



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

Intent to Plan for a New Program

<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	University of South Dakota
<b>DEGREE(S) AND TITLE OF PROGRAM:</b>	B.A. or B.S., Legal Studies
<b>INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:</b>	Fall 2019

**University Approval**

*To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this intent to plan, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.*

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President of the University

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**1. What is the general nature/purpose of the proposed program?**

In collaboration with School of Law, the College of Arts & Sciences proposes a new interdisciplinary major in Legal Studies. Students will explore the history and impact of the law, its underlying ideological and philosophical framework, and the political, economic, and cultural forces that affect its development. In this context, the curriculum is distinguished from the existing major in Criminal Justice by including courses from several disciplines within the liberal arts and sciences. Graduates with a B.A. or B.S. in legal studies are prepared to pursue graduate or professional study in law, the humanities, or other disciplines, and to begin careers in business, human resources, journalism, public policy, social work, and other fields.

**2. What is the need for the proposed program (e.g., Regental system need, institutional need, workforce need, etc.)? What is the expected demand for graduates nationally and in South Dakota (provide data and examples; data sources may include but are not limited to the South Dakota Department of Labor, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Regental system dashboards, etc.)?**

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in the legal occupations is expected to grow 9% from 2016-2026. The South Dakota Bureau of Labor projects that “Professional, scientific and professional services,” which includes legal services, will be among the top ten growth industries in South Dakota, at 12.1% from 2016-2010.<sup>1</sup> With the growth in legal service providers, all ancillary services, for which a legal studies major would be qualified, would grow as well.

According to the BLS, the projected job growth for paralegals and legal assistants is expected to increase by 15% between 2016 and 2026, which is much faster than the average for all occupations (7%). This increase will be driven, in substantial measure, by law firms trying to create more efficiencies and drive down the cost of their services.<sup>2</sup> According to Projections Central, there is a projected 10% increase in the number of lawyers serving South Dakota, in

<sup>1</sup> South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, Labor Market Information Center, Employment Projections by Occupations [https://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/menu\\_projections\\_occupation.aspx](https://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/menu_projections_occupation.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/paralegals-and-legal-assistants.htm#tab-6>

particular, between 2016 and 2026. There is also a 19.9% projected increase in South Dakota in the number of paralegals and legal assistants between 2016 and 2026.<sup>3</sup> In South Dakota, the same site shows a projected increase of 8% in the number of human resource managers, as well as a projected increase of 5.7% in the number of human resources specialists.

### **3. How would the proposed program benefit students?**

Students who are interested in pursuing a law degree often struggle to identify courses that will build the analytical skills necessary for success in law school. By identifying and offering appropriate courses for students, this degree will allow them to pursue their post-graduation plans more efficiently and presumably with greater success. For students who choose not to pursue a law degree, this undergraduate degree will provide them the writing, analytical and professional skills necessary for entry level positions in the legal field, such as clerk of court, legal secretary or paralegal. When combined, as a minor or second major, with a program in the natural sciences, graduates will be well-positioned for careers in research compliance or regulatory affairs. Graduates will also be eligible for entry level jobs in Human Resources, Equal Opportunity Compliance, or similar administrative fields.

### **4. How does the proposed program relate to the university's mission as provided in South Dakota Statute and Board of Regents Policy, and to the current Board of Regents Strategic Plan 2014-2020?<sup>4</sup>**

The statutory mission of the University of South Dakota is provided in SDCL 13-57-1:

*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.*

The mission as provided in BOR Policy 1:10:1, University of South Dakota Mission Statement:

*The legislature established The University of South Dakota as the liberal arts university to meet the needs of the State and region by providing undergraduate and graduate programs 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. (SDCL 13-57-1)*

The Board implemented SDCL 13-57-1 by authorizing undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts and sciences and in professional education and by requiring the University to promote excellence in teaching and learning, to support research, scholarly and creative activities, and to provide service to the State of South Dakota, the region, and beyond. The University of South Dakota is the comprehensive university with the South Dakota System of Higher Education.

According to both its statutory mission and its mission as provided in BOR policy, USD is charged with offering both liberal arts and professional education. The proposed major in legal studies merges these two aspects of USD's mission. As a program in the College of Arts &

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.projectionscentral.com/Projections/LongTerm>.

<sup>4</sup> South Dakota statutes regarding university mission are located in SDCL 13-57 through 13-60; Board of Regents policies regarding university mission are located in Board Policies 1:10:1 through 1:10:6. The Strategic Plan 2014-2020 is available from [https://www.sdbor.edu/the-board/agendaitems/Documents/2014/October/16\\_BOR1014.pdf](https://www.sdbor.edu/the-board/agendaitems/Documents/2014/October/16_BOR1014.pdf).

