

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs
Consent

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – C (1)
DATE: April 2-3, 2025

SUBJECT

New Specialization Request – DSU – Cybersecurity Management Specialization – BS in Business Administration

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 2.3.2](#) – New Programs, Program Modifications, and Inactivation/Termination

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Dakota State University (DSU) requests authorization to offer a Cybersecurity Management specialization within the BS in Business Administration program. The proposed specialization develops managers and corporate leaders that can administer business and discuss the intricacies of cyber security in a business environment. This is an intersection of BBA curriculum emphasizing the development of business acumen and soft skills with technical understanding from the cybersecurity discipline.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

DSU requests authorization to offer the specialization on campus and online. DSU is not requesting additional state resources to offer the program. No new courses will be required.

Board office staff recommends approval of the program.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – New Specialization Request Form: DSU – Cybersecurity Management – Business Administration (BS)

DRAFT MOTION 20250402_5-C(1):

I move to authorize DSU to offer a Cybersecurity Management specialization within the BBA in Business Administration program, as presented.



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

New Specialization

Use this form to propose a new specialization within an existing degree program. Specializations provide students with an alternative to the primary format of the major or it may be one of several tracks within a broad major. Specializations contain courses within the discipline(s) of the existing program. Specializations appear in the institutional catalog and on the transcript. Majors that offer specializations typically have one-third to two-thirds of the credits in common with the remaining course work fulfilling the requirements of the specialization(s) offered. 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 Specialization Form to the university website for review by other universities after approval by the Executive Director and Chief Academic Officer.

UNIVERSITY:	DSU
TITLE OF PROPOSED SPECIALIZATION:	Cybersecurity Management
NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM IN WHICH SPECIALIZATION IS OFFERED:	BBA Business Administration
BANNER PROGRAM CODE:	DBUS
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	5/12/2025
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	52.0201
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Business
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	DBUS
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	College of Business & Information Systems
BANNER DIVISION CODE:	DCBIS

Please check this box to confirm that:

- The individual preparing this request has read [AAC Guideline 2.6](#), which pertains to new specialization 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.

Institutional Approval Signature

President or Chief Academic Officer of the University

10/8/2024

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. Level of the Specialization (place an “X” in the appropriate box):

Baccalaureate Master’s Doctoral

2. What is the nature/purpose of the proposed specialization? Please include a brief (1-2 sentence) description of the academic field in this specialization.

This specialization develops managers and corporate leaders that can administer business and discuss the intricacies of cyber security in a business environment. This is an intersection of BBA curriculum emphasizing the development of business acumen and soft skills with technical understanding from the cybersecurity discipline.

3. Provide a justification for the specialization, including the potential benefits to students and potential workforce demand for those who graduate with the credential. *For workforce related information, please provide data and examples. Data may include, but are not limited to the South Dakota Department of Labor, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Regental system dashboards, etc. Please cite any sources in a footnote.*

In today’s rapidly evolving cyber landscape, a business foundation is essential for any technology professional aiming to lead and innovate at the highest levels. While technical cyber degrees provide deep expertise in cybersecurity and technology, they often lack the critical business skills necessary for roles like Chief Technology Officer (CTO) and Chief Innovation Officer (CIO). Our proposed program addresses this gap, equipping students not only with robust technical knowledge but also with essential business acumen to make strategic, high-level decisions. The integration of business principles with cyber skills also builds a unique skill set that is highly relevant for students with entrepreneurial aspirations in the tech sector. This degree provides a solid foundation in business strategy, financial literacy, and leadership—skills necessary to lead tech-focused companies, drive innovation, and make informed decisions in an increasingly complex digital economy. By blending cyber expertise with a business core, this program prepares graduates to bridge the communication gap between technical and non-technical stakeholders, enabling them to effectively advocate for strategic initiatives and guide their organizations towards sustainable growth. This combination is exactly what aspiring tech executives and entrepreneurs need to thrive in high-responsibility roles, ensuring that technology decisions align with organizational goals and market demands.

