SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

New Baccalaureate Degree Minor

UNIVERSITY:	USD
TITLE OF PROPOSED MINOR:	Linguistics
DEGREE(S) IN WHICH MINOR MAY BE EARNED:	**B.A., B.S., B.S.Ed., B.B.A., B.F.A., B.M.**
EXISTING RELATED MAJORS OR MINORS:	
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	**Fall 2018**
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	16.0102
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	**Modern Languages and Linguistics**
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	**Arts & Sciences**

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   Date

1. **Do you have a major in this field (*place an "X" in the appropriate box*)?**   ☐   ☒
    Yes   *No*

2. **If you do not have a major in this field, explain how the proposed minor relates to your university mission.**
    The proposed minor in linguistics is within the statutory mission of the University of South Dakota:
    Designated as South Dakota's liberal arts university, the University of South Dakota, established and located at Vermillion, in Clay County, shall be under the control of the Board of Regents and shall provide undergraduate and graduate programs of instruction in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education in business, education, fine arts, law and medicine, and other courses or programs as the Board of Regents may determine.

    Additionally, we are the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, therefore, a minor in linguistics is consistent with our departmental description.

    This minor further responds to the University's vision statement "To be the best small, public flagship university in the nation built upon a liberal arts foundation." A minor in linguistics is critical to the foundation of a liberal arts education in that language underscores every aspect of humanistic, scientific, and social science inquiry, connecting various disciplines in their use of language. Language underlies all human thought and is thus pivotal to both the creation and dissemination of all knowledge.

3. **What is the nature/purpose of the proposed minor?**

Linguistics is the scientific examination of language. While the various language minors and majors offered at USD focus on acquiring knowledge of a specific language, a minor in linguistics considers the systematic study of language, broadly conceived. In following, linguists engage in applying the scientific method to the broader construct of language as well as to specific language varieties. As such, the study of linguistics gives insight into aspects of human behaviors and knowledge. Students in the minor will have a broad introduction to the multiple dimensions of human language as subfields of study, including sounds (phonetics, phonology), words (morphology), sentences (syntax), and meanings (semantics). Students will be exposed to how languages change over time (historical linguistics) and place-to-place (sociolinguistics). Students will engage in discussions in the use of language in context (pragmatics, discourse analysis), how people acquire or learn languages (language acquisition), and how students learn languages (applied linguistics). Although students may learn about the linguistic structure of a particular language, the emphasis of this minor program will be on the overarching principles of linguistics, which can be applied to any language. In following, this minor complements and extends various areas of major study, including the study of specific languages as are already offered by the department of Modern Languages and Linguistics.

4. **How will the proposed minor benefit students?**

Bridging the broad goals of the humanities and social sciences students who minor in linguistics strengthen valuable intellectual skills, such as critical thinking, clarity of expression, analytical reasoning, and argumentation. This prepares them for making insightful observations, formulating viable and testable hypotheses, generating predictions, building arguments and drawing conclusions, and sharing findings. Linguistics is an internationally growing field with an increasingly important impact on numerous other fields as diverse as forensics, politics, advertising, psychology, philosophy, education, language teaching, sociology, anthropology, computer science, and artificial intelligence. Consider for example the role of various areas of linguistics in modern voice recognition and speech production software, such as Siri and Alexa. In addition to providing a foundation in numerous cross-curricular skills, adding a minor in linguistics will make our students more marketable in many occupations, such as in the aforementioned fields, as well as help to prepare them for study in advanced programs.

