

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

**Academic and Student Affairs**  
**Consent**

**AGENDA ITEM: 5 – E (3)**

**DATE: May 10, 2022**

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**SUBJECT**

**New Graduate Certificate Request – NSU – HyFlex Pedagogy**

**CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

[BOR Policy 2:23](#) – Program and Curriculum Approval

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION**

Northern State University (NSU) requests authorization to offer a graduate certificate in HyFlex Pedagogy. Hybrid Flexible (HyFlex) teaching and learning is a student-centered delivery mode that integrates face-to-face synchronous, online synchronous, and online asynchronous modes in one course. HyFlex pedagogy is an emerging field of scholarship developing best practices in HyFlex course design, teaching, and learning. NSU's HyFlex Pedagogy Graduate Certificate is a three (3) course sequence providing expertise in the theory and application of HyFlex pedagogies in secondary and higher education.

HyFlex and blended learning are growing across K-12 programs and throughout universities. Initial growth grew from necessity during the pandemic. The intended audience is secondary teachers and higher education instructors across the country. Educators in corporations and nonprofit organizations may also be interested in the HyFlex Pedagogy certificate.

**IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION**

NSU plans to offer the certificate in HyFlex Pedagogy on campus and online. NSU does not request new state resources. One new course will be required.

Board office staff recommends approval.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment I – New Certificate Request: NSU – HyFlex Pedagogy (Graduate)

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**DRAFT MOTION 20220510\_5-E(3):**

I move to authorize NSU to offer a graduate certificate in HyFlex Pedagogy, as presented.



## SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

### New Certificate

Use this form to propose a certificate program at either the undergraduate or graduate level. A certificate program is a sequence, pattern, or group of academic credit courses that focus upon an area of specialized knowledge or information and develop a specific skill set. Certificate programs typically are a subset of the curriculum offered in degree programs, include previously approved courses, and involve 9-12 credit hours including prerequisites. In some cases, standards for licensure will state explicit requirements leading to certificate programs requiring more than 12 credit hours (in such cases, exceptions to course or credit requirements must be justified and approved). The Board of Regents, Executive Director, and/or their designees may request additional information about the proposal. After the university President approves the proposal, submit a signed copy to the Executive Director through the system Chief Academic Officer. Only post the New Certificate Form to the university website for review by other universities after approval by the Executive Director and Chief Academic Officer.

<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	NSU
<b>TITLE OF PROPOSED CERTIFICATE:</b>	HyFlex Pedagogy
<b>INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:</b>	Fall 2022
<b>PROPOSED CIP CODE:</b>	13.0501
<b>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</b>	Teacher Education
<b>BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:</b>	NESE
<b>UNIVERSITY DIVISION:</b>	College of Professional Studies: School of Education
<b>BANNER DIVISION CODE:</b>	5E

☒ **Please check this box to confirm that:**

- The individual preparing this request has read [AAC Guideline 2.7](#), which pertains to new certificate 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.

#### 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.*



Institutional Approval Signature

*President or Chief Academic Officer of the University*

3/14/2022

Date

Note: In the responses below, references to external sources, including data sources, should be documented with a footnote (including web addresses where applicable).

- 1. Is this a graduate-level certificate or undergraduate-level certificate (place an “X” in the appropriate box)?**

Undergraduate Certificate ☐

Graduate Certificate ☒

- 2. What is the nature/ purpose of the proposed certificate? Please include a brief (1-2 sentence) description of the academic field in this certificate.**

Hybrid Flexible (HyFlex) teaching and learning is a student-centered delivery mode that integrates face to face synchronous, online synchronous, and online asynchronous modes in one course. HyFlex pedagogy is an emerging field of scholarship developing best practices in HyFlex course design, teaching, and learning.

Northern State University’s HyFlex Pedagogy Graduate Certificate is a three (3) course sequence providing expertise in the theory and application of HyFlex pedagogies in secondary and higher education.

Students who complete the course sequence will earn a graduate certificate in HyFlex Pedagogy from Northern State University and a HyFlex Instructor certificate from Northern’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

- 3. If you do not have a major in this field, explain how the proposed certificate relates to your university mission and strategic plan, and to the current Board of Regents Strategic Plan 2014-2020.**

Northern State University has a special focus on E-Learning in its mission and a master’s in Instructional Design in E-Learning.

- 4. Provide a justification for the certificate program, 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.**

Hybrid flexible (HyFlex) and blended learning are growing across K-12 programs and throughout universities. Initial growth grew from necessity during the pandemic. Schools and universities are recognizing that HyFlex learning is “good for the students it is good for.” Demand is pushing school districts to create virtual academies.<sup>1</sup>

Teaching is an area of demand in the SDBOR’s Program Gap Analysis, conducted by EMSI and published in 2021. That data for that study are pre-pandemic and do not reflect the growth in demand for HyFlex, blended, teaching and learning that sparked from the pandemic and has grown since.

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<sup>1</sup> Tate, Emily. Here Come the Virtual Academies. EdSurge. 9 June 2021. <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2021-06-09-here-come-the-virtual-academies>

**5. Who is the intended audience for the certificate program (including but not limited to the majors/degree programs from which students are expected)?**

The intended audience is secondary teachers and higher education instructors across the country. Educators in corporations and nonprofit organizations may also be interested in the HyFlex Pedagogy certificate.

