



# SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

## Policy Manual



**SUBJECT:** South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Mission Statement

**NUMBER:** 1.2.4

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### **A. PURPOSE**

The South Dakota Board of Regents regards the special focus universities of South Dakota as valuable contributors to the state's system of higher education. Special focus universities have a high concentration of degrees in a single field or set of related fields. Special focus universities offer master's and doctoral programs within their special focus area.

Universities operating within this sector are nationally recognized to promote research activities of their faculty, staff, and students. South Dakota School of Mines and Technology's (South Dakota Mines') research is propelling the workforce, economy, and student experience. The Board of Regents recognizes that special focus universities have unique characteristics and are critical to the success of the South Dakota system of higher education.

The principles outlined in this policy serve as overarching directions for special focus universities reflecting efficient and effective roles in scholarly research and economic development. In addition, special focus university functions align with the 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. The Carnegie classification for South Dakota Mines (Mines) is a master's colleges and universities: medium programs. This classification is for institutions that award at least 50 master's degrees and fewer than 20 doctoral degrees.

5. **Special Focus University:** The Board of Regents has designated Mines as a special focus university. A special focus designation typically includes institutions that offer a high concentration of degrees in a single field or related fields.

### **C. SOUTH DAKOTA MINES ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

1. **Main Campus (Rapid City):** The Mines main campus located in Rapid City primarily serves residential students in undergraduate and graduate programs in STEM fields specific to the engineering and natural sciences. The campus includes the departments of Chemistry, Biology, and Health Sciences; Chemical and Biological Engineering; Civil and Environmental Engineering; Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Geology and Geological Engineering; Humanities and Social Sciences; Industrial Engineering; Materials and Metallurgical Engineering; Mathematics; Mechanical Engineering; Mining Engineering and Management; Nanoscience and Biomedical Engineering; and Physics.
2. **Mining Experiment Station (Rapid City):** Designated as a department by SDCL § 13-60.4 and is located on the main campus in Rapid City, South Dakota.
3. **Museum of Geology and Paleontology (Rapid City):** Designated as a department by SDCL § 13-60.8 and is located on the main campus in Rapid City, South Dakota.

### **D. ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND CREDENTIALS**

Mines is statutorily authorized, under SDCL § 13-60-1, to offer academic STEM fields specializing in engineering and natural sciences. Mines has the authority to offer the following academic credentials: 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**

Special research focus universities in South Dakota perform a wide range of research initiatives. While Mines has an emphasis in the areas of Engineering and the Sciences; its research provides the maximum opportunity to students seeking to study with top researchers and pursue careers in science and engineering. This is most important for those students pursuing graduate education. Collaborative partnerships continue to evolve between the special focus universities and the research universities. This research pierces the boundaries in generating new innovative ideas. Therefore, Mines collaborates with Regental and other research universities, governmental agencies, and industry from across the nation.

In addition to providing graduate student experience, research is a critical driver of both innovation and economic development. Working together with business and industry, Mines will foster continued research, economic development and innovation in South Dakota, the Great Plains region, and throughout the United States, and around the world.

**FORMS / APPENDICES:**

None

**SOURCE:**

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