

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs
Consent

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – D (3)

DATE: May 10, 2022

SUBJECT

New Program Request – USD – Minor in Public Policy

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

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

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The University of South Dakota (USD) requests authorization to offer a minor in Public Policy. The proposed minor would be a joint program between Political Science and Economics that would provide a concrete, tractable skill set for students to both understand the policymaking process and to evaluate public policy. This minor will draw upon several fields including political science, public economics, and public affairs/policy. Students who are seeking majors outside of political science or economics may be interested in making policy changes in their intended fields such as education, public health, or even the sciences.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

USD plans to offer the minor in Public Policy on campus. USD does not request new state resources, and no new courses will be required. USD estimates eight students enrolled and six graduates by the fourth year of the program.

Board office staff recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – New Program Request: USD – Minor in Public Policy

DRAFT MOTION 20220510_5-D(3):

I move to authorize USD to offer a minor in Public Policy, as presented.



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

New Baccalaureate Degree Minor

UNIVERSITY:	USD
TITLE OF PROPOSED MINOR:	Public Policy
DEGREE(S) IN WHICH MINOR MAY BE EARNED:	All Undergraduate degrees: B.A., B.S., L.P.N., B.S.N., B.F.A., B.B.A., B.S.Ed.
EXISTING RELATED MAJORS OR MINORS:	Political Science, Economics
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	Fall 2022
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	45.1003
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Political Science, Economics
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	POLS
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	Arts and Sciences
BANNER DIVISION CODE:	2A

X	<p><u>Please check this box to confirm that</u> (place an “X” in the left box):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The individual preparing this request has read AAC Guideline 2.8, which pertains to new baccalaureate degree minor 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.
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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.

President of the University

Date

1. Do you have a major in this field? (YES or NO)

No

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

A minor in Public Policy would enhance several items in the strategic plans of USD and the BOR. In the most recent strategic plan mission and values, we have committed to ensuring that “Our students are engaged, thoughtful, and well-prepared for a global and complex world.” A public policy minor is a program that would be critical for students outside of the POLS/ECON programs to both understanding the policymaking process and how to evaluate policies from the perspective of economic efficiency.

The BOR strategic plan seeks to create “viable businesses to support state economic development.” and to develop “majors and minors that prepare students with the skills and knowledge to thrive in a rapidly changing world.” A minor in public policy allows students outside of the POLS/ECON majors to have an adaptive toolkit of tools for analysis that will allow them to evaluate policies in an ever-changing world.

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

The minor in Public Policy, though housed within the Department of Political Science, would be a joint program between Political Science and Economics that would provide a concrete, tractable skill set for students to both understand the policymaking process and to evaluate public policy. This minor will draw upon a number of fields that current (and future) faculty at USD are likely to be trained in, which includes political science, public economics, and public affairs/policy.

The minor degree program will not require any new courses, faculty, or resources. Rather, it allows students outside of our majors to acquire some of the skills provided by the popular joint major of POLS/ECON without, we believe, detracting from either program.

4. How will the proposed minor benefit students?

Students who are seeking majors outside of political science or economics may be interested in making policy changes in their intended fields such as education, public health, or even the sciences. The minor in public policy will provide a concrete, concise minor for students to learn about the policymaking process and how to evaluate public policies using rigorous evaluation methods.

5. Describe the workforce demand for graduates in related fields, including national demand and demand within South Dakota. Provide data and examples; data sources 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.

A public policy minor is a minor that contributes to several other fields and we expect that this minor will allow students to contribute to policy in their area of expertise whether that be health, education, etc. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, in a white paper on public policy analysts, states “The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) does not classify policy analysts as a separate occupation and, therefore, does not have data on their employment or earnings. Depending on their research specialty, workers who analyze policy might be counted as political scientists,

economists, sociologists, lawyers, urban and regional planners, or natural scientists, among other titles.”¹ Related careers such as medical and health services managers or higher education managers are expected to grow faster or as fast as the broader labor market.^{2, 3} Two of the projected fastest growing careers between 2020 and 2030 are fields related to public policy: statisticians (35.4% projected increase) and data scientists (31.4%) and both are high-paying occupations (mean annual wages around \$100,000).⁴

6. Provide estimated enrollments and completions in the table below and explain the methodology used in developing the estimates.

	Fiscal Years*			
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
<i>Estimates</i>	FY XX	FY XX	FY XX	FY XX
Students enrolled in the minor (fall)	2	4	6	8
Completions by graduates	0	2	4	6

*Do not include current fiscal year.

