



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**  
**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**  
**Program Termination or**  
**Placement on Inactive Status**

<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	<b>University of South Dakota</b>
<b>DEGREE(S) AND PROGRAM:</b>	<b>Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences, Paramedic Specialization [UBS.HSC-PMR]</b>
<b>CIP CODE:</b>	<b>51.0000</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</b>	<b>Health Sciences Major Department</b>
<b>UNIVERSITY DIVISION:</b>	<b>School of Health Sciences</b>

**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.*

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President of the University Date

**1. Program Degree Level:**

Associate  Bachelor's  Master's  Doctoral

**2. Category:<sup>1</sup>**

Certificate  Specialization  Minor  Major

**3. The program action proposed is:**

Inactive Status  Termination   
*See question 4* *See questions 5 and 6*

**5. TERMINATION WITH ENROLLED STUDENTS**

**a. Provide a justification for terminating the program:**

The paramedic specialization, which was fully accredited in spring of 2019, is a partnership with USD and Sanford, and is based on a cohort model with 2 years to complete the specialization curriculum. The specialization has had lower-than-expected enrollment since inception in 2015. Enrollments were at 5 or fewer students per cohort since 2015. Only 12 students total out of the 2015, 2016, and 2017 cohorts completed the specialization, with only 1 student taking any USD coursework outside of the courses for the specialization. Since inception in 2015, only 1 student has completed the B.S. in Health Sciences.

The low enrollment situation has placed a significant strain on Sanford resources, as the two instructors for this program are Sanford employees. In addition, the specialization is problematic for USD in that students receive financial aid for this specialization, but most are not degree-seeking students as they discontinue the program immediately upon completion of the specialization. The graduation rate for the first two cohorts was less than 10%. The 43-credit hour specialization is subject to significant competition with less expensive, shorter-duration certificate programs in the region. The accrediting agency, the

<sup>1</sup> Note: Certificates, specializations, and minors may only be terminated and not placed on inactive status due to limitations in Colleague.

Committee on Accreditation of Education for EMS Professionals (CoAEMSP), recommends the program move to an associate's degree model to increase enrollment for sustainability, and this is documented in the accreditor's review.

In order to meet the requests of Sanford and the accrediting body, beginning in January of 2019, several options to create an associate's option for this program were discussed with Sanford, Community College for Sioux Falls, the School of Health Sciences, Health Affairs, and financial leadership. After a thorough evaluation of the current status of the program, it was determined that creating an associate's option via USD is not financially feasible, given the current status of our resources, and considering competition with other certificate programs in the region that are much shorter and less expensive.

Sanford is in agreement with this termination, as they are investigating options with technical schools, and the possibilities of taking advantage of the Build Dakota Scholarship. According to CoAEMSP, the accreditation for this program can be transferred to another institution, if Sanford desires.

**b. What is the plan for completion of the program by current students?**

The 5 students enrolled in the cohort admitted in 2019 will continue to take courses for the specialization (the specialization curriculum takes 2 academic years) and will have the option to complete the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences. No new students will be admitted.

**c. What is the proposed date (day/month/year) program termination status begins (program status in the database changes to *Phasing Out* and last date a student may enroll in or declare the program)?**

5/1/2020

**d. What is the last date (day/month/year) in which a student may enroll in the program (program status in the database changes to *Phase Out*)?**

The program will terminate beginning 5/1/2020. The current cohort will finish the specialization. No new students will be enrolled for the 2020/2021 academic year.

**e. What is the last term or date (day/month/year) by which a student can graduate from the program?**

The last day a student can complete the specialization is 5/7/2021 (currently enrolled students). The currently enrolled students have the option to continue on with coursework to graduate with a B.S. in Health Sciences in 2023.

**f. What are the potential cost savings of terminating the program and what are the planned uses of the savings?**

The program was revenue-neutral but used human resources from the Health Sciences program director, administrative staff, and advising staff. The human resources time gained as a result of termination of this program will be used for the following:

\*recruitment efforts to attract new students to USD for undergraduate Health Sciences and the School of Health Sciences.

\*retention efforts (current student programming).

\*program improvement efforts (increase rigor of the program).

\*development of the program (create industry partnerships that will guide curriculum changes to meet the health care workforce needs of the state).

**g. What are the resulting employee terminations and other possible implications including impact on other programs?**

There will be no terminations of USD employees as this program was one specialization offered by a much larger degree program (Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences).

Sanford employs the instructors for the program and they plan to develop a partnership with an area technical college, thus they will continue to employ their two instructors.