



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual



SUBJECT: University of South Dakota Mission Statement

NUMBER: 1.2.6

A. PURPOSE

The South Dakota Board of Regents regards the research universities of South Dakota as valuable contributors to the state's system of higher education. Research universities offer a broad array of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs and are characterized as doctoral granting with a Carnegie Classification of very high or high research activity.

Universities operating within this sector are nationally recognized research institutions with significant commitments to the receipt of external funding. In addition, research universities promote the research activities of their faculty, staff, and students. The Board of Regents recognizes that research universities have unique characteristics and are critical to the state and the South Dakota system of higher education.

The principles outlined in this policy serve as overarching directions for research universities reflecting efficient and effective roles in scholarly research and economic development. In addition, research university functions align with Board of Regents strategies to advance student access, affordability, degree completion rates, and quality education.

B. DEFINITIONS

- 1. Board of Regents:** Defined as the constitutional body responsible for governing the Unified System of Public Higher Education in South Dakota, which encompasses its supervision, coordination, management, and regulation. Board of Regents Policy 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and SDCL § 13-49 through § 13-53 provides the authority to govern academic programming.
- 2. Institution:** Defined as one of the six (6) universities: Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, Northern State University, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, South Dakota State University, and University of South Dakota.
- 3. Statutory Mission:** The institutional mission defined under South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL).
- 4. Carnegie Classification:** A classification given to a university or college. The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education provides a framework for recognizing and describing institutional diversity in the United States.
- 5. Doctoral University – High Research Activity:** USD has a Carnegie Classification of doctoral university/high research activity. This classification includes institutions that awarded at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees during the update year and

institutions with below 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees that awarded at least 30 professional practice doctoral degrees in at least two programs.

C. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

University of South Dakota (USD), being the first postsecondary university in the Dakotas (1862), known as the flagship university with a comprehensive statutory portfolio. USD understands its identity and responsibility to ensure full implementation of teaching and learning; research, scholarship, and creative activity; and service and outreach.

USD has fundamental units serving the state of South Dakota:

- 1. Main Campus (Vermillion):** The University of South Dakota's main campus in Vermillion is the state's oldest postsecondary institution. The campus primarily serves residential students in undergraduate, professional, and graduate programs. The campus includes the College of Arts & Sciences, Beacom School of Business, School of Health Sciences, School of Education, and College of Fine Arts. The Native American Studies center is hosted on the campus of USD.
- 2. Sanford School of Medicine:** The Sanford School of Medicine is the only public medical school in South Dakota. The school provides nationally recognized medical education and research with an emphasis on rural medicine.
- 3. Knudson School of Law:** The Knudson School of Law is the only public law school in South Dakota. The school prepares lawyers and judges for the federal, state, and American Indian justice systems.
- 4. University of South Dakota – Sioux Falls:** USD – Sioux Falls (USD-SF) is a non-residential satellite site of USD specifically connected to the health sciences hub including nursing, social work, nurse anesthesia practice, center for the prevention of child maltreatment, and center for rural health improvement. In addition, USD-SF will also provide offering toward educational and business career pathways and other workforce needed programs as approved.
- 5. Discovery District and GEAR Center:** The Discovery District and the Graduate Education and Applied Research (GEAR) Center exist as part of a public/private research park in Sioux Falls.

D. ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND CREDENTIALS

USD is statutorily authorized through SDCL § 13-57-1 and 3-57-3.1 to offer academic programs in the liberal arts and sciences and education and is authorized by statute to offer business, fine arts, law, and medical education. USD has the authority to credential certificates, associate degrees, baccalaureate degrees, master's degrees and doctoral degrees provided formal approval by the Board of Regents. SDCL § 13-57-3.2 designated USD to provide the Native American studies center. The Board of Regents may authorize academic programs outside of the statutory mission as identified by the Regents due to workforce needs, strategic needs of the state, etc. All program requests must comply with BOR Policy 2.3.2 and 2.3.3.

E. RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Carnegie Classification of Doctoral/High Research Activity designates USD as an institution providing comprehensive graduate programming as part of their research activities. This designation includes offering degrees in a breadth of fields, both in professional practice and research-focused programming, at the doctoral level.

USD's basic and applied research and creative scholarly activities support a vibrant South Dakota economy and solve critical problems within the state and region. Examples include developing improved treatments for veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and identifying the distribution and spread of invasive, noxious weeds in farmland.

In partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Small Business Administration, USD provides crucial state-wide support to South Dakota's small- and medium-sized businesses. These partnerships help manufacturers improve their processes and enterprises identify new product lines.

FORMS / APPENDICES:

None

SOURCE:

BOR March 1991; BOR October 1992; BOR December 1993; BOR May 1996; BOR December 2001; BOR December 2003; BOR October 2019; BOR October 2022; October 2023 (Clerical).