



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS
Request to Seek Accreditation

UNIVERSITY:	USD
PROGRAM:	Health Sciences, B.S.-Paramedic Specialization
CIP CODE:	51.0000
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Health Sciences
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	School of Health 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.

Sheila K. Gestring 9/17/18
 President of the University Date

1. Level of program seeking accreditation (place an "X" in the appropriate box):

- Certificate Associate Bachelor's
 Doctoral Master's

2. Accrediting Agency:

Accreditation is through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs ([CAAHEP](#)) for the Emergency Medical Services Professions. CAAHEP accredits programs upon recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of the Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services ([CoAEMSP](#)).

3. What are the advantages of accreditation?

The advantages of accreditation fall in three categories: Students, Program and Institution, Industry

I. Students:

- A. Assures potential and enrolled students that a program meets minimum standards related to administration, resources, faculty, and facilities.
- B. Informs students that the program has met standards established by the emergency medical professionals involved in the discipline that reflect what a paramedic needs to know and be able to do to perform successfully in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS).
- C. The primary purpose of program accreditation is student and public protection through an independent, external, objective peer-review of programmatic quality in comparison to accepted national standards.
- D. Accreditation protects the students' investment in their education by ensuring they graduate from a quality program and that instructors possess adequate qualifications and the necessary academic credentials to teach.

II. Programs and Institutions:

- A. CoAEMSP accreditation informs prospective students, peers, healthcare professionals, and healthcare institutions that the program:
 - i. Has received recognition of its quality.
 - ii. Implements “best practices” in education.
 - iii. Engages in self-assessment and continuous quality improvement processes.
 - iv. Provides an educational program based on quantifiable learning outcomes.

III. Industry

- A. Ensures that graduates have met the educational requirements necessary to be able to function successfully in the EMS profession.
- B. Provides evidence the paramedic program has met minimum standards essential to prepare graduates ready to enter EMS workplace settings.
- C. Accreditation protects the public by ensuring they receive a minimum standard of care by individuals who are properly trained.

4. What are the anticipated costs involved in accreditation, including:

A. Costs involved in undergoing self-study and preparing the application for accreditation:

Program costs, including all expenses related to accreditation are the responsibility of Sanford USD Medical Center. All program costs are addressed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USD and Sanford USD Medical Center. The self-study and preparation of the application for CoAEMSP accreditation are carried out by the faculty of the Paramedic Program, which is a specialization within the Department of Health Sciences. Sanford USD Medical Center is responsible for all faculty costs, including the Program Director, Clinical Director, and Medical Director. All fees related to the program offering are the responsibility of Sanford USD Medical Center, including accreditation fees and membership.

B. Out-of-pocket costs related to dues or site visits:

Annual Fee	\$1,700
Technology- one time	\$250

Accreditation Fees		
	Self-Study Report Evaluation	\$750
	Site Visit	\$2,700
	Total Accreditation Fees	\$3,450

C. Base budget implications including incremental costs and minimum base resources required (dollars and FTE):

The MOU specifies that Sanford USD Medical Center is responsible for all costs associated with the program.

D. Curriculum:

The curriculum for this degree is designed to meet CoAEMSP requirements. Continuous improvement will occur in accordance with the CoAEMSP requirements on an annual basis.

5. What is the source of the revenue needed?

USD/Sanford MOU

6. What is the estimated date for submission of accreditation application?

In order to submit an accreditation application, a student must graduate from the program. The application for a CoAEMSP onsite accreditation visit was submitted January 2018.