

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs
Consent

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – E (4)
DATE: May 13-15, 2024

SUBJECT

New Specialization Request – USD – Specialization in Executive Public Administration – MPA in Public Administration

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 2.3.2](#) – New Programs, Program Modifications, and Inactivation/Termination

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The University of South Dakota (USD) requests authorization to offer a specialization in Executive Public Administration within the MPA in Public Administration program. Currently, the proposed specialization is offered as a standalone program, but will be combined with the MPA program moving forward as an optional specialization. The Executive Public Administration program is geared toward working professionals. The proposed specialization would be available to students within the MPA who have at least five years of cumulative full-time professional experience in public service, with three to five years of experience at the middle-to-upper-level. These requirements are consistent with the current program.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

USD requests authorization to offer the specialization on campus and online. USD is not requesting additional state resources to offer the program. No new courses will be required.

Board office staff recommends approval of the program.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – New Specialization Request Form: USD – Executive Public Administration – Public Administration (MPA)

DRAFT MOTION 20240513_5-E(4):

I move to authorize USD to offer a specialization in Executive Public Administration within the MPA in Public Administration program, as presented.



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**

New Specialization

UNIVERSITY:	USD
TITLE OF PROPOSED SPECIALIZATION:	Executive Public Administration
NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM IN WHICH SPECIALIZATION IS OFFERED:	Master of Public Administration [UMPA.PAD]
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	Fall 2024
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	45.1002
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Political Science
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	UPOL
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	A&S
BANNER DIVISION CODE:	2A

X	<p><u>Please check this box to confirm that (place an “X” in the left box):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
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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

3/19/2024

Institutional Approval Signature

Date

President or Chief Academic Officer of the University

1. Level of the Specialization (place an “X” before the specialization):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Baccalaureate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Master’s	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doctoral
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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.

The proposed change is to create a single Program designed to administer a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree with an optional Executive Public Administration specialization for individuals who have at least five years of cumulative full-time professional experience in public service, including at least three years at the middle-to-upper level.

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

For workforce related information, please provide data and examples. Data may include, but are not limited to the South Dakota Department of Labor, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Regental system dashboards, etc. Please cite any sources in a footnote.

The Political Science Department currently offers a degree called Executive Master of Public Administration and a degree called Master of Public Administration, both coordinated separately. In summary, the proposed change is to create a single Program designed to administer a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree with a standard track and optional specialization. The program that results from combining the two degree programs into a single program with an optional specialization intends to improve efficiency in teaching and student enrollment in courses. The standard track for Master of Public Administration is designed for typically pre-service students while the Executive Public Administration specialization is designed for experienced working professionals. This is common within the discipline. Different admissions requirements, taking into account things like professional work experience, exist for each track. Students may not switch between the standard track and the specialization.

The MPA program will feature a 15-credit core for all MPA students. The standard track Master of Public Administration requires an additional 12 hours of required courses and 12 hours of program-approved electives for a total of 39 hours (this program of study aligns with accreditation granted by NASPAA-Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration). The Executive Public Administration specialization requires an additional 15 hours of required specialization courses for a total of 30 hours. The core courses and the outline of courses for each specialization are listed above.

Not shown above is the Fast Track MPA program which will remain and concurrent programs such as JD/MPA.

The Executive Public Administration specialization has a lower credit hour requirement (30) as compared to the standard track MPA due to the acceptance requirement of 5 years of experience.

4. 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)
LDR	501	Advanced Leadership Theory and Practice	3	No
POLS	722	Budgetary and Fiscal Management	3	No
POLS	723	Public Personnel Management	3	No
POLS	724	Organization and Management	3	No
LDR	504	Leadership Communication and Conflict Resolution	3	No
EMPA	720	Executive Public Administration	3	No
EMPA	733	Administrative Law and Government	3	No
EMPA	764	Research in Administrative Practice	3	No
EMPA	769	Administrative Thought and Ethics	3	No
		Select one course for 3 credit hours		
POLS	788	Research Problems/Projects	3	No
EMPA	786	EMPA Capstone	3	No
N/A	N/A	9 credit hours eliminated per admissions requirement of 5 years of experience.		

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

15
15
30

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 <i>Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 5.5.</i>	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	Yes	Online Asynchronous	Fall 2024

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)			

6. Additional Information: