



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS
New Site Request

UNIVERSITY:	University of South Dakota
DEGREE(S) AND PROGRAM:	B.A. and B.S. in Sociology and Minor in Sociology
NEW SITE(S):¹	Online; Sioux Falls
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	Fall 2019
CIP CODE:	45.1101
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Anthropology and Sociology
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. What is the need for offering the program at the new physical site or through distance delivery?

The Department of Anthropology and Sociology seeks approval to offer the Sociology major and minor online and at the Community College for Sioux Falls (CCSF). The university does not request new resources to support online delivery, and has already committed to hiring the full-time lecturer in Sociology previously employed by SDSU at CCSF. The primary teaching duties for this faculty member will continue to be larger, general education courses, along with a limited number or required and upper-division offerings. The expanded accessibility and convenience offered through online and site-based delivery will provide greater flexibility for students in all locations to complete a degree program with broad applicability to local and regional workforce needs.

For several years, USD has offered a substantial number of Sociology courses online without seeking approval for a degree program or minor. The addition of an online minor in Sociology will be of particular benefit to students currently completing a major in Criminal Justice online or at CCSF. These students are required to complete a minor, and USD is currently authorized for only a small number of minors online or at CCSF. The Sociology minor has strong applicability to the Criminal Justice major, but is also of value for other online and CCSF programs, including Health Sciences, Business Administration, Addiction Studies, and Nursing.

Enrollment trends in online Sociology indicate growing demand for this delivery method, including current students who choose to complete the major or minor online. The total number of credit hours taken online in 2018-19 (1620) compared to 2014-15 (1266) indicates a five-year increase of 28%. The growth in online enrollment in upper-division SOC courses has occurred without any approved program in place. Students are currently able to complete the minor requirements, and several students have done so in recent years. In fact, more than 15 students

¹ If the request is for a new physical location, include an address for the location. Delivery methods are defined in [AAC Guideline 5.5](#).

whose location is designation as “Worldwide” in Colleague have graduated with a major or minor in Sociology since spring 2017. The approval of this request would not only allow USD to acknowledge a program already being completed by students, but would facilitate the effective marketing of a program that clearly has some demand among students. A more focused and coordinated rotation across all locations would also allow students to complete the major and minor with a more efficient use of current faculty resources.

A substantial number of 400-level SOC courses have been offered online in the past several years, and more judicious scheduling of fewer electives in conjunction with the addition of four required courses, along with a coordination of online and on-campus scheduling, will facilitate a more timely and consistent program of study for all Sociology students. With the addition of only four more required courses (SOC 211 Social Science Writing; SOC 281 Socio Cultural Theory, SOC 309 Statistical Research Methods, and SOC 410 Methods of Social Research) into the existing rotation in place of some elective courses currently offered, students will be able to complete the major entirely online.

Likewise, the rotation of upper-division courses previously employed by SDSU at CCSF demonstrates the viability of this program at that location, and the substitution of USD’s curriculum at that location, along with the flexibility offered by the rotation of these courses online, will ensure the continued availability of this major at CCSF.

2. Are any other Regental universities authorized to offer a similar program at the proposed site(s) or through distance delivery? If “yes,” identify the institutions and programs and explain why authorization is requested.

Yes, SDSU currently offers an online major and minor in Sociology, through their Department of Sociology and Rural Studies. Their major requirements are entirely distinct from USD’s major, and their program includes a substantial focus on Human Resources, Human Services (which are offered as specializations), and Criminal Justice (which is a minor administered by Sociology and Rural Studies). These areas of focus are represented at USD by the School of Business, Social Work, and Criminal Justice Studies, rather than Sociology. Based on their specializations and student profile, their program offers a very different degree experience and focus than the current Sociology major at USD, which does currently include specializations, but which includes a curricular focus on sociological theory, research applications, and collaborative programs such as the Multicultural Studies Minor and the Certificate in Health and Culture. DSU offers the Sociology Minor online, but this program differs from USD’s program in its inclusion of several courses not offered at USD and in its focus on secondary education.

In addition to the curricular differences between USD’s major and minor and those offered by DSU and SDSU, the addition of an online major and minor will serve USD’s online student population by providing a minor for students in the College of Arts and Sciences, since both the B.A. and B.S. degree require a minor, and by providing a flexible program with multiple career paths for students seeking to complete an undergraduate degree online. The Sociology major is also easily completed as a second major, and complements existing online degree programs in Criminal Justice, Business Administration, Health Sciences, and Social Work.

At CCSF, SDSU has administered the Sociology major and minor for some time, and the approved MOU for that location gives USD primary authority to delivery these courses. There are currently more than 20 Sociology majors at CCSF, and USD’s program will continue to serve this population of students, as well as a substantial number of students completing the A.A. General Studies degree.

3. Are students enrolling in the program expected to be new to the university or redirected from other existing programs at the university? Complete the table below and explain the methodology used in developing the estimates (replace “XX” in the table with the appropriate year).

Students enrolling in the major are expected to be both new to the university (including a portion of those students currently enrolled in SDSUs program at CCSF), and, to a lesser degree, redirected from existing programs or completing the A.A. General Studies.

