

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Academic and Student Affairs**  
**Consent**

**AGENDA ITEM: 5 – F (1)**  
**DATE: May 13-15, 2024**

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**SUBJECT**

**New Site Request – SDSU – AS in Agricultural Sciences (Capital City Campus)**

**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**

South Dakota State University (SDSU) requests approval to offer the AS in Agricultural Sciences at Capital City Campus (CCC) in Pierre. The Agricultural Science program prepares students to manage a farm or ranch enterprise or work in the agricultural industry. Offering a flexible curriculum, the Agricultural Science program also works well for students who are combining multiple fields of interest or exploring areas of interest in agriculture. SDSU will waive the requirement that 8 of the last 15 credit hours for the associate degree must be completed as institutional credits from SDSU.

**IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION**

SDSU requests no new resources, and there will be no costs to offering the program Capital City Campus, as all courses will be delivered through distance technology to students at CCC.

Board office staff recommends approval to offer the program at Capital City Campus.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment I – New Site Request: SDSU – AS in Agricultural Sciences

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**DRAFT MOTION 20240513\_5-F(1):**

I move to approve SDSU’s new site proposal to offer the AS in Agricultural Sciences at Capital City Campus, as presented.



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

**New Site Request**

<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	SDSU
<b>DEGREE(S) AND PROGRAM:</b>	Agricultural Science (A.S.)
<b>NEW SITE(S):</b>	Capital City Campus 925 E Sioux Ave Pierre, SD
<b>INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:</b>	2024-2025 Academic Year
<b>CIP CODE:</b>	01.0000
<b>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</b>	College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences
<b>BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:</b>	SGNA
<b>UNIVERSITY DIVISION:</b>	College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences
<b>BANNER DIVISION CODE:</b>	3F

**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.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the University

4/2/24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

South Dakota State University (SDSU) requests authorization to offer the existing Associate of Science degree in Agricultural Science at Capital City Campus in Pierre. This request is in response to students' needs, market demands, and an ever-changing society. The Agricultural Science program prepares students to manage a farm or ranch enterprise or work in the agricultural industry. Offering a flexible curriculum, the Agricultural Science program also works well for students who are combining multiple fields of interest or exploring areas of interest in agriculture. The associate degree program provides access to SDSU's rich academic environment for students who may not meet regular admissions criteria. These students can be admitted into the university through the associate degree program, and upon completing a fifteen-credit core with good academic standing, may enter into a bachelor's degree program.

Some students also choose the associate degree who need or want to return to a family farm or ranch in a faster timeline.

Offering the A.S. in Agricultural Science program at the new site will provide a pathway for working professionals to obtain degree credentials in the agriculture industry. Additionally, graduates of the associate degree will be prepared to continue their education in a main campus bachelor's degree program, including the B.S. in Agricultural Science.

The 2021 South Dakota Agriculture Economic Contribution Study continues to show that agriculture is a significant contributor to South Dakota's economy, supporting 1 in every 5 jobs across the state.<sup>1</sup>

Workforce demand for careers related to agriculture, food, and natural resources is strong. The USDA Purdue study projected 2.6% job growth between 2020 and 2025 for positions in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, and the environment.<sup>2</sup>

Delivery of the Agricultural Science associate degree at Capital City Campus will support SDSU's Pathway to Premier 2030 strategic plan, specifically in providing educational access to a broader audience by offering a diversity of delivery methods and locations.

The University does not request new state resources or new student fees to support delivery at Capital City Campus. The program is currently delivered by SDSU on campus in Brookings, at Black Hills State University – Rapid City, and 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.**

No other Regental universities offer a similar program at Capital City Campus.

- 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.**

SDSU expects most of the students to be new to the university. Students like the flexibility of programs offered through locations which allow them to continue living and working anywhere in the state while completing their degree.

In addition to capturing new students, this program is expected to capture a returning student population of working or place-bound professionals; students with previous coursework who never completed a degree may find this an accessible option for degree completion.

It is not expected that delivery in Pierre will have much impact on the enrollments in SDSU's face-to-face, on-campus courses or in courses at other sites.

