



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual



SUBJECT: Dakota State University Mission Statement

NUMBER: 1.2.2

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. Dakota State University's 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.
- 5. Special Focus University:** DSU has a Carnegie Classification of special focus. This classification includes institutions offer a high concentration of degrees in a single field or related fields. DSU is designated as a special focus in the computer science fields.

6. **Computing and Information Technologies (CIT):** This is defined to include any computers, storage, networking and other physical or virtual devices, infrastructure, architecture, processes, and policies to create, store, secure, access, use, analyze, exchange, manage and govern all forms of electronic data and their enabling technologies.
7. **Cyber Security:** Defined as a focus within CIT and Cyber that deals with strategic threat assessment, protecting and securing the CIT/Cyber Technologies and data from criminal or unauthorized access. The security approaches range from offensive (Cyber Operations) to defensive (Cyber Defense and Network Security).

C. DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

1. **Main Campus (Madison):** The Dakota State University's (DSU) main campus located in Madison serves residential students in undergraduate, professional, and graduate programs. The campus includes the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business and Information Systems, Education, and The Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences.
2. **National Presence:** Dakota State University offers specialized degrees to students from across the United States and beyond. DSU shall be the computing and information technologies and cyber security leader for the state of South Dakota, and a recognized leader across the United States.

D. ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND CREDENTIALS

DSU is statutorily authorized under SDCL § 13-59-2.2 to offer academic programs computer management, computer information technologies, cyber security, education with an emphasis in computer and technology systems, and other related undergraduate and graduate programs. Students who attend Dakota State University pursue highly technical degrees with a broad focus in current and emerging computing and information technologies/cyber security that emphasize innovation, leadership, application, and research. DSU 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

Special research focus universities in South Dakota perform a wide range of research initiatives. While Dakota State University has an emphasis in the areas of Computer Sciences, DSU's educational and research activities address all aspects of current, emerging, and future Computer and Information Technologies/Cyber Security. Dakota State University's research provides the maximum opportunity to students seeking to study with top researchers and pursue careers related to the technological fields. This is most important for those students pursuing graduate education. DSU conducts (3) three types of research increasing student growth which results in discovery, creativity, or innovation:

faculty-driven discipline-specific research; collaborative, problem-driven applied research in all CIT/Cyber Security areas through the Madison Cyber Labs (MadLabs®)

Regionally located in eastern South Dakota provides a unique hub where Dakota State University and South Dakota State University (also regionally located in eastern South Dakota) complement each other in Agricultural Technological fields. Collaborative partnerships continue to evolve between the special focus universities and the research universities. This research pierces the boundaries in generating new innovative ideas. In addition to providing graduate student experience, research is a critical driver of both innovation and economic development.

Working together with business and industry in Madison, Sioux Falls, and all of South Dakota, Dakota State University will foster continued research in South Dakota, economic development in South Dakota, and innovation throughout the United States. Specifically related, Dakota State University offers highly specialized research in support of national security and defense through DSU's Applied Research Lab (ARL). The research activities of the MadLabs® and ARL drive innovation, workforce development, and economic development for South Dakota.

FORMS / APPENDICES:

None

SOURCE:

BOR March 1991; January 1994; BOR May 1996; BOR October 1999; BOR August 2000; BOR December 2003; BOR August 2006; BOR August 2007; BOR October 2019; BOR October 2022; October 2023 (Clerical).