Sociology Major (online and CCSF combined)

	Fiscal Years*			
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
<i>Estimates</i>	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
Students new to the university	8	10	12	15
Students from other university programs	2	5	5	5
=Total students in the program at the site	10	15	25	30
Program credit hours (major courses)**	120	180	300	360
Graduates	2	5	10	12

Sociology Minor (online and CCSF combined)

	Fiscal Years*			
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
<i>Estimates</i>	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
Students new to the university	10	10	10	10
Students from other university programs	2	2	2	2
=Total students in the program at the site	10	20	25	35
Program credit hours (minor courses)**	60	120	150	210
Graduates	2	5	10	12

*Do not include current fiscal year.

**This is the total number of credit hours generated by students in the program in the required or elective program courses. Use the same numbers in Appendix B – Budget.

Projections are based on trends in enrollment in online Sociology courses, number of current Sociology majors at CCSF (approx.. 22), and current online students (4) who are pursuing majors and minors in Sociology despite the absence of a approved program. Moreover, there are currently more than 40 Arts & Sciences majors pursuing the B.A. or B.S. at CCSF. All of these students will need an approved minor for degree completion.

4. **What is the perceived impact of this request on existing programs in the Regental system?**
 We anticipate limited impact on the online major or minor at SDSU or the minor at DSU, given the differences in focus between these programs. The changes at University Center necessitate the transfer of instructional responsibilities to USD.
5. **Complete the table and explain any special circumstances. Attach a copy of the program as it appears in the current catalog. If there are corresponding program modifications requested, please attach the associated form. Explain the delivery of the new courses and attach any associated new course request forms.**

Sociology, B.A.	Credit hours	Credit hours currently available from this university at this site	Credit hours currently available from other universities available at this site	Credit hours currently available via distance	Credit hours new to this university
System General Education Requirements	30 (-3)				
Bachelor of Arts Requirements	33-35				
<i>Subtotal, Degree Requirements</i>	60-65	60-65		60-65	
Required Support Courses					
Major Requirements	21	21		21	
Major Electives	9	9		9	
<i>Subtotal, Requirements of the Proposed Major</i>	30				
Free Electives	28-30				
<i>Total, Degree with Proposed Major</i>	120				

Sociology, B.S.	Credit hours	Credit hours currently available from this university at this site†	Credit hours currently available from other universities available at this site	Credit hours currently available via distance	Credit hours new to this university
System General Education Requirements	30 (-3)				
Bachelor of Science Requirements	32-39				
<i>Subtotal, Degree Requirements</i>	59-66	59-66		59-66	
Required Support Courses					
Major Requirements	21	21		21	
Major Electives or Minor	9	9		9	
<i>Subtotal, Requirements of the Proposed Major</i>	30				
Free Electives	24-31				
<i>Total, Degree with Proposed Major</i>	120				

*If the major will be available in more than one degree (e.g., BA, BS, BS Ed) at the new site(s) and the number or distribution of credits will vary with the degree, provide a separate table for each degree.

† Includes course modifications that accompany this program request.

The following curriculum is subject to approval of a pending minor program modification:

Sociology (B.A., B.S.)

30 Major Hours, 120 Degree Hours

Students in this major must also complete requirements for a degree in the College of Arts & Sciences.

Departmental Requirement (30 hours)

SOC 100 - Introduction to Sociology (C) [SGR #3]*

SOC 150 - Social Problems (C) [SGR #3]*

SOC 211 - Social Science Writing [SGR #1]

SOC 281 - Socio Cultural Theory

SOC 309 - Statistical Research Methods

SOC 410 - Methods of Social Research (C)

SOC 490 - Seminar (C)*

Electives in SOC 9cr

*Previously offered online

Sociology Minor

18 Credit Hours Required

Minor Requirements

18 credit hours of SOC-designated courses are required for the minor. However, no specific courses are required. Students should contact the Sociology Program Director if they have questions.

6. How will the university provide student services comparable to those available for students on the main campus?

Student advising will be provided by the Academic and Career Planning Center and by faculty in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology. Appropriate library and technology resources, as well as other student support services, are available through distance technology.

7. Is this program accredited by a specialized accrediting body? If so, address any program accreditation issues and costs related to offering the program at the new site(s).

No

8. Does the university request any exceptions to Board policy for delivery at the new site(s)? Explain requests for exceptions to Board policy.

No

9. Cost, Budget, and Resources related to new courses at the site: 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. Complete Appendix B – Budget using the system form.

No changes to budget needed. Online courses will be added to the rotation for existing faculty. The rotation below indicates anticipated online offering for the next two years; this rotation does not increase the number of online courses that have been offered online historically, but substitutes required courses in place of electives (indicated with an asterisk below). The department will not offer required courses in both on-campus and online modalities during the same term. In other words, no additional instructional resources are anticipated at this time.

10. Additional Information:

Proposed online courses for Fall 2019 through Spring 2021:

Fall 2019	
Course	Title
SOC-100	Introduction to Sociology
SOC-261	Human Sexuality
SOC-351	Criminology
SOC-423	Social Stratification
Spring 2020	
Course	Title
SOC-100	Introduction to Sociology
SOC-150	Social Problems
SOC-309	Statistical Research Methods*
SOC-432	Collective Behavior & Social Change

Summer 2020	
Course	Title
SOC-100	Introduction to Sociology
SOC-150	Social Problems
SOC-211	Social Science Writing*
Fall 2020	
Course	Title
SOC-100	Introduction to Sociology
SOC-261	Human Sexuality
SOC-281	Socio-Cultural Theory*
SOC-351	Criminology
Spring 2021	
Course	Title
SOC-100	Introduction to Sociology
SOC-150	Social Problems
SOC-410	Methods of Social Research*
SOC-490	Seminar