

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Budget and Finance

AGENDA ITEM: 7 – C

DATE: April 2-3, 2025

SUBJECT

FY26 System, Discipline, Delivery, and Vehicle Registration Fees

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[SDCL § 13-53-6](#) – Tuition Rates and Fees

[BOR Policy 5.5](#) – Tuition and Fees: General Procedures

[BOR Policy 5.5.4](#) – Tuition and Fees: Fees

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Outside of tuition and mandatory fees, students will be assessed specific fees for services and may pay additional fees for higher cost disciplines. Specific services could include processing applications, testing for credit, assessment fees, late fees, parking fees or similar services. Discipline fees are used to support high-cost disciplines in the areas of salaries and/or operating expenses.

The fees for service are summarized below into the following categories: 1) System Fees, 2) Discipline Fees, 3) Delivery Fees, and 4) Vehicle Registration Fees. A justification is included for any new fee or fee being increased above inflation.

System Fees

Application Fee

The universities retain the revenues from the application fee to support work in the admissions offices. The undergraduate application fee is currently \$20.00, and the graduate application fee is currently \$35.00. Both rates will increase by \$1 for FY26, in addition to some campuses opting to waive these fees for new students during such instances as Free Application Week.

Transcript Fee

The universities retain the transcript fee revenue to support the provision of transcripts. This fee helps fund the processing of electronic transcripts and the operation of the e-Transcript Center. This fee will increase from \$9 to \$10 in FY26.

(Continued)

DRAFT MOTION 20250402_7-C:

I move to approve the FY26 System, Discipline, Delivery, and Vehicle Registration Fees, as presented in Attachment I.

Challenge by Exam

The Challenge by Exam covers the costs of the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams. The current fee for the Challenge Exam is \$91.00, with a recommendation to increase it to \$150.00 per course for FY26. This fee will cover both the exam and a portfolio fee, in line with BOR Policy 2.2.2.5 on transfer for prior credit learning. It allows adult learners and students with validated college-level skills to request credit by passing an exam or submitting a portfolio that meets course learning outcomes. The fee supports the evaluation process, where faculty review various work products. The proposed rate is comparable to other universities.

International Student Fee

The International Student Fee helps to offset the costs of any international student orientation programs, the on-going compliance support related to the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), and the continuing compliance required of U.S. universities from the time an international student enrolls until the time he/she either graduates, finishes post-graduation training, or terminates his/her academic program and returns home.

Processing international applications involves verifying English proficiency, authenticating transcripts, and handling financial documentation for F1 and J1 visas. To manage the increase in international students, campuses propose raising the international student fee from \$150 to \$200 per semester in FY26, applicable in Fall and Spring. This fee will support federal documentation management and visa-related student services.

Testing Fees

Testing costs are to be covered with tuition revenues unless the Board has approved a specific fee. Re-test fees have been approved for COMPASS at \$20.00 per exam. This fee will not increase in FY26.

USD contracts with HESI to administer the nursing assessment test for the Associate of Science and Bachelor of Science nursing candidates. The testing costs are paid directly to HESI by the student. There will be no increase to this fee in FY26 and it will remain at \$198.00. SDSU contracts with Assessments Technology Institute at a cost of \$214.00 per student. Since these are electronic assessments, SDSU purchases the student codes ensuring the students receive the correct assessment each time. This fee will remain \$214.00 in FY26.

With the introduction of the new nursing program at NSU, a Nursing Assessment Fee of \$200 per semester per student will be implemented in FY26. This fee supports the software application used by nursing students to complete competency assessments, which are essential for demonstrating mastery of nursing skills and concepts as required by accrediting bodies. The fee aligns with the Nursing Assessment Fee paid by nursing students at SDSU and USD.

Discipline and Program Fees

South Dakota has traditionally assessed discipline fees to support incremental costs of instructional equipment and other operating costs, including salary enhancement, for the benefit of students enrolled in higher cost disciplines. Courses assessing the discipline fees must be approved by the Board.

Special Discipline Fees will increase by a minimum of 1.8% to cover salary policy, health insurance increases, and CPI adjustments on operating budgets. Some disciplines have experienced higher-than-average cost increases and may see fee increases of up to 5%. Specific adjustments to Special Discipline Fees are detailed in Attachment I.

South Dakota State University and University of South Dakota – Mass Communications New Special Discipline Fee:

SDSU and USD are requesting a new special discipline fee for their Mass Communications courses. These courses require the latest technology and well-equipped spaces to provide professional education in Advertising, Journalism, and Public Relations. This includes access to advanced cameras, video equipment, and soundproof spaces. The current funding model is insufficient for maintaining and updating this equipment every three to five years. The fee would also fund professional development for faculty to stay current with industry changes and ensure students are prepared for their careers. This includes training in modern technologies and pedagogical methods.