The new sites are expected to attract 1 new student to the university the first year and then 2

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<sup>1</sup> 2021 South Dakota Agriculture Economic Contribution Study, <https://danr.sd.gov/AboutDANR/docs/2021AgEcStudy.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> USDA 2015-2020 Employment Opportunities - in Food, Agriculture, Renewable Natural Resources, and the Environment, <https://www.purdue.edu/usda/employment/>

students each year after. The estimates for the number of total students in the program include limited attrition from year to year. With the target audience for the A.S. degree, the university anticipates students may take part-time credits each term and therefore graduate in an average of three years. Once at equilibrium the program is expected to graduate 2 students a year.

	Fiscal Years*			
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Estimates</i>	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28
Students new to the university	1	2	2	2
Students from other university programs	0	0	0	0
=Total students in the program at the site	1	3	4	5
Program credit hours (major courses)**	6	18	24	30
Graduates	0	0	1	1

\*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?**

No negative impact is anticipated. The A.S. in Agricultural Science can provide a pathway for working or place-bound professionals to obtain degree credentials in the agriculture industry. Additionally, graduates of the associate degree will be prepared to continue their education in the B.S. in Agricultural Science or other bachelor’s degree programs.

**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.**

<b>Agricultural Science (A.S.)</b>	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 online	Credit hours new to this university
System General Education Requirements	24	0	0	24	0
<i>Subtotal, Degree Requirements</i>	24	0	0	24	0
Major Requirements	18	0	0	18	0
Electives	18	0	0	18	0
<i>Total, Degree with Proposed Major</i>	60				

All of the courses listed in the curriculum are offered on the SDSU main campus in Brookings and/or online. Courses will be delivered via distance technology to students at Capital City Campus.

Requirements for the Agricultural Science Major  
*Associate of Science in Agriculture*

System General Education Requirements: 24 credits

- Goal #1: Written Communication (6 credits)

- Goal #2: Oral Communication (3 credits)
- Goal #3: Social Sciences (3-6 credits) \*
- Goal #4: Arts and Humanities (3-6 credits) \*
- Goal #5: Mathematics (3 credits)
- Goal #6: Natural Sciences (3-6 credits) \*

*\* Three additional credits selected from approved list of courses for Goals #3, #4, or #6 to reach 24 System General Education Requirements for the associate degree.*

Major Requirements: 18 credits

- Major Field of Concentration (Courses prefixed ABS, AGECE, AGED, AS, AST, DS, EES, FS, HO, NRM, PRAG, PS, RANG, VET, and WL) (16 credits)
- ABS 119 - First Year Seminar (2 credits)

Electives: 18 credits

Total Credit Hours Required: 60 credits

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

Students engaged in the A.S. in Agricultural Science in Pierre will have access to various support services throughout the academic program. Students will work with an academic advisor on the main campus. Students will also have access to the support staff and services available through Continuing and Distance Education at SDSU, and Capital City Campus staff will also be available to assist students with onsite needs.

The Office of Continuing and Distance Education (CDE) provides support to new online and distance learners through a dedicated onboarding process, Orientation for Online Learners, and Virtual Move-In Day. CDE staff also provides ongoing support through enrollment and student success coordinators that are available to assist students in connecting to necessary resources online and on campus, through the SDSU Virtual Student Union, student success videos, online tutoring support through Tutor.com. Additional student services such as disability services accommodations will be available to students upon request.

The South Dakota State University Hilton M. Briggs library has long served students engaged in coursework away from campus. This includes students enrolled at off-campus centers and online. Library support services will be available to students through a variety of means:

- Students can contact librarians for research assistance. The librarian provides online research guides and is available for consultations with faculty and students.
- Distance Library Services include book and article delivery for materials owned by the library. Students may request materials not held by the library through interlibrary loan.
- SDSU students have on-line access to research databases such as Web of Science, EBSCOhost MegaFILE, and JSTOR.

Students will have access to technical support provided by SDSU's Information Technology Services or onsite services.

**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).**

There is not an accreditation available for this discipline.

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

SDSU will waive the requirement that 8 of the last 15 credits for the associate degree must be completed as institutional credits.

**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.**

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences does not request new state resources or new student fees to support delivery of the A.S. in Agricultural Science in Pierre.