Sciences, the major will entail completion of the BA or BS degree requirements. At the same time, as a multi-disciplinary, the new major advances professional education as well. The proposed program thus strongly supports the statutory mission and Board of Regents approved mission for the University of South Dakota.

The proposed major and minor in Legal Studies will support the SD Board of Regents' strategic plan, and directly address two of the goals:

1. Student Success – Grow degree production to 7,450 per year by 2020: Given increased demand for bachelor's degree-trained professionals with an understanding of legal issues and processes, the addition of this program as an option for students promises to bring more students to USD and to encourage degree completion for those students.
2. Academic Quality and Performance – Document that academic programs are of the highest quality: As the only university in South Dakota with a Law School, and as the most established and comprehensive program in Criminal Justice, USD has a strong foundation to support an interdisciplinary program in legal studies. Moreover, the breadth and depth of USD's liberal arts curriculum allows for the inclusion of other disciplines necessary for a truly interdisciplinary degree program.

**5. Do any related programs exist at other public universities in South Dakota? If a related program already exists, explain the key differences between the existing programs and the proposed program, as well as the perceived need for adding the proposed new program. Would approval of the proposed new program create opportunities to collaborate with other South Dakota public universities?<sup>5</sup>**

South Dakota State University offers a legal studies minor. The first key difference is that this proposed program will be a major. Moreover, the minor at South Dakota State University is explicitly aimed at improving students' scores on the law school admissions test and preparing them for law school. This major is aimed at providing a liberal arts education with a focus on providing students with the skills and education necessary for entry level employment in the legal field. Students completing this major will have cultivated writing and research skills and a basic understanding of the structure and function of the American legal system. While the proposed program will provide valuable preparation for those B.A. or B.S. students who choose to pursue the J.D., the Legal Studies major will introduce students to the basic interpretative methods employed by lawyers and will focus on the skills associated with legal research, writing, and analysis.

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<sup>5</sup> Lists of existing system programs are available through university websites and the RIS Reporting: Academic Reports database available from <http://apps.sdbor.edu/ris-reporting/AcademicProgramReports.htm>.

6. **Do related programs exist at public colleges and universities in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, and/or Wyoming?** *If a related program exists, enter the name of the institution and the title of the program; if no related program exists, enter “None” for that state. Add additional lines if there are more than two such programs in a state listed.*<sup>6</sup>

	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Program Title</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	Winona State University	Legal Studies
	Bemidji State University	Political Science - interdisciplinary pre-law emphasis
<b>North Dakota</b>	None	
<b>Montana</b>	Montana State Univ.- Billings	Political Science minor with Pre Law Studies Emphasis
<b>Wyoming</b>	Central Wyo. College	Associates Degree in Pre Legal Studies
	Univ. of Wyoming	Pre Law Concentration in Criminal Justice

7. **Are students enrolling in this program expected to be new to the university or redirected from other existing programs at the university?** We expect there to be a mixture of new students and students drawn from existing programs. Given the options that are available within the region, we expect a significant number of students to enroll who would not otherwise consider USD. Providing an interdisciplinary legal studies major will help retain South Dakota students, and will offer a strong recruiting tool for talented students from across the region and beyond. The courses included in this program currently have the capacity for additional students, and increased enrollment would provide resources for growth, if needed.
8. **What are the university’s expectations/estimates for enrollment in the program through the first five years? What are the university’s expectations/estimates for the annual number of graduates from the program after the first five years? Provide an explanation of the methodology the university used in developing these estimates.** The enrollment for the major is estimated at 30 students in the first year, divided evenly between existing USD students and incoming first-year students. With addition of 25 students per year, we anticipate the annual number of graduates to reach at least 20 per year after five years. These estimates are based on current enrollment in Criminal Justice of students who may prefer the Legal Studies major, as well as inquiries from incoming students. By comparison, the Legal Studies major at Winona State University, an institution with a similar number of total undergraduate students, but without a law school, ranged from 42 to 57 students from fall 2012 to fall 2016.

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<sup>6</sup> This question addresses opportunities available through Minnesota Reciprocity and WICHE programs such as the Western Undergraduate Exchange and Western Regional Graduate Program in adjacent states. List only programs at the same degree level as the proposed program. For example, if the proposed program is a baccalaureate major, then list only related baccalaureate majors in the other states and do not include associate or graduate programs.