Dakota State University and Northern State University – Exercise Science New Special Discipline Fee:

DSU and NSU are requesting a new special discipline fee for their Exercise Science courses. Both campuses are making significant investments in their human performance labs to enhance teaching, learning, and research capabilities. This new discipline fee will assist the campuses in maintaining and updating lab equipment moving forward. The labs support high-impact undergraduate research and accredited programs.

South Dakota State University – Pharmacy Program Fee

SDSU is requesting a 15% increase in the program fee charged to pharmacy students, raising the per semester fee from \$4,245.20 to \$4,882.00. This increase is estimated to generate an additional \$343,861 annually. Currently, SDSU has the lowest rate among its peers for their pharmacy program, approximately \$4,000 below NDSU for total required tuition and fees to complete the program.

Dakota State University – Off-Campus Delivery Fee

DSU is proposing a 5% increase to the current off-campus Computer Science delivery fee for non-residents, raising it from \$110.15 to \$115.65 per credit hour. This increase is expected to generate approximately \$20,000 in additional annual revenue for DSU.

Northern State University – Huron Delivery Fee

Under the current MOUs between Northern State University (NSU) and Huron Community College (HCC), undergraduate students pay a \$20 per credit hour administrative fee, while graduate students pay \$25 per credit hour. Tuition for undergraduates is paid to NSU, and the administrative fee to HCC. Graduate students pay both tuition and the administrative fee to HCC, which then remits the tuition to NSU.

The next MOU aims to streamline processes, increase efficiency, and ensure transparency. NSU will bill and collect both tuition and the Center Delivery Fee for all courses delivered at HCC, allowing students to make a single payment to NSU. This fee supports administrative costs and provides NSU students at HCC with access to student success resources. The Center Delivery Fee is consistent with fees assessed by other universities for courses at alternate sites.

Vehicle Registration

Vehicle Registration fees are assessed to all students and faculty that choose to park on the university properties. The fees are used to pay for acquiring, maintaining, and improving appropriate parking facilities and for associated administration costs. We are proposing a 2.4% increase on vehicle fees, which is the state suggested CPI rate for FY26. In addition, the following campuses are requesting increases above CPI.

Black Hills State University:

Black Hills State University requests an increase in parking permit costs at BHSU-Rapid City, beyond the standard inflationary rate, to align with the Spearfish campus. The permits will increase from \$35 per year to \$100 per year. Students with a Spearfish permit will have the Rapid City fee waived, as permits are valid at both sites.

This increase will cover parking lot maintenance costs, including snow removal, signage, permits, striping, and enhanced security measures such as labor, lighting, and cameras.

Dakota State University:

DSU requests an additional \$7 increase above inflation for the regular parking (from \$76 per year to \$85 per year) and a \$13 increase above inflation for reserved parking (from \$153 per year to \$170 per year) to fund the construction of 100 additional parking spaces. The new rates and additional spaces will generate an additional \$16,914 in revenue.

University of South Dakota:

An increase in annual permit costs is necessary to adequately support the security and maintenance of the USD parking lots. Inflation, including rising salaries and benefits, has significantly increased these costs. Additionally, USD has enhanced security monitoring, increasing both the number of student security officers and the hours of coverage. The additional revenue will allow USD to maintain the lots and support increased security measures. The total increase of \$15 per permit averages just over a 2% annual increase when considering four years of flat rates, raising the cost from \$170 to \$185 per year.

Northern State University:

Northern State University requests an increase in parking permit costs beyond the standard inflationary rate. Current parking fee revenue is insufficient to cover ongoing maintenance, snow removal, and major upgrades. Other operating costs include lot striping, student labor for parking office support, and signage. The additional funds will be used for necessary upgrades and repairs to existing parking lots and equipment for snow removal. The rates will increase from \$81 to \$91 per year for auto and restricted permits, and from \$135 to \$150 for unrestricted permits.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Legislature authorized a 1.25% salary increase for state employees and a \$537 increase in employer-paid healthcare benefits per eligible employee for FY26. System, Special Discipline, and Delivery fees are projected to increase by various percentages. Vehicle registration fees will increase by 2.4% overall in FY26, with select campuses raising rates above CPI.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – Proposed Fee Schedule for FY26

South Dakota Board of Regents
Proposed FY25 System, Discipline, Delivery and Vehicle Registration Fees