**6. Certificate Design**

**A. Is the certificate designed as a stand-alone education credential option for students not seeking additional credentials (i.e., a bachelor's or master's degree)? If so, what areas of high workforce demand or specialized body of knowledge will be addressed through this certificate?**

Northern's HyFlex Pedagogy certificate is a stand alone credential for educators who already have an earned master's degree in education or a related field.

**B. Is the certificate a value added credential that supplements a student's major field of study? If so, list the majors/programs from which students would most benefit from adding the certificate.**

Students in Northern's MEd in Educational Studies: Individualized Interdisciplinary Studies may choose to earn the graduate certificate in HyFlex Pedagogy as a value added credential to supplement their field of study.

**C. Is the certificate a stackable credential with credits that apply to a higher level credential (i.e., associate, bachelor's, or master's degree)? If so, indicate the program(s) to which the certificate stacks and the number of credits from the certificate that can be applied to the program.**

Northern's HyFlex Pedagogy certificate is designed to stack into the university's MEd in Instructional Design in E-Learning. Graduate students who earn the HyFlex Pedagogy certificate can continue toward Northern's master's in Instructional Design in E-Learning degree, as all credits in the certificate stack into that master's degree.

**7. List the courses required for completion of the certificate in the table below (if any new courses are proposed for the certificate, please attach the new course requests to this form). Certificate programs by design are limited in the number of credit hours required for completion. Certificate programs consist of nine (9) to twelve (12) credit hours, including prerequisite courses. In addition, certificates typically involve existing courses. If the curriculum consists of more than twelve (12) credit hours (including prerequisites) or includes new courses, please provide explanation and justification below.**

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Course Title</b> <i>(add or delete rows as needed)</i>	<b>Prerequisites for Course</b> <i>Include credits for prerequisites in subtotal below.</i>	<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>New (yes, no)</b>
ELRN	740	HyFlex Principles	N/A	3	Yes

ELRN	772	Applications of Learning Theory	N/A	3	No
ELRN	750	Teaching and Learning with Digital Technology	N/A	3	No
Subtotal				9	

### 8. Student Outcome and Demonstration of Individual Achievement.

*Board Policy 2:23 requires certificate programs to “have specifically defined student learning outcomes.*

**A. What specific knowledge and competencies, including technology competencies, will all students demonstrate before graduation? *The knowledge and competencies should be specific to the program and not routinely expected of all university graduates.***

The 3 course sequence in Northern’s HyFlex Pedagogy certificate includes:

- ELRN 740, HyFlex Principles, focuses on the study of HyFlex principles, goals, and methods in HyFlex teaching and learning.
- ELRN 772, Applications of Learning Theory, provides participants with the opportunity to practice implementing HyFlex practices in the classroom.
- ELRN 750, Teaching and Learning with Digital Technology, examines current technologies and research surrounding the integration of technologies in teaching and learning.

The student learning outcomes of Northern’s HyFlex Pedagogy certificate includes:

1. Describe component parts of Hybrid-Flexible course design.
2. Evaluate the appropriateness of Hybrid-Flexible course design in supporting student learning.
3. Create syllabi and lesson plans for HyFlex course offerings.
4. Implement best practices for HyFlex teaching in the context of specific courses.
5. Assess technologies and apply best practices for integrating technologies in teaching and learning.

**B. Complete the table below to list specific learning outcomes – knowledge and competencies – for courses in the proposed program in each row. Label each column heading with a course prefix and number. Indicate required courses with an asterisk (\*). Indicate with an X in the corresponding table cell for any student outcomes that will be met by the courses included. All students should acquire the program knowledge and competencies regardless of the electives selected. Modify the table as necessary to provide the requested information for the proposed program.**

Individual Student Outcome (Same as in the text of the proposal)	ELRN 740	ELRN 772	ELRN 750r
Describe component parts of HyFlex course design.	X		
Evaluate the appropriateness of HyFlex course design in supporting student learning.	X		
Create syllabi and lesson plans for HyFlex course offerings.		X	

Implement best practices for HyFlex teaching in the context of specific courses.		X	X
Assess technologies and apply best practices for integrating technologies in teaching and learning.			X

## 9. 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., USD Community College for Sioux Falls, Black Hills State University-Rapid City, Capital City Campus, etc.) or deliver the entire program through distance technology (e.g., as an on-line program)?**

	Yes/No	Intended Start Date
<b>On campus</b>	Yes	Choose an item. Choose an item.

	Yes/No	If Yes, list location(s)	Intended Start Date
<b>Off campus</b>	No		Choose an item. Choose an item.

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods <i>Delivery methods are defined in <a href="#">AAC Guideline 5.5.</a></i>	Intended Start Date
<b>Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)</b>	Yes		<b>Fall 2022</b>
<b>Does another BOR institution already have authorization to offer the program online?</b>	No	<b>If yes, identify institutions:</b>	

- B. Complete the following chart to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver more than 50% but less than 100% of the certificate 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
<b>Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)</b>	Choose an item.		Choose an item. Choose an item.