrediting Agency: United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF)

3. What are the advantages of accreditation? It will give students who earn the graduate certificate a credential when seeking jobs in national security, especially by the geospatial intelligence community.

The Department of Geography and Geospatial Sciences submitted a self-study to the USGIS for an accredited undergraduate GEOINT Minor. We had the USGIF site visit was 2/29/2024 to 03/01/2024. The GEOINT Minor was awarded accreditation by the USGIF for five years from 04/15/2024 to 04/15/2029.

4. What are the anticipated costs involved in accreditation, including:

- A. Costs involved in undergoing self-study and preparing the application for accreditation:** No cost. Will be done by department head.
- B. Out-of-pocket costs related to dues or site visits:**
- \$350 accreditation application fee.
 - \$5,000 on site costs for an accreditation team of three people for travel, hotel, and food.
 - \$2,500 annual fee to USGIF for Institutional Membership while accredited. There will only be *one* annual fee for both the undergraduate minor and the graduate certificate (if accredited).
- C. Base budget implications including incremental costs and minimum base resources required (dollars and FTE):**
- Copying documents and making binders of the report. (\$300 and department head/faculty time)
 - Promotional materials \$500
- 5. What is the source of the revenue needed?**
Department funds
- 6. What is the estimated date for submission of accreditation application?**
February 15, 2025.