	FY25 Rate	\$ Increase	% Increase	FY26 Rate
System Fees				
Application Fee - Undergraduate	\$20.00	\$1.00	5.0%	\$21.00
Application Fee - Graduate	\$35.00	\$1.00	2.9%	\$36.00
Transcript	\$9.00	\$1.00	11.1%	\$10.00
Challenge by Exam - Course	\$91.00	\$59.00	64.8%	\$150.00
International Student Fee - Fall & Spring	\$150.00	\$50.00	33.3%	\$200.00
Testing Fees				
COMPASS, Technology Re-test	\$20.00	\$0.00	0.0%	\$20.00
SDSU Nursing Assessment - - Semester	\$214.00	\$0.00	0.0%	\$214.00
USD Nursing Assessment (BSN)	\$198.00	\$0.00	0.0%	\$198.00
NSU Nursing Assessment - - Semester (New)				\$200.00
Discipline Fees - Credit Hour (Unless Stated Otherwise)				
Black Hills State University				
Science/Technology/Engineering/Math				
Biology/Microbiology/Anatomy	\$21.20	\$1.05	5.0%	\$22.25
Chemistry	\$21.20	\$1.05	5.0%	\$22.25
Geology/Nanoscience/Paleontology	\$21.20	\$0.40	1.9%	\$21.60
Physics	\$21.20	\$0.40	1.9%	\$21.60
Computer Science	\$47.70	\$2.40	5.0%	\$50.10
Mathematics/Statistics	\$15.90	\$0.80	5.0%	\$16.70
Health and Wellness	\$16.30	\$0.80	4.9%	\$17.10
Exercise Science	\$21.10	\$0.60	2.8%	\$21.70
Fine Arts	\$15.90	\$0.80	5.0%	\$16.70
Business				
Undergraduate	\$30.35	\$0.55	1.8%	\$30.90
Graduate	\$54.50	\$1.00	1.8%	\$55.50
Dakota State University				
Science/Technology/Engineering/Math				
Biology/Microbiology/Anatomy	\$21.20	\$1.05	5.0%	\$22.25
Chemistry	\$21.20	\$1.05	5.0%	\$22.25
Physics	\$21.20	\$0.40	1.9%	\$21.60
Computer Science	\$70.55	\$3.55	5.0%	\$74.10
Mathematics/Statistics	\$15.90	\$0.80	5.0%	\$16.70
Exercise Science (New)				\$21.70
Fine Arts	\$15.90	\$0.80	5.0%	\$16.70
Business				
Undergraduate	\$30.35	\$0.55	1.8%	\$30.90
Graduate	\$54.50	\$1.00	1.8%	\$55.50
Northern State University				
Science/Technology/Engineering/Math				
Biology/Microbiology/Anatomy	\$21.20	\$1.05	5.0%	\$22.25
Chemistry	\$21.20	\$1.05	5.0%	\$22.25
Physics	\$21.20	\$0.40	1.9%	\$21.60
Computer Science	\$47.70	\$2.40	5.0%	\$50.10
Mathematics/Statistics	\$15.90	\$0.80	5.0%	\$16.70
Allied Health				
Undergraduate (New)				\$108.70
Counselor Education	\$26.35	\$0.50	1.9%	\$26.85

Exercise Science (New)				\$21.70
Fine Arts	\$15.90	\$0.80	5.0%	\$16.70
Business				
Undergraduate	\$30.35	\$0.55	1.8%	\$30.90
Graduate	\$54.50	\$1.00	1.8%	\$55.50
E-Learning	\$21.20	\$0.40	1.9%	\$21.60
NSU Exchange Program Fee - Per Credit Hour	\$116.90	\$2.10	1.8%	\$119.00

Discipline Fees - Credit Hour *(Unless Stated Otherwise)* Continued**South Dakota School of Mines & Technology**

Science/Technology/Engineering/Math

Atmospheric & Environmental Science	\$84.80	\$1.55	1.8%	\$86.35
Biology/Microbiology/Anatomy	\$42.35	\$2.10	5.0%	\$44.45
Chemistry	\$84.80	\$4.25	5.0%	\$89.05
Geology/Nanoscience/Paleontology	\$84.80	\$4.25	5.0%	\$89.05
Physics	\$84.80	\$4.25	5.0%	\$89.05
Other Sciences	\$21.20	\$0.40	1.9%	\$21.60
Computer Science	\$70.55	\$3.55	5.0%	\$74.10
Engineering	\$84.80	\$4.25	5.0%	\$89.05
Mathematics/Statistics	\$42.35	\$2.10	5.0%	\$44.45
Fine Arts	\$15.90	\$0.80	5.0%	\$16.70