9. Complete the following charts to indicate if the university intends to seek 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)?<sup>7</sup>

	Yes/No	Intended Start Date
On campus	Yes	Fall 2019

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

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods <sup>8</sup>	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	No		

10. What are the university's plans for obtaining the resources needed to implement the program?

	Development/Start-up	Long-term Operation
Reallocate existing resources	Yes	Yes
Apply for external resources <sup>9</sup>	No	No
Ask Board to seek new State resources <sup>10</sup>	No	No
Ask Board to approve a new or increased student fee	No	No

11. Curriculum Example: Provide (as Appendix A) the curriculum of a similar program at another college or university. The Appendix should include required and elective courses in the program. Catalog pages or web materials are acceptable for inclusion. Identify the college or university and explain why the selected program is a model for the program under development.

Hamline University offers an interdisciplinary option in the Legal Studies major that is comparable in depth and scope to the anticipated program at USD. USD does not plan to offer the paralegal certificate described below.

<sup>7</sup> The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and Board of Regents policy requires approval for a university to offer programs off-campus and through distance delivery.

<sup>8</sup> Delivery methods are defined in [AAC Guideline 5.5](#).

<sup>9</sup> If checking this box, please provide examples of the external funding sites identified

<sup>10</sup> Note that requesting the Board to seek new State resources may require additional planning and is dependent upon the Board taking action to make the funding request part of their budget priorities. Universities intending to ask the Board for new State resources for a program should contact the Board office prior to submitting the intent to plan.



## Legal Studies

### Legal Studies Major

The Legal Studies Department offers the flexible Legal Studies Major for students interested in law. It is an optional major for pre-law students. Students also seeking a paralegal certificate may follow this major.

The Legal Studies Major does not qualify students to sit for the bar examination or to work as lawyers. Postgraduate study in an American Bar Association-approved law school after graduation from college is required to practice law.

#### Students who plan to attend law school

Legal studies majors who intend to go on to law school are strongly encouraged to consider a second major or minor in a field of their choice. A Legal Studies Major is not required for law school admission. Students interested in law school should also strongly consider taking PHIL 1130 - Logic, as well as writing-intensive and formal reasoning courses beyond those required by the Hamline Plan.

### Legal Studies Major Requirements (40-44 credits)

- LGST 1110 - Legal Systems in American Society
- LGST 1300 - Legal Advocacy, Policy, and Practice

#### One course chosen from the following:

- LGST 1440 - Mock Trial
- LGST 3670 - Legal Interviewing

#### Two courses chosen from the following:

- LGST 3420 - Special Topics in Law
- LGST 3680 - Law of Evidence for Legal Professionals
- LGST 3790 - Law and the Lives of Women
- LGST 5600 - Tort Law

#### Elective pathway:

Choose one of the elective pathways below.

#### Pathway 1 - Graduate Paralegal Certificate (20 credits)

This path is for students who want to work as paralegals or in some other field or industry where the knowledge of the law and skills of a paralegal will provide value added to their employers or prospective employers. Students must complete a brief application and may register for the graduate paralegal certificate courses to begin after they have completed 16 credits of undergraduate work in the major. After earning a bachelor's degree with the graduate paralegal certificate, students are eligible to complete Hamline's Master in the Study of Law degree with 14 additional graduate credits. Note: Hamline's graduate paralegal certificate is approved by the American Bar Association for the training of paralegals. Paralegals may not provide legal services directly to clients or to the public, except as permitted by law. A paralegal certificate does not qualify the recipient to sit for the bar examination or work as a lawyer.

- LGST 8000 - Foundations in Law
- LGST 8010 - Civil Litigation Survey and Procedure
- LGST 8012 - Transactions and Contracts in Business
- LGST 8015 - Regulation in America
- LGST 8020 - Legal Writing and Research

#### Pathway 2 - Interdisciplinary (16 credits)

Choose 16 credits from the list below:

- CJFS 3710 - Criminal Law and Practice
- CJFS 3720 - Constitutional Issues in Criminal Procedure
- HIST 3930 - Topics in United States History
- LGST 3100 - American Constitutional Law
- PSCI 3100 - American Constitutional Law
- PHIL 1130 - Logic
- PHIL 3330 - Social, Political, and Legal Philosophy
- WSTD 3500 - Topics in Women's Studies
- Any LGST courses not used to satisfy requirements above  
(topic: Landmark Trials in American History)(topic: Engendering Justice)

#### One Capstone course:

- LGST 5800 - Senior Seminar in Legal Studies
  - LGST 5900 - Legal Studies Practicum
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## Law School Early Admission (3-3) Option

Students seeking to enter law school may also pursue this major through the Law School Early Admission (3-3) Program.

Visit the [Legal Studies - Law School Early Admission 3-3 Major](#) for more details.