



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS
New Specialization

UNIVERSITY:	USD
TITLE OF PROPOSED SPECIALIZATION:	Nonprofit Management
NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM IN WHICH SPECIALIZATION IS OFFERED:	Master of Science in Administration
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	8/23/2021
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	52.0201
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Political Science
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	Arts and Sciences

Please check this box to confirm that:

- The individual preparing this request has read [AAC Guideline 2.6](#), which pertains to new specialization requests, and that this request meets the requirements outlined in the guidelines.
- This request will not be posted to the university website for review of the Academic Affairs Committee until it is approved by the Executive Director and Chief Academic Officer.

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.

<u>Elizabeth M. Freeburg</u>	<u>3/12/2021</u>
Institutional Approval Signature	Date
<i>President or Chief Academic Officer of the University</i>	

1. Level of the Specialization:

Baccalaureate Master's Ed. Specialist Doctoral

2. What is the nature/purpose of the proposed specialization? Please include a brief (1-2 sentence) description of the academic field in this specialization.

Communities across South Dakota and the region increasingly rely on the nonprofit sector to deliver private and public services. As our students express more interest in these jobs, the program seeks to develop a specialization that provides the expertise and skills for careers in the nonprofit sector.

3. Provide a justification for the specialization, including the potential benefits to students and potential workforce demand for those who graduate with the credential.

Pre-Covid 19 data show the continuous growth of the nonprofit sector nationwide and in South Dakota.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in 2017 that nonprofit organizations account for 12.5 million jobs in the United States, amounting to 10.2 percent of all private sector employment. In South Dakota, nonprofits constitute 14.8 percent of the private sector employment, ranking South

Dakota eleventh among all states as measured by nonprofit employment as a percentage of total private sector employment.¹

Moreover, in 2016 the Bureau of Labor Statistics noted that employment in the nonprofit sector has continued to increase from 2007, while total private employment decreased by 3 percent. A similar trend was noted for wages, where growth in nominal wages in the nonprofit sector has outpaced wage growth in the public and for-profit sectors.²

Recent survey research supports the nonprofit sector trends noted by labor statistics. A survey of nonprofit organizations in 2016 noted that the number of organizations reporting an increase in staffing levels rose by 2 percent. This increase put the percentage of nonprofit organizations experience growth at 51 percent (Nonprofit HR, “2016 Nonprofit Employment Practices Survey Results”).³

Additional insights into the sector in South Dakota come from a profile of nonprofits in the state compiled by the Independent Sector.⁴ The 2016 profile estimates that 45,200 people work in the state’s nonprofit sector, constituting just over 14 percent of the total workforce. This is one percent higher than the figure estimated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2014, suggesting a continued trend of growth in the sector in South Dakota. The profile also reported that nonprofits in the state generate \$6.2 billion per year and have assets of \$14.6 billion. The income generated by South Dakota nonprofits is 15.23 percent of the state’s GDP, as reported for 2015 at \$40.7 billion.⁵

Furthermore, the average weekly wage in nonprofit organizations was \$1,032 in 2017. That was 97 percent of the \$1,064 average weekly wage for all private sector establishments. In South Dakota, the average weekly wage in nonprofits was 124 percent of the average for all private sector establishments.⁶

Leaders and workers in nonprofit organizations need skills that are unique to the sector. These include understanding financial models based on fundraising and other revenue generation; different means of debt financing; unique program assessment and measures of success; and strategic partnerships with community members and other nonprofit organizations.

In summary, the national nonprofit sector is healthy. It offers many opportunities for committed employees in a wide variety of organizational contexts (e.g., arts and culture, religion, education, health care, human services and international). The sector in South Dakota is equally vibrant, with over 6,000 organizations serving communities across the state. We expect an increased demand for professionals educated in nonprofit management not only to lead and manage nonprofit organizations but also to deal with impacts of Covid-19.

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2019/district-of-columbia-had-highest-share-of-employment-in-nonprofits-nevada-the-lowest-in-2017.htm>

² <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2016/article/nonprofits-in-america.htm>.

³ <https://www.nonprofithr.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/2016NEPSurvey-final.pdf>.

⁴ <https://www.independentsector.org/resource/state-profile-south-dakota/>

⁵ <http://www.southdakotadashboard.org/economic-output-gdp#0-7131-g>

⁶ <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2019/district-of-columbia-had-highest-share-of-employment-in-nonprofits-nevada-the-lowest-in-2017.htm>

4. List the proposed curriculum for the specialization (including the requirements for completing the major – **highlight courses in the specialization**):

Prefix	Number	Course Title (add or delete rows as needed)	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
POLS	521	The Nonprofit Sector	3	No
POLS	522	Fund Raising Public/Nonprofit Organizations	3	No
POLS	523	Nonprofit Governance and Administration	3	No
xxx	xxx	Advisor approved specialization elective	3	No
MSAS	763	Professional Writing for Administration	3	No
MSAS	764	Research in Administrative Practice	3	No
MSAS	786	Capstone	3	No
EMPA/POLS	722	Budgetary and Fiscal Management	3	No
EMPA/POLS	733	Administrative Law and Government	3	No
EMPA/POLS	769	Administrative Thought and Ethics	3	No
SPCM	754	Managerial Communication	3	No
xxx	xxx	Advisor approved core elective	3	No

Total number of hours required for completion of specialization
 Total number of hours required for completion of major
 Total number of hours required for completion of degree

12
24
36

5. Delivery Location

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

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 specialization through distance technology (e.g., as an on-line program)?

	Yes/No	Intended Start Date
On campus	No	

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

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 5.5.	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	Yes	Online	Fall 2021

B. Complete the following chart to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver more than 50% but less than 100% of the specialization through distance learning (e.g., as an on-line program)? This question responds to HLC definitions for distance delivery.

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

6. Additional Information:

The Department currently offers a graduate certificate in nonprofit management. Addition of the nonprofit management specialization in the M.S. in Administration program is expected to attract additional students for the nonprofit certificate, and vice versa. These two programs are designed to complement each other giving students the widest range possible at the graduate level. We also anticipate networking opportunities in the programs to enhance the students’ professional development. This benefit, along with the fact that this M.S. in Administration program can be completed with only 24 additional credit hours beyond the certificate, will provide a substantial advantage to graduate students interested in nonprofit sector careers.

Elective coursework in nonprofit management will facilitate student development of both subject matter expertise and professional capacity building. Given that there are many elective options within our Department and across campus for the nonprofit studies students, we expect electives to play an important role in the program of study of our students. Our program advisors will work closely with students to identify electives that fit professional development goals and can advance student networking and capacity building at the highest level possible.