South Dakota State University

Science/Technology/Engineering/Math

Biology/Microbiology/Anatomy	\$42.35	\$2.10	5.0%	\$44.45
Chemistry	\$51.50	\$2.60	5.0%	\$54.10
Physics	\$84.80	\$4.25	5.0%	\$89.05
Other Sciences	\$21.20	\$0.40	1.9%	\$21.60
Computer Science	\$70.55	\$3.55	5.0%	\$74.10
Engineering	\$84.80	\$4.25	5.0%	\$89.05
Mathematics/Statistics	\$42.35	\$2.10	5.0%	\$44.45

Allied Health

Undergraduate	\$103.50	\$5.20	5.0%	\$108.70
Graduate	\$227.60	\$11.40	5.0%	\$239.00
Counselor HR Development	\$26.35	\$0.45	1.7%	\$26.80
Health and Wellness	\$21.30	\$0.40	1.9%	\$21.70
Fine Arts	\$26.35	\$1.30	4.9%	\$27.65

Business

Undergraduate	\$30.35	\$0.55	1.8%	\$30.90
Graduate	\$54.50	\$1.00	1.8%	\$55.50
Architecture	\$467.25	\$8.40	1.8%	\$475.65
Animal Science	\$64.55	\$1.15	1.8%	\$65.70
Aviation Education	\$42.10	\$0.75	1.8%	\$42.85
Dairy Science/Food Science	\$82.45	\$1.50	1.8%	\$83.95

Mass Communications (New)

Mass Communications (New)				\$20.00
Medical Laboratory Science - On-Campus	\$133.40	\$2.40	1.8%	\$135.80
Medical Laboratory Science - Off-Campus	\$139.36	\$2.50	1.8%	\$141.86
Dietetics Internship - Per Credit hour	\$530.00	-\$530.00	0.0%	\$0.00
Nutrition	\$29.70	\$0.55	1.9%	\$30.25
Respiratory Care	\$53.00	\$0.95	1.8%	\$53.95
Interior Design /Landscape Design	\$29.70	\$0.55	1.9%	\$30.25
Pharmacy per credit hour	\$209.45	\$3.75	1.8%	\$213.20
PharmD per credit hour	\$251.35	\$37.70	15.0%	\$289.05

Pharmacy - Semester	\$4,245.20	\$636.80	15.0%	\$4,882.00
Range Science	\$47.00	\$0.85	1.8%	\$47.85
Veterinary Science	\$64.55	\$1.15	1.8%	\$65.70
Veterinary Medicine 2+2 Resident	\$5,540.00	\$99.70	1.8%	\$5,639.70
Veterinary Medicine 2+2 Non-Resident	\$9,789.00	\$176.20	1.8%	\$9,965.20

Discipline Fees - Credit Hour (Unless Stated Otherwise) Continued**University of South Dakota**

Science/Technology/Engineering/Math

Biology/Microbiology/Anatomy	\$42.35	\$2.10	5.0%	\$44.45
Biochemistry/Biomedical Engineering/Physiology/Sustainability	\$42.35	\$0.75	1.8%	\$43.10
Chemistry	\$51.50	\$2.60	5.0%	\$54.10
Physics	\$84.80	\$4.25	5.0%	\$89.05
Other Sciences	\$21.20	\$0.40	1.9%	\$21.60
Computer Science	\$70.55	\$3.55	5.0%	\$74.10
Mathematics/Statistics	\$42.35	\$2.10	5.0%	\$44.45

Allied Health

Undergraduate	\$103.50	\$5.20	5.0%	\$108.70
Graduate	\$103.50	\$5.20	5.0%	\$108.70

Counselor Education/ Counselor HR Development	\$26.35	\$0.45	1.7%	\$26.80
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Health and Wellness	\$21.30	\$0.40	1.9%	\$21.70
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Fine Arts	\$26.35	\$1.30	4.9%	\$27.65
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Business

Undergraduate	\$30.35	\$0.55	1.8%	\$30.90
Graduate	\$54.50	\$1.00	1.8%	\$55.50

NSCI Neurosciences	\$43.20	\$0.80	1.9%	\$44.00
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Mass Communications (New)				\$20.00
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Medical Laboratory Science - Per Semester (Replaced)	\$1,618.65	\$29.15	1.8%	\$1,647.80
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Communication Disorders -Graduate	\$103.50	\$5.20	5.0%	\$108.70
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Psychology (Graduate)	\$26.35	\$0.45	1.7%	\$26.80
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CRNA Program Fee	\$3,500.00	\$63.00	1.8%	\$3,563.00
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Law - Per Semester	\$1,644.00	\$30.00	1.8%	\$1,674.00
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Delivery Fees**South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota**