This specialization proactively meets the needs of today’s cyber-business leadership pipeline and addresses a clear need beyond traditional cyber programs, positioning graduates to succeed in a broader range of impactful, high-demand roles.

The 2023 ICS2 Cybersecurity workforce study, as cited by NIST¹, states there will be a 3.4 million global shortage of cybersecurity professionals in 2023. While there are more cybersecurity professionals in the workplace, the gap continues to grow, with a 12.6% increase year over year. This creates staffing shortages, currently estimated at 521,827 professionals in a very specific and important industry.

There is also a shift in the staffing of the cybersecurity profession, with more professionals entering the field without working previously in an IT role. This demonstrates the acceptance of professionals

¹ <https://www.nist.gov/document/workforcedemandonepager>

with various backgrounds in a traditional technical field and accentuates the need for business professionals that understand the cybersecurity landscape.²

One of the strategic priorities for the South Dakota government is to lead the way in Cybersecurity.³ According to the South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development, as of 2021, the state houses 1,179 cybersecurity companies, and 3,491 state residents work in the industry.

The global cybersecurity market is expected to reach \$478.68 billion by 2030 according to Strategic Market Research, with North America accounting for over 25% of the share.⁴ According to the SD Office of Economic Development, there were 1,179 cybersecurity companies and 3,491 employees in 2021. The “Scientific, and Technical Services” sector added 4,000 jobs added in the past five years – a growth of 25%.⁵

Graduates with this degree can expect salaries (2023) between \$67,687⁶ and \$123,771⁷, reflecting the average annual salaries for Business administration and Cybersecurity in South Dakota. Graduates will be able to administer business decisions and effectively communicate in business environments that range from operations to the C-Suite arena the Cybersecurity field.

4. List the proposed curriculum for the specialization (including the requirements for completing the major – *highlight courses in the specialization*):

All students will complete the course in the Bachelor of Business Administration program. This specialization has the following courses:

Prefix	Number	Course Title (add or delete rows as needed)	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
		General Education Requirement	30	
		BBA Core Requirement	60	
		General Electives	9	
		Choose one Specialization	21	
		Cybersecurity Management Specialization	21	
CSC	134	Introduction to Cyber	3	No
CSC	285	Networking I	3	No
CSC	321	Cyber Law and Policy	3	No
CSC	385	Networking II	3	No
CSC	438	Defensive Network Security	3	No
CLI	420	Cyber Leadership	3	No

² <https://www.isc2.org/research>

³ <https://governor.sd.gov/priorities/cybersecurity.aspx>

⁴ <https://www.strategicmarketresearch.com/market-report/cyber-security-market#:~:text=How%20big%20is%20the%20cyber,with%20a%20CAGR%20of%209.5%25.>

⁵ https://news.sd.gov/news?id=news_kb_article_view&sysparm_article=KB0040984&sys_kb_id=d8802ebf1b5979101b354262f54bcbf6&spa=1

⁶ <https://www.salary.com/research/salary/listing/business-manager-salary/sd>

⁷ <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/Cyber-Security-Salary--in-South-Dakota>

Choose 3 credits from the following:			3	
BADM	464	Organizational Behavior		No
CIS	338	Project Management		No
CSC	163	Hardware, Virtualization, and Data Communication		No

Total number of hours required for completion of specialization	21
Total number of hours required for completion of major	60
Total number of hours required for completion of degree	120

5. Delivery Location

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.

A. Complete the following charts to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver the entire program on campus, at any off campus location (e.g., UC Sioux Falls, Capital University Center, Black Hills State University-Rapid City, etc.) or deliver the entire specialization through distance technology (e.g., as an on-line program)?

	Yes/No	Intended Start Date
On campus	Yes	Fall Choose an item.

	Yes/No	If Yes, list location(s)	Intended Start Date
Off campus	No		Fall 2025

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods <i>Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 5.5.</i>	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	Yes	015	Fall 2025

B. Complete the following chart to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver more than 50% but less than 100% of the specialization through distance learning (e.g., as an on-line program)? This question responds to HLC definitions for distance delivery.

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	No		Choose an item. Choose an item.

6. 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.