



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual



SUBJECT: South Dakota State University Mission Statement

NUMBER: 1.2.5

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 externally funded impactful research. Faculty, staff, and students are actively involved in research activities. The Board of Regents recognizes that research universities have unique characteristics within 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 research and economic development. 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:** SDSU 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 (2) programs.

- 6. Land-grant Organization:** A land-grant college or university is an institution that has been designated by its state legislature or Congress to receive the benefits of the Morrill Acts of 1862, 1890, and 1994. A key component of the land-grant system is the agricultural experiment station program created by the Hatch Act of 1887 and the cooperative extensions service created by the Smith-Level Act of 1914.

C. SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

South Dakota State University (SDSU) was granted the responsibility to serve as the State of South Dakota's land-grant institution of higher education through the federal enabling act of statehood in 1889. With this responsibility came the expectation to collaborate and partner with other land-grant universities throughout the United States to ensure groundbreaking discoveries and technologies positively impacting society.

SDSU understands its identity and responsibility as the state's land-grant university. This understanding extends to the tripartite mission of the 1862 Morrill Act, 1887 Hatch Act, and the 1914 Smith-Lever Act, with responsibility for teaching and learning; research, scholarship, and creative activity; and service and outreach.

SDSU has fundamental units serving the state of South Dakota:

- 1. Main Campus (Brookings):** South Dakota State University is the states land-grant university, headquartered in Brookings, South Dakota, with extension, teaching, outreach, and other activities throughout the state. The SDSU mission statement is grounded in the tripartite mission of teaching and learning at the undergraduate and graduate levels; research, scholarship, and creative activity; and service and outreach. The research mission is one of the cornerstones of a land grant university and directly supports educational programming content. The campus serves residential students in undergraduate, professional, and graduate programs. The campus includes the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences, College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences, College of Education & Human Sciences, College of Natural Sciences, College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy & Allied Health Professions, and the Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering.
- 2. Agricultural Experiment Station (Statewide):** Agriculture Experiment Station (AES) is authorized by SDCL § 13-58-11 and tightly couples with the universities research mission. SDSU's research mission is to find solutions to current problems surrounding the environment, food production, nutrition, and economics, as well as identify opportunities for the future. The new knowledge created from our AES research enhances the quality of life in South Dakota through the beneficial use and development of human, economic and natural resources. In addition to enhancing the quality of life in our state, AES research directly supports the teaching programs offered by the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, the College of Education & Human Sciences, the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the College of Natural Sciences, and the educational programs delivered by SDSU Extension.
- 3. Cooperative Extension (Statewide):** As a cornerstone of SDSU's land-grant university mission and authorized by SDCL § 13-54-1, SDSU Extension empowers citizens to be more competitive and successful in our growing global economy through education and technical training or assistance. Its' purpose is to foster a learning community environment

that empowers citizens to advocate for sustainable change that will strengthen agriculture, natural resources, youth, families, and the communities of South Dakota.

- 4. State Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory:** Critical to the mission of SDSU, and authorized by SDCL § 13-58-13, is located at the main campus in Brookings, South Dakota.

D. ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND CREDENTIALS

SDSU is statutorily authorized through SDCL § 13-58.1, to offer academic programs in the liberal arts and sciences and professional education in agriculture, education, engineering, home economics, business economics, nursing, and pharmacy. SDSU has the authority to credential certificates, associate degrees, baccalaureate degrees, master's degrees and doctoral degrees provided formal approval by the Board of Regents. 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

As part of its land-grant mission, SDSU has a robust research enterprise including, but not limited to, the Agricultural Experiment Station and SDSU Extension, which provides a connection for scientists and South Dakota residents, taxpayers, and producers. SDSU is strongly committed to extending the research discovery and best practices to producers and consumers across the state, nation, and world.

Public university research and innovations feed growth and resiliency in South Dakota's economy. The state of South Dakota's land-grant university mission drives real solutions to dynamic challenges through research-based discovery and innovation. High quality, leading-edge university research programs also develop a knowledge-based workforce. University faculty engaged in research, scholarship and creative activity best serve our students as they are current and informed in their evolving discipline resulting in a high-quality educational experience for all students. Undergraduate students participating in rigorous land-grant university research gain experiential learning that differentiates them in the marketplace. Graduate students in land-grant university research laboratories gain hands-on research experience and leadership skills they use to drive innovation in the private and public sectors. SDSU's fundamental assets for fulfilling its land-grant research mission are stable, talented faculty and modern, reliable facilities and specialized equipment.

FORMS / APPENDICES:

None

SOURCE:

BOR March 1991; BOR May 1996; BOR December 2003; BOR May 2011; BOR October 2019; BOR October 2022; October 2023 (Clerical).