



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS
New Specialization

UNIVERSITY:	USD
TITLE OF PROPOSED SPECIALIZATION:	Human Dynamics
NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM IN WHICH SPECIALIZATION IS OFFERED:	Biology, B.S.
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	8/1/2020
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	26.0101
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Biology-UBIO
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	Arts & Sciences-2A

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.

<i>Elizabeth M. Freeburg</i>	5/4/2020
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.

This specialization is intended for biology students interested in learning about biology with a focus on humans. Coursework aligns with a proposed accelerated program for students applying to USD Physical Therapy school.

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

This new specialization is tied to a new accelerated 3+3 program partnering Biology and Physical Therapy (USDPT), allowing students pursuing a B.S. in Biology with a specialization in Human Science to count 29 credit hours of the first year of the doctoral degree in physical therapy (DPT) toward the final (fourth) year of undergraduate programming (biology elective courses). The student will complete 91 credits of undergraduate coursework (including USDPT program pre-requisites) before matriculating to the USDPT program. Matriculation to the USDPT program is contingent upon acceptance following a competitive admissions process. Importantly, students that do not matriculate into the USDPT program are still able to complete a Biology degree in four years with an emphasis on humans. Required courses in other specializations (or in the

Medical Biology major) do not match as well with the USDPT pre-requisites and make it difficult to complete the necessary coursework in three years.

Several accredited programs in the U.S. offer accelerated 3+3 path options to a DPT degree, including a successful model at the University of North Dakota. Within the last few years, the number of programs offering the DPT degree has significantly increased. To shorten the plan of study for achieving a DPT degree, many newly emerging on-line programs accept students with 4-year degrees and compress a demanding, rigorous graduate curriculum into 2 years, rather than 3 years, which is typical with most face-to-face programs. These online programs are turning out mixed achievement outcomes, but they are attractive to students who perceive they will save tuition money (which, even with compressed programming, is not necessarily demonstrated since credit hours remain similar for these programs). While competition has increased with a greater number of developing programs, the number of applications to DPT programs is declining, in part due to tuition costs that do not keep up with professional salaries. Meeting accreditation expectations and supporting student competence toward national board exam achievement has been consistently and successfully accomplished with 3-year graduate programming. At the same time, a path to the degree that can be achieved in 6 rather than 7 academic years improves affordability for students often burdened by the high debt loads of higher education.

The proposed new specialization offers benefits to both USD's biology degree program and its physical therapy program. The program serves as a recruiting opportunity for the biology department and for USD overall. The USDPT program benefits from knowing its early committed potential applicants and by using the early identification opportunity to begin shaping professional behaviors with extracurricular advisement and guidance. Furthermore, with declining numbers of applications, USDPT will benefit from recruiting academically strong and well-prepared students who are motivated by sound fiscal decision-making to pursue the DPT graduate degree.

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

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
BIOL	151/L	General Biology I	4	No
BIOL	153/L	General Biology II	4	No
BIOL	280/L	Inquiry and Analysis	2	No
BIOL	420/L	Biostatistics	3/0	No
BIOL	471	Genetics	3	No
BIOL	428/L	Comparative Physiology	4	No
BIOL	481/L	Vertebrate Anatomy and Physiology	4	No
BIOL		Biology Electives	16	No
CHEM	112/L	General Chemistry I	4	No
CHEM	114/L or 116/L	General Chemistry II	4	No
PSYC	101	General Psychology	3	No
PSYC	321	Human Development	3	No
PSYC	451	Abnormal Psychology	3	No

Total number of hours required for completion of specialization

30

Total number of hours required for completion of major

57

Total number of hours required for completion of degree

120

4. 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	Yes	Fall 2020

	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)	No		

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