



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS
New Baccalaureate Degree Minor

UNIVERSITY:	USD
TITLE OF PROPOSED MINOR:	Russian Studies
DEGREE(S) IN WHICH MINOR MAY BE EARNED:	B.A. and B.S.
EXISTING RELATED MAJORS OR MINORS:	N.A.
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	Fall 2018
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	05.0110
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Modern Languages and Linguistics
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	Arts and 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 minor in Russian will support the mission of the University of South Dakota as the flagship public liberal arts university in/of the state and it will promote the values/mission of increasing diversity and inclusiveness by raising awareness and understanding of an additional language, culture, and society.

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

The purpose of the minor is to build on the regular offerings of Russian language and history courses and the less regular offerings in Russian politics and culture to create a documentable program. Through the Russian studies minor, students will not only gain an intermediate knowledge of the Russian language, but also an understanding of historical facts and cultural traits of Russia. This formal academic program will enable students to utilize their knowledge and experience in further academic studies or careers.

4. How will the proposed minor benefit students?

The proposed minor in Russian Studies will allow students to gain a broader understanding of one of the world's great political powers and a country that has made vast contributions in

literature and music. Knowledge of the language and culture will help students move forward in the business, diplomatic, governmental, and academic realms. Knowledge of any language will give our students an advantage when applying for international postings, but knowledge of Russian represents an additional benefit: Russian is considered one of the critical languages by the US. Department of State and the National Security Education Program (NSEP). In fact, several of our students and graduates have already profited from their knowledge of Russian, for example, one of our students was accepted into a State Department internship in Moscow and another one into a graduate program which required some proficiency in Russian. Additionally, ROTC students receive extra points for foreign language skills when they apply for the Cultural Understanding Leadership program. Furthermore, students who major in Political Science, International Studies, History, and other foreign languages have expressed interest in the Russian language, and would benefit from having a Russian minor appear on their transcript when looking for employment opportunities in the Foreign Service, military intelligence, and academia.

Since Fall 2014, there has been a strong interest in learning the Russian language and obtaining a Russian minor, which is demonstrated by consistent enrollment in the Russian language courses and student inquiries about the Russian minor. Each year, since Spring 2015, a number of students have contacted the Chair of the Modern Languages & Linguistics Department and/or the instructor of the Russian language courses and inquired about a possibility of obtaining the Russian minor.

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

The number of Russian speakers in the United States nearly quadrupled since 1980¹, and this number is projected to grow.² The number of Russian speakers globally is roughly 170 million individuals and is one of six official languages of the United Nations. Individuals with the ability to speak multiple languages, especially official UN languages, will increase their chances of gaining internships.³ Lastly, Russia is one of the largest job markets for individuals looking to teach English overseas. Having a Bachelor's degree is generally required and having a minor in Russian language would increase a student's chances of getting hired as well as prepare students for a year or more stay in Russia.⁴

Furthermore, the demand for cultural competency has drastically increased in the business world in all fields, ranging from health care to academics. By studying a language and culture during their undergraduate studies, students will be able to flourish in today's diverse business

¹ Ryan, Camille, "Language Use in the United States: 2011 American Community Survey Reports," August 2013, available from <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2013/acs/acs-22.pdf> (accessed March 21, 2018).

² Shin, Hyon B., & Ortman, Jennifer M., "Language Projections: 2010 to 2020," Presented at the Federal Forecasters Conference, Washington, DC, April 21, 2011, available from https://www.census.gov/hhes/socdemo/language/data/acs/Shin_Ortman_FFC2011_paper.pdf (accessed March 21, 2018).

³ United Nations, "Official Languages," available from <http://www.un.org/en/sections/about-un/official-languages/> (accessed March 19, 2018)

⁴ International TEFL Academy, "Teaching English in Russia," available from <https://www.internationalteflacademy.com/russia-teaching-english-overseas-jobs> (accessed March 19, 2018).

world.⁵ Businesses and non-profits, such as those that are focused on customer service/human resources, education, healthcare, finance, social work, and law enforcement, are becoming more aware of the benefits of hiring graduates with cultural understanding and language skills.

An important consideration as well, is the fact that the Russian language is identified as a critical language by the U.S. Department of State⁶ and the National Security Education Program (NSEP)⁷. NSEP identifies Russian as one of the preferred languages that are important to US National security and grants scholarships to improve the learning of Russian at the undergraduate and graduate levels.⁸ Moreover, the critical need for learning the Russian language and culture at a college level is expressed through the NSEP initiative to fund the U.S. on-campus Russian language Flagship program.⁹ With the long-term goal of the United States to maintain cooperative and constructive relationships with Russia,¹⁰ the Russian language will continue to be of high importance to our nation. Russian language specialists are especially needed in areas such as business, diplomacy, politics, foreign affairs, intelligence, and investigation. As cited on the Language Testing International webpage, Russian will become one of the leading languages in the world business by 2050.¹¹ Furthermore, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) lists Russian as one of the languages that is “most likely to meet national security requirements” and part of their Foreign Language Incentive Program.¹² In 2010, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) stated that they always needed Russian language specialists.¹³ The Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (NRRC) is seeking applicants for a number of officer positions with language skills in Russian.¹⁴

With the minor in Russian Studies, students will be well positioned to study abroad in a Russian-speaking country and to continue their study of Russian at a graduate level at other institutions.

Finally, employees with Russian language skills are strategically important to the United States national interests and Russian language specialists will continue to be in demand. The Russian studies minor will provide our students with appropriate language skills and cultural, historical, and/or contemporary societal knowledge and thus will make our students more competitive in the job market.