SDSU/USD/NSU Nursing - Credit Hour	\$46.05	\$0.85	1.8%	\$46.90
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USD Allied Health Off-Campus - Credit Hour	\$46.05	\$0.85	1.8%	\$46.90
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USD School of Medicine Off-Campus - Credit Hour	\$46.05	\$0.85	1.8%	\$46.90
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USD Masters of Social Work - Credit Hour	\$46.05	\$0.85	1.8%	\$46.90
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SDSU/USD Graduate Public Health - Credit Hour	\$145.40	\$2.60	1.8%	\$148.00
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USD pMBA (Sioux Falls) - Credit Hour	\$386.05	\$6.95	1.8%	\$393.00
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University of South Dakota - Sioux Falls

All credit hours	\$46.05	\$0.85	1.8%	\$46.90
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Black Hills - Rapid City

All credit hours	\$31.85	\$0.55	1.7%	\$32.40
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Dakota State University

Non-Resident Online Computer Science, Cyber Operations, & Network and Security Administration	\$110.15	\$5.50	5.0%	\$115.65
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Northern State University - Huron

All credit hours (New)				\$32.40
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South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

Non-Resident Online Masters in Engineering	\$178.85	\$3.20	1.8%	\$182.05
Professional Education Majors				
Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota State University, University of South Dakota				
Soph/Junior Field Experience - Semester	\$176.00	\$3.00	1.7%	\$179.00
Senior Field Experience - Semester	\$352.00	\$6.00	1.7%	\$358.00
Master's Level Internship - One Time	\$176.00	\$3.00	1.7%	\$179.00
University of South Dakota				
Specialist Level Intern - One Time	\$357.00	\$6.00	1.7%	\$363.00
Doctoral Level Intern - One Time	\$535.00	\$10.00	1.9%	\$545.00
Vehicle Registration Fees				
Black Hills State University				
Automobile - Annual - Spearfish & Rapid City	\$97.00	\$3.00	3.1%	\$100.00
Automobile (Removed)	\$35.00	-\$35.00	-100.0%	\$0.00
Motorcycle - Annual	\$13.00	\$1.00	7.7%	\$14.00
Dakota State University				
Automobile - Annual	\$76.00	\$9.00	11.8%	\$85.00
Restricted Annual	\$153.00	\$17.00	11.1%	\$170.00
Northern State University				
Automobile - Annual - Restricted	\$81.00	\$10.00	12.3%	\$91.00
Automobile - Annual - Unrestricted - Residents of Steele, Great Plains West, Wolves Memorial Suites, Briscoe (Removed)	\$81.00	-\$81.00	-100.0%	\$0.00
Automobile - Annual - Unrestricted	\$135.00	\$15.00	11.1%	\$150.00
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology				
Resident Reserved - Annual	\$185.00	\$5.00	2.7%	\$190.00
Automobile - Annual Secondary Vehicle	\$19.00	\$1.00	5.3%	\$20.00
Motorcycle - Annual Primary Vehicle	\$39.00	\$1.00	2.6%	\$40.00
Motorcycle - Annual Secondary Vehicle	\$19.00	\$1.00	5.3%	\$20.00
Commuter - Annual	\$127.00	\$4.00	3.1%	\$131.00
Rocker Square & Placer Lots - Annual	\$185.00	\$5.00	2.7%	\$190.00
South Dakota State University				
Resident/Commuter - Academic Year	\$161.00	\$4.00	2.5%	\$165.00
Resident/Commuter - Summer	\$36.00	\$1.00	2.8%	\$37.00
Resident - 12 Month	\$197.00	\$5.00	2.5%	\$202.00
Reserved - Academic Year	\$297.00	\$7.00	2.4%	\$304.00
Economy Commuter - Academic Year	\$50.00	\$1.00	2.0%	\$51.00
Motorcycle - Annual	\$36.00	\$1.00	2.8%	\$37.00
Gated - Per Hour	\$2.00	\$0.00	0.0%	\$2.00
Economy Commuter - Free Parking May 15-August 14				
University of South Dakota				
Automobile - Annual	\$170.00	\$15.00	8.8%	\$185.00
Automobile - Annual - University Center	\$34.00	\$1.00	2.9%	\$35.00