5. **Describe the workforce demand for graduates in related fields, including national demand and demand within South Dakota.**

The minor will provide an initial foundation for continued training and possible eventual entry into numerous professional fields (as listed under 4.). Some areas marked by contemporary continued growth in which knowledge of phonetics, phonology, semantics, syntax, morphology and lexicography is needed include the following:

- Speech-Language Pathologists – job outlook 2016-26 = 18% growth (much faster than average) (An advanced degree is required.)[1]
- Computer & Information Research Scientists – job outlook 2016-26 = 19% (much faster than average)[2]

---

[1] Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Speech-Language Pathologists, https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/speech-language-pathologists.htm

[2] Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Computer and Information Research Scientists, https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/computer-and-information-research-scientists.htm

- Software Developers – job outlook 2016-26 = 24% (much faster than average)[3]
- High School Teachers – job outlook 2016-26 = 8% (As fast as average)[4]
- Interpreters and Translators – job outlook = 18% (Much faster than average)[5]

In addition to the value of a linguistics background for students pursuing careers in speech-language pathology or computer science (particularly in areas of machine learning and artificial intelligence)[6], a minor in linguistics paired with a major in English or one of the modern languages offered at USD (French, German, Spanish) can help with the preparation of future language teachers. By learning the theories, tools, and methods of linguistic analysis, future teachers of languages can develop informative and creative activities as teachers in K-12 classrooms, and they can independently advance their own fluency level in their second languages. For students planning to teach English as a New Language, the PRAXIS II English to Speakers of Other Languages Exam includes a section on the foundation of linguistics, with questions on phonetic, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

Additionally, the introduction of this minor responds to a gap in the current educational offerings in the state. At present, no other institution in South Dakota offers a linguistics degree or minor. Furthermore, our program would be unique due to the indigenous languages of the Americas component.

6. **Provide estimated enrollments and completions in the table below and explain the methodology used in developing the estimates.**

	Fiscal Years*			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Estimates	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21
Students enrolled in the minor (fall)	3	5	6	7
Completions by graduates		3	5	7

*Do not include current fiscal year.

Estimates are based on conversations our advisors have had with undergraduate students in the College of Arts & Sciences, as well as the number of current majors in relevant fields.

7. **What is the rationale for the curriculum? Demonstrate/provide evidence that the curriculum is consistent with current national standards.**
   After reviewing curricula from linguistics programs around the nation, we are confident that our program would indeed be rigorous enough to prepare our students for their next course of action, whether it be graduate school or the work force.

   Arizona State University requires 18 credits of minor coursework, half of which must be upper-division (9 units). Their requirements parallel ours: Introduction to Language, Introduction to Syntax, Phonetics and Phonology.

---

[3] Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Computer and Information Research Scientists, Software Developers, https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/software-developers.htm
[4] Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, High School Teachers, https://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/high-school-teachers.htm
[5] Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Interpreters and Translators, https://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/interpreters-and-translators.htm
[6] For information on the growing field of computational linguistics, see Jerry Hobbs, "Computers and Language," Linguistic Society of America, https://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/computers-and-languages

Ohio State University requires 15 credits of minor coursework, including two required courses and three electives. Their requirements are not as rigorous as our proposed requirements. Their requirements do reflect ours: Introduction to Language in the Humanities; and one of the following courses: Syntax, Phonology, or Linguistic Meaning. Their electives also parallel our proposed offerings.

The University of North Dakota requires 20 credits, including four required courses (11 credits) and three electives (9 credits). UND's required courses reflect ours: Phonetics, Phonology, Syntax and Morphology. A pre-requisite of Introduction to Linguistics is also required. The proposed program is equivalent to or more challenging than that offered at UND.

The University of Montana requires 18 credits, including Linguistic Analysis (3 credits) and two out of three courses (6 credits), plus nine elective credits. The required courses reflect this proposal: Phonetics and Phonology, Generative Syntax and Morphology. The proposed program is very similar to Montana's program, including Indigenous Language and Linguistic offerings, Field Methods, Syntax, and Bilingualism.

8. **Complete the tables below. Explain any exceptions to Board policy requested.**

   A. **Distribution of Credit Hours**

Linguistics	Credit Hours	Percent
Requirements in minor	9	50%
Electives in minor	9	50%
Total	18	100%

   B. **Required Courses in the Minor**

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
LING	403	Introduction to Linguistics	3	No
LING	444	Phonetics and Phonology	3	No
LING	410	Comparative Morphosyntax	3	No
		Subtotal	9	

9. **Elective Courses in the Minor: List courses available as electives in the program. Indicate any proposed new courses added specifically for the minor.**

Students will choose nine credits of the following courses:

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
Any courses in LING			1-9	No
MFL	420	Language Teaching Methods	3	No
PSYC	408	Psycholinguistics	3	No
DCOM	212	Language Development	3	No
		Subtotal	9	

10. What are the learning outcomes expected for all students who complete the minor? How will students achieve these outcomes?