⁵ Szrom, Madeline, “Why Cultural Competence Matters to Recruiters.” *Insight Into Diversity*, 10 February 2016, available from <http://www.insightintodiversity.com/why-cultural-competence-matters-to-recruiters/> (accessed March 19, 2018).

⁶ Critical Language Scholarship, available from <http://www.clscholarship.org/> (accessed March 19, 2018).

⁷ National Security Education Program, “Critical Languages,” available from <https://www.nsep.gov/content/critical-languages> (accessed March 19, 2018).

⁸ National Security Education Program, “Critical Languages,” available from <https://www.nsep.gov/content/critical-languages> (accessed March 19, 2018).

⁹ National Security Education Program, “The Language Flagship,” available from <https://www.nsep.gov/content/language-flagship> (accessed March 19, 2018).

¹⁰ US Department of State, “U.S. Relations with Russia,” December 20, 2016, available from <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3183.htm> (accessed March 19, 2018).

¹¹ Tromba, Stefano, “The Language Trend in Future Global Markets.” Language Testing International, March 3, 2016, available from <https://www.languagetesting.com/blog/commercial/the-language-trend-in-future-global-markets> (accessed March 19, 2018).

¹² Central Intelligence Agency, “Careers & Internships,” available from <https://www.cia.gov/careers/foreign-language> (accessed March 19, 2018).

¹³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, “FBI Language Services – I,” April 9, 2010, available from <https://www.fbi.gov/audio-repository/news-podcasts-thisweek-fbi-language-services-i.mp3/view> (accessed March 19, 2018).

¹⁴ US Department of State, “Foreign Service Opportunities,” available from <https://www.state.gov/t/avc/nrrc/c11954.htm> (accessed March 19, 2018).

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

	Fiscal Years*			
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
<i>Estimates</i>	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22
Students enrolled in the minor (fall)	2	4	6	6
Completions by graduates	0	1	3	5

*Do not include current fiscal year.

7. What is the rationale for the curriculum? Demonstrate/provide evidence that the curriculum is consistent with current national standards.

The minor in Russian studies looks to encourage and cultivate a cultural and linguistic understanding of the Russian language and people. Our proposed minor will allow undergraduates to learn and exercise practical linguistic skills that will appeal to the student and their future employer. Our minor lays an entry-level framework of Russian linguistics with RUSS 101: Introductory Russian I and RUSS 102: Introductory Russian II. Next students will improve upon their reading, writing, and oral recitation within Intermediate Russian courses (RUSS 201 and RUSS 202). Additionally, to supplement the linguistic training, our minor suggests several electives focusing on the history and culture of Russian, giving the student a comprehensive education in Russian studies.

The curriculum for our proposed Russian minor is very comparable to both regional and national standards. Our curriculum for required courses is almost identical to the flagship universities of our neighboring states. These universities offer a core curriculum focused on developing student's ability to read, write, and speak the Russian language. Our proposed curriculum will offer the same focus as these universities. Programs at the University of Minnesota and Iowa State University require the same courses as our proposed minor, where University of Nebraska-Lincoln focuses more on written materials from Russian authors. Similarly, these programs offer electives that focus on the culture and history of Russia, giving the student a comprehensive study of the Russian language.

Required Courses for Russian Studies Minor:

USD Minor	UNL Minor	Iowa State U. Minor	U. of Minnesota Minor
RUSS 101: Introductory Russian I	RUSS 301: Representative Authors I	RUS 201: Intermediate Russian I	RUSS 1101: Beginner Russian I
RUSS 102: Introductory Russian II	RUSS 302: Representative Authors II	RUS 202: Intermediate Russian II	RUSS 1102: Beginner Russian II
RUSS 201: Intermediate Russian I	RUSS 303: Advanced Conversation and Composition		RUSS 3001: Intermediate Russian I
RUSS 202: Intermediate Russian II	RUSS 304: Advanced Grammar, Conversation, and Composition		RUSS 3002: Intermediate Russian II

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

A. Distribution of Credit Hours

Russian Studies	Credit Hrs	Percent
Requirements in minor	14	70%
Electives in minor	6	30%
Total	20	100%

B. Required Courses in the Minor

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
RUSS	101	Introductory Russian I	4	No
RUSS	102	Introductory Russian II	4	No
RUSS	201	Intermediate Russian I	3	No
RUSS	202	Intermediate Russian II	3	No
Subtotal			14	

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

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
HIST	443	History of Russia Under Tsars	3	No
HIST	444	History of Modern Russia	3	No
Elective approved by the Department Chair			3	No
Subtotal			6	

HIST 443 History of Russia Under Tsars – is offered during the Fall semester, odd years

HIST 444 History of Modern Russia – is offered during the Spring semester, even years

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

1. Students will achieve an intermediate knowledge of the Russian language.
2. Students will achieve a basic knowledge of the history and culture of Russia and the Russian people.
3. Students will be introduced to authors and the literature of the Russian-speaking world.

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

The required Russian language courses will require smart classroom since teaching instructions will be supplemented by music, video clips, movies, photos, and other visual and audio representation of the authentic Russian language and culture.

12. Delivery Location¹⁵

- 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)?**

¹⁵ The accreditation requirements of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) require Board approval for a university to offer programs off-campus and through distance delivery.

	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 ¹⁶	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?¹⁷

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

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 proposed Russian Studies minor will not require any additional finances or resources since the courses are already offered and have a regular rotation.

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.

- 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 Delivery methods are defined in [AAC Guideline 5.5](#).

¹⁷ This question responds to HLC definitions for distance delivery.