



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

Substantive Program Modification Form

UNIVERSITY:	USD
CURRENT PROGRAM TITLE:	Biology, M.S.
CIP CODE:	26.0101
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Biology
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.

Elizabeth M. Freeburg

3/20/2017

Vice President of Academic Affairs or
President of the University

Date

1. This modification addresses a change in (place an "X" in the appropriate box):

- Total credits required within the discipline Total credits of supportive course work
- Total credits of elective course work Total credits required for program
- Program name Existing specialization
- CIP Code Other (explain below): **Addition of Plan B and fast-track program**

2. Effective date of change: 7/1/2017

3. Program Degree Level (place an "X" in the appropriate box):

- Associate Bachelor's Master's Doctoral

4. Category (place an "X" in the appropriate box):

- Certificate Specialization Minor Major

5. If a name change is proposed, the change will occur (place an "X" in the appropriate box):

- On the effective date for all students
- On the effective date for students new to the program (enrolled students will graduate from existing program)

Proposed new name:

Reminder: Name changes may require updating related articulation agreements, site approvals, etc.

6. Primary Aspects of the Modification (add lines or adjust cell size as needed):

Existing Curriculum

Proposed Curriculum (Highlight Changes)

Current Program Name:

Biology, M.A., Plan B & Biology, M.S. Plan A

Proposed Program Name:

Biology, M.S., Plan A and **Plan B**

Pre	Num	Title	Cr Hrs	Pre	Num	Title	Cr Hrs
Biology M.S. (thesis) Plan A				Biology M.S. (thesis) Plan A			
BIOL	5xx 6xx 7xx	Biology courses to include: • BIOL 790 Graduate Seminar in Biology 2-3 [^] cr. • *BIOL 792 Topics in Biology 2+ cr. with a minimum of two different one cr. topic courses BIOL 798 Thesis Research in Biology 6-12 cr.	21-30	BIOL	5xx 6xx 7xx	Biology courses to include: • BIOL 790 Graduate Seminar in Biology 2-3 [^] cr. • *BIOL 792 Topics in Biology 2+ cr. with a minimum of two different one cr. topic courses • BIOL 798 Thesis Research in Biology 6-12 cr.	21-30
Supporting courses, subject to approval of student's thesis advisory committee			0-9	Supporting courses, subject to approval of student's thesis advisory committee			0-9
<p>[^]No more than three cr hrs. of BIOL 790 will count toward the program of study. *or NSCI 792/other topics course that will fulfill the two course topics requirement. Topic courses taken under a different prefix will be considered supporting coursework and will not count toward the required 21-30 credit hours in Biology. **At least 21 of the total 30 cr. required for the degree must be taken with a BIOL prefix.</p>				<p>[^]No more than three cr hrs. of BIOL 790 will count toward the program of study. *or NSCI 792/other topics course that will fulfill the two course topics requirement. Topic courses taken under a different prefix will be considered supporting coursework and will not count toward the required 21-30 credit hours in Biology. **At least 21 of the total 30 cr. required for the degree must be taken with a BIOL prefix.</p>			
MS Plan A total:			30**	MS Plan A total:			30**
				Biology M.S. (non-thesis) Plan B			
				BIOL	5xx 6xx 7xx	Biology courses to include: • BIOL 790 Graduate Seminar in Biology 2 [^] cr.	20-32
Supporting courses, subject to approval of student's thesis advisory committee				Supporting courses, subject to approval of student's thesis advisory committee			0-12
				MS Plan B total:			32
				<p>[^]No more than two cr. of BIOL 790 will count toward the program of study. Candidates for the Plan B must pass a subject matter final examination that addresses the principles of biology. 50% of credits must be 700 level or above.</p>			

				Accelerated Master's Program: BS/MS	
				Up to 12 credits applied toward the B.S. program may be used to satisfy graduate credit. The following restrictions apply: a. Dual-listed courses taken at the 500-level can be applied to both the B.S. and M.S. degrees. Dual-listed courses must be taken at the 500-level. b. The student must apply to, and be admitted to, the accelerated program prior to taking courses to be credited toward the accelerated program. c. No courses taken prior to admission to the accelerated program may be counted toward an accelerated graduate degree. No exceptions to this policy will be approved. d. Courses that are "double counted" must be approved by the program coordinator for inclusion in the program of study prior to registration for the course or the credits will not be applied toward the accelerated graduate degree. No exceptions to this policy will be approved. e. Only courses taken at the student's home institution are eligible for dual credit. No transferred courses from other institutions will be allowed to count toward the accelerated master's degree. f. Students admitted to the accelerated M.S. Program may be allowed to register for all courses included on his/her program of study and these credit hours may apply to both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements.	
Biology M.A. (non-thesis) Plan B				Termination Paperwork is being submitted along with this request to remove Biology, M.A. (U.MA.BIOL).	
BIOL	5xx 6xx 7xx	Biology courses to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIOL 790 Graduate Seminar in Biology 2^ cr. 	20-32		
Supporting courses, subject to approval of student's thesis advisory committee			0-12		
MA Plan B total			32		
Candidates for the MA take a subject matter final examination that addresses the principles of biology.					
50% of credits for MS and MA must be 700 level or above.					
Total number of hours required for degree Biology M.S., Plan A		30	Total number of hours required for degree Biology M.S., Plan A		30
		N/A	Total number of hours required for degree Biology M.S., Plan B		32
Total number of hours required for degree Biology M.A., Plan B		32	Total number of hours required for degree Biology M.A., Plan B		N/A

7. Explanation of the Change:

We are adding a non-thesis option for our M.S. in Biology program. The addition of this plan B option will allow us to terminate our M.A. program in Biology. The one degree program will satisfy the demand for the program. Additionally, we have added an accelerated master's program option for our B.S. students.