Our expectation is that the students will receive a solid foundation in linguistics. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding several major goals and *theories* of the different fields of linguistics and will be able to engage in the scientific study of language. As such, upon completion of the minor, students will be able to:

1. Analyze issues in language usage, language variation, language acquisition and history.

2. Explain and analyze structure and function in the language system.

3. Analyze the relationship between language and culture, society and the individual.

11. What instructional approaches and technologies will instructors use to teach courses in the minor?

Courses in the minor will primarily be taught in a seminar format. As such, students will read and analyze articles and other textual materials which will be discussed in courses. Further, students will learn to work with various audio-visual materials, such as corpus audio databases, as sources of linguistic data. Courses will feature hand-on language-analysis projects. Students will also have the opportunity to engage with several types of open-source software for linguistics, such as concordances and digital corpora, among others.

12. Delivery Location[7]

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 program through distance technology (e.g., as an online program)?

	Yes/No	*Intended Start Date*
On campus	Yes	**Fall 2018**

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

	Yes/No	*If Yes, identify delivery methods[8]*	*Intended Start Date*
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	No		

B. Complete the following chart to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver more than 50% but less than 100% of the certificate through distance learning (e.g., as an online program)? [9]

	Yes/No	*If Yes, identify delivery methods*	*Intended Start Date*
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	No		

---

[7] The accreditation requirements of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) require Board approval for a university to offer programs off-campus and through distance delivery.

[8] Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 5.5.

[9] This question responds to HLC definitions for distance delivery.

13. Does the University request any exceptions to any Board policy for this minor? Explain any requests for exceptions to Board Policy. *None*

14. Cost, Budget, and Resources: 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.
The Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics already possess the expertise to teach the suggested courses in Drs. Helmer and Mirzayan. Dr. Angela Helmer holds a PhD in Hispanic Linguistics from UCLA, Dr. Armik Mirzayan holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Colorado in Boulder. Many of the courses can be or are already cross-listed with several current programs college-wide.

15. New Course Approval: New courses required to implement the new minor may receive approval in conjunction with program approval or receive approval separately. Please check the appropriate statement (*place an "X" in the appropriate box*).

☐ YES,
The university is seeking approval of new courses related to the proposed program in conjunction with program approval. All New Course Request forms are included as Appendix C and match those described in section 7.

☒ NO,
The university is not seeking approval of all new courses related to the proposed program in conjunction with program approval; the institution will submit new course approval requests separately or at a later date in accordance with Academic Affairs Guidelines.

16. Additional Information:

One cannot create nor disseminate knowledge without language.

Language defines us and is central to the human experience. By studying linguistics, students will have the opportunity to delve into language as a reflection of thought, as a cognitive construct or event, as a biological construct, as a singularly human trait, and as a reflection of identity.

Linguistics Minor
(update 1/23/2018)

Fall 2018
LING 403 Intro to Linguistics (Mirzayan)
DCOM 212 Language Development (DeVelder)   ***it is offered every fall

Spring 2019
LING 444/544 Phonetics & Phonology (Mirzayan)
LING 410/510 Comparative Morphosyntax (Mirzayan/Helmer)
LING 492 Sociolinguistics (Helmer)
PSYC 409 Psycholinguistics (Berkhout)   ***it is offered every spring

Fall 2019
LING 403 Intro to Linguistics (Mirzayan)
DCOM 212 Language Development (DeVelder)   ***it is offered every fall

Spring 2020
LING 492/592 Semantics & Pragmatics (Mirzayan)
MFL 420/520 Language Teaching Methods (Mirzayan/Helmer)
PSYCH 409 Psycholinguistics (Berkhout)   ***it is offered every spring