SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs
Consent

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – C (1)
DATE: April 3-4, 2024

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SUBJECT
New Site Request – DSU – BS in Individualized Studies (Online)

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY
BOR Policy 2.3.2 – New Programs, Program Modifications, and Inactivation/Termination
BOR Policy 2.3.8 – Distance Education

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION
Dakota State University (DSU) requests approval to offer the BS in Individualized Studies online. Currently, the program is only available to on-campus students. The program is designed for students who have earned a high number of credits, but not enough credits that can be applied to the requirements for a specific major. The degree gives students the ability to earn a degree for the credits they have completed. This program can be beneficial to online students as well.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION
DSU requests no new resources, and there will be no costs to offering the program online.

Board office staff recommends approval to offer the program online.

ATTACHMENTS
Attachment I – New Site Request: DSU – BS in Individualized Studies

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DRAFT MOTION 20240403_5-C(1):
I move to approve DSU's new site proposal to offer the BS in Individualized Studies online, as presented.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

New Site Request

Use this form to request authorization to deliver an entire existing degree program (graduate program, undergraduate major or minor, certificate, or specialization) at a new site or by distance delivery (including online delivery). Board of Regents approval is required for a university to offer programs off-campus and through distance delivery. The Board of Regents, Executive Director, and/or their designees may request additional information about the proposal. After the university President approves the proposal, submit a signed copy to the Executive Director through the system Chief Academic Officer. Only post the New Site Request Form to the university website for review by other universities after approval by the Executive Director and Chief Academic Officer.
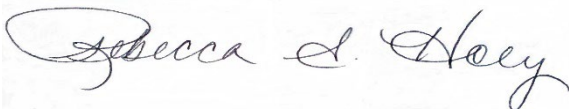
UNIVERSITY:	**DSU**
DEGREE(S) AND PROGRAM:	**Individualized Studies, B.S.**
NEW SITE(S): *Include address of new physical locations. Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 5.5.*	**Online Asynchronous**
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	**Fall 2024**
CIP CODE:	**24.0199**
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	**General Studies**
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	**DGENS**
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	**General Studies**
BANNER DIVISION CODE:	**DGES**

☒ **Please check this box to confirm that:**

- The individual preparing this request has read AAC Guideline 2:11, which pertains to new site requests, and that this request meets the requirements outlined in the guidelines.
- This request will not be posted to the university website for review of the Academic Affairs Committee until it is approved by the Executive Director and Chief Academic Officer.

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.

Rebecca S. Hoey	10/24/2023
President or Provost of the University	Date

Note: In the responses below, references to external sources, including data sources, should be documented with a footnote (including web addresses where applicable).

1. **What is the need for offering the program at the new physical site or through distance delivery?**

   Dakota State University requests authorization to deliver the Individualized Studies degree via online delivery. The program is currently available to on-campus students. To successfully meet the needs of these students, the BS in Individualized Studies must also be available as an online program. DSU offers over 20 undergraduate degrees online.

2. **Are any other Regental universities authorized to offer a similar program at the proposed site(s) or through distance delivery? If "yes," identify the institutions and programs and explain why authorization is requested.**

   SDSU's B.S. Interdisciplinary Studies was recently approved for online delivery. As noted, DSU offers over 20 undergraduate degrees online. Allowing students to select the BS in Individualized Studies will enhance retention and graduation rates by giving DSU students who have earned a high number of credits, but not high enough in any one major, an option to graduate on time by applying their earned credits toward a degree.

3. **Are students enrolling in the program expected to be new to the university or redirected from other existing programs at the university? Complete the table below and explain the methodology used in developing the estimates (*replace "XX" in the table with the appropriate year*).**

   We anticipate redirected students from other existing programs at the university. At the time of application for the BS in Individualized Studies program, there were 49 students enrolled in the General Studies program. The numbers suggest that between the online and on-campus delivery methods, we may have as many as 10 to 15 students complete the major each year.

	Fiscal Years*			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Estimates	FY 24	FY 25	FY26	FY 27
Students new to the university	1	2	3	4
Students from other university programs	1	5	5	5
Continuing students		2	9	16
=Total students in the program (fall)		9	16	25
Graduates				5

 *Do not include current fiscal year.

**This is the total number of credit hours generated by students in the program in the required or elective program courses. Use the same numbers in Appendix B – Budget.

4. **What is the perceived impact of this request on existing programs in the Regental system?**

   We do not anticipate online delivery of the BS in Individualized Studies will compete with SDSU's online BS in Interdisciplinary Studies. The primary market for our online offering is DSU students who have changed majors too many times, who have almost or more than 120 credits, who are unable to complete their program on campus, and who are at risk of dropping out. This option would allow them to complete a bachelor's degree.

5. **Complete the table and explain any special circumstances. Attach a copy of the program as it appears in the current catalog. If there are corresponding program modifications requested, please attach the associated form. Explain the delivery of the new courses and attach any associated new course request forms.**

Individualized Studies, B.S.	Credit hours	Credit hours currently available from this university at this site	Credit hours currently available from other universities available at this site	Credit hours currently available via distance	Credit hours new to this university
System General Education Requirements	30	30		30	
Subtotal, Degree Requirements	30				
Required Support Courses					
Major Requirements	48			48	
Major Electives or Minor					
Subtotal, Requirements of the Proposed Major	78			78	
Free Electives	42			42	
Total, Degree with Proposed Major	120			120	

*If the major will be available in more than one degree (e.g., BA, BS, BS Ed) at the new site(s) and the number or distribution of credits will vary with the degree, provide a separate table for each degree.

6. **How will the university provide student services comparable to those available for students on the main campus?**

   All courses are currently available online. DSU has developed a robust infrastructure to ensure online students have access to hands-on student success resources and virtual lab access. This provides students with a consistent experience regardless of class delivery mode.

7. **Is this program accredited by a specialized accrediting body? If so, address any program accreditation issues and costs related to offering the program at the new site(s).**

   Not currently.

8. **Does the university request any exceptions to Board policy for delivery at the new site(s)? Explain requests for exceptions to Board policy.**

   None.

9. **Cost, Budget, and Resources related to new courses at the site: Explain the amount and source(s) of any one-time and continuing investments in personnel, professional development, release time, time redirected from other assignments, instructional technology & software, other operations and maintenance, facilities, etc., needed to implement the proposed minor.** *Complete Appendix B – Budget using the system form.*

   None.

10. **Additional Information:** *Additional information is optional. Use this space to provide pertinent information not requested above. Limit the number and length of additional attachments. Identify all attachments with capital letters. Letters of support are not necessary and are rarely included with Board materials. The University may include responses to questions from the Board or the Executive Director as appendices to the original proposal where applicable. Delete this item if not used.*

Any approved individualized plan of study must consist of existing and regularly scheduled courses. For this reason, this major requires no new courses, no additional faculty for this major, and no additional instructional technology or software requirements. Advising assignments will be handled in accordance with established practices, ensuring that no single faculty member is overburdened or is given release time. We anticipate the students that graduate in this major are current students and we do not expect redirecting any recruiting resources. For all these reasons, the anticipated cost of this program is zero. By helping students find an appropriate major and remaining at DSU, this proposed major will enhance retention and graduation rates while keeping tuition revenue within the institution.