

Division of Health Sciences Strategic Plan Overview, September 2006

“A Window of Opportunity”

Vision

The overall vision of the USD Division of Health Sciences for the next five years is to develop into a School of Health Sciences that is a strong and competitive regional leader in health sciences education with an infrastructure and programs that 1) attract and retain students in proportion to the large numbers that are interested in health careers and that 2) fully meet the needs of the state and region for a well trained health care workforce.

“A Window of Opportunity” (Rationale)

This strategic plan takes advantage of a “window of opportunity” with its timing and structure. First, interest in health care and health sciences professions in the general public and potential students is greater than ever before in history. Second, because of its nature as the “flagship” university with numerous health and medical programs, USD is uniquely suited to meet the interests and needs of potential students in these areas. Third, many of the proposed program additions are relatively inexpensive. Fourth, resources and momentum in Sioux Falls are supportive of growth of Health Sciences programs.

Relationship to USD Strategic Plan

Although the Health Sciences’ plans relate to many of the USD Strategic Plan Goals, the links of the highest priority relate to Goal 1.2: Strengthen graduate and professional programming to a breadth and rigor characteristic of Carnegie Doctoral/Research Extensive institutions.

Health Sciences Goals and Actions

Priority objectives include plans to:

- Transition the Division of Health Sciences into the School of Health Sciences.
- Organize and fund the school at an appropriate level, including hiring of additional personnel for the Office of the Dean; for recruiting, marketing, and public relations; and for programs in Sioux Falls.
- Implement public health and undergraduate health sciences degree programs.
- Expand existing Health Sciences programs with an emphasis on programs with large didactic and distance components.
- Develop Health Sciences programs that meet the growing needs of the Sioux Falls market.

GOAL 1.2

Strengthen graduate and professional programming to a breadth and rigor characteristic of Carnegie Research Universities with High Research Activity.

Strategy 1.2a Enhance doctoral-level programming in a deliberate manner.

- Action 1. Develop and implement a distance education transitional Doctor of Physical Therapy degree*
- Action 2. Develop and implement a plan to provide instruction in Sioux Falls for all Year II Physical Therapy courses*
- Action 3. Develop a clinical doctorate in Occupational Therapy (OTD) with two routes of entry: a) baccalaureate prepared in another field with prerequisite courses, and b) practicing occupational therapists*
- Action 4. Develop a Public Health doctoral degree program for future implementation*

Strategy 1.2b Add and strengthen other graduate and professional programming that is responsive to the needs of students, the state, and region.

- Action 1. Change the status and name of the Division of Health Sciences to the School of Health Sciences*
- Action 2. Implement changes in the administration and support staff that accommodate the growth and increase the efficiencies of the operations of Health Sciences*
- Action 3. Develop and implement a campus-based interdisciplinary undergraduate major in Health Sciences*
- Action 4. Position the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies program for development of a graduate degree in addiction studies*
- Action 5. Increase the class size of the Medical Technology program*
- Action 6. Develop a graduate Dental Hygiene specialization track of 18 hours to be implemented within the existing online degrees of MA in Educational Administration: Adult and Higher Ed and MS in Administrative Studies*
- Action 7. Develop and implement a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program*
- Action 8. Host a Master of Social Work education program at The University of South Dakota in partnership with other institutions*

- Action 9. Expand the USD associate of science degree in nursing to be accessible to students in rural areas of South Dakota and the region by offering it in a distance education format*
- Action 10. Alcohol and Drug Abuse Studies will offer an online certificate aligning with state/national substance abuse certification requirements*
- Action 11. Offer social work courses and/or the complete undergraduate major at USDSU or HSC in Sioux Falls. Offer social work courses in a distance education format*
- Action 12. Establish a program office in Sioux Falls for the Department of Nursing*
- Action 13. Expand the current USD Dental Hygiene program to Sioux Falls to include an additional 36 students (18 per class)*
- Action 14. Develop and implement a distance undergraduate major in Health Sciences*
- Action 15. Develop and implement a plan to relocate the clinical phase and final didactic semester of the Physician Assistant Studies Program to Sioux Falls*
- Action 16. Develop and implement a distance education transitional Masters of Science in Physician Assistant Studies degree for alumni, physician assistants in SD and the surrounding regions who are interested in obtaining a master's degree*
- Action 17. Develop plans for an Occupational Therapy Clinical Research Center in Sioux Falls that integrates scholarship, service, and teaching*
- Action 18. Develop and implement a Public Health undergraduate degree program*

Strategy 1.2c Focus efforts on student engagement at the graduate and professional level in a manner that integrates students into the dynamic University culture and that capitalizes on the unique contributions of graduate and professional students.

- Action 1. Increase recruiting and marketing and communications for all Health Sciences programs*