Currently there are about 125 majors in Political Science and about 35 Majors in Economics. The average enrollment in the elective courses offered in this minor was about 20 students (in the most recent semester they were offered, conditional on the courses making enrollment minimums). Thus, we project adding about two minors per year which would add about one half of a person per course per year, or a 3% increase in enrollment in these courses. The mature program will be 6% of the size of the POLS major and 23% of the ECON major, making it roughly equivalent in size to similar minors in the departments such as International Studies (about 5 students), nonprofit studies (about 12 students) or economics (about 12).

It is important to remember that this minor will require no new classes, no new faculty, and will require little administrative work. Any students in this program would increase the credit generation of courses already offered while offering an important skill set for the students.

7. What is the rationale for the curriculum? Demonstrate/provide evidence that the curriculum is consistent with current national standards.

There are no standards for a public policy minor, nationally, though our minor is similar in its requirements to minors at other major institutions.⁵ A minor in public policy also allows students who have a full 120-credit course load in their primary School(s) or major(s) to acquire concrete policymaking and analytical skills not provided compactly by either the political science or economics minors. This allows students to set themselves apart from peers at other institutions who would have similar subject matter expertise in their major field (often with national standards and accreditation), but USD students would also have a minor in public policy.

8. Complete the tables below. Explain any exceptions to Board policy requested.

Minors by design are limited in the number of credit hours required for completion. Minors typically consist of eighteen (18) credit hours, including prerequisite courses. In addition, minors typically

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2007/spring/art03.pdf>

² <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/management/medical-and-health-services-managers.htm>

³ <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/management/postsecondary-education-administrators.htm>

⁴ <https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/fastest-growing-occupations.htm>

⁵ <https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/public-policy-minor/#requirementstext>
<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/political-science/minor/#requirementstext>

involve existing courses. If the curriculum consists of more than eighteen (18) credit hours (including prerequisites) or new courses, please provide explanation and justification below.

A. Distribution of Credit Hours

Program Title	Credit Hours	Percent
Requirements in minor	9	50%
Electives in minor	9-18*	50%
Total	18-27**	100%

B. Required Courses in the Minor

Prefix	Number	Course Title (add or delete rows as needed)	Prerequisites for Course - Include credits for prerequisites in subtotal below.	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
ECON	201	Principles of Microeconomics	None	3	No
POLS	226	Introduction to Public Policy	None	3	No
		Choose one of the following:			
STAT/MATH	281	Intro to Statistics	None	3	No
BADM	220	Business Statistics	None	3	No
Subtotal					

9. Elective Courses in the Minor: List courses available as electives in the program. Indicate any proposed new courses added specifically for the minor.

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Prerequisites for Course Include credits for prerequisites in subtotal below.	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
Choose 3 to 6 credits from the following ECON courses:					
ECON	441	International Trade		3	No
ECON	410	Economic Growth & Development		3	No
ECON	472	Resources & Environmental Economics		3	No
ECON	301*	Intermediate Micro	Calculus	3	No
ECON	433*	Public Finance	ECON 202: Macro	3	No
ECON	450*	Industrial Organization	ECON 202: Macro	3	No
ECON	445*	International Macroeconomics	ECON 202: Macro	3	No
ECON	482*	Labor Economics	ECON 202: Macro	3	No
Choose 3 to 6 credits from the following POLS courses:					
POLS	438	Legislative Process		3	No
POLS	426	Public Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation		3	No

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Prerequisites for Course <i>Include credits for prerequisites in subtotal below.</i>	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
POLS	467	Analytical Techniques		3	No
POLS	421	Nonprofit Sector		3	No
POLS	442	National Security Policy		3	No
POLS	407	Environmental Law and Policy		3	No
POLS	452	International Policy		3	No
POLS	404*	Local Government Admin	POLS 320: Intro to Pub Admin	3	No
Subtotal				9-18**	

*Prerequisite course required

**Students may complete the minor with 18 credits (9 required+9 elective) if they do not choose electives that require a prerequisite but may take up to 27 credit hours (9 required +18 elective) to complete if they choose courses with prerequisites..

Note: Electives: 10 of the 16 electives for this minor do not have a prerequisite. This allows the **minor to be completed in 18 credit hours.**

A. What are the learning outcomes expected for all students who complete the minor? How will students achieve these outcomes? *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.*

1. Effectively Analyze Quantitative Data
2. Describe the process of making new laws, policies, or regulations
3. Evaluate programs, policies, or laws using concepts of economic efficiency or efficacy
4. Evaluate programs, policies, or laws using concepts such as equity, equality, or justice
5. Understand the sector in which public policy decisions are made

Individual Student Outcomes	Effectively Analyze Quantitative Data	Describe the process of making new laws, policies, or regulations	Evaluate programs, policies, or laws using concepts of economic efficiency or efficacy	Evaluate programs, policies, or laws using concepts such as equity, equality, or justice
ECON 201 Principles of Microeconomics	X		X	
POLS 226 Intro to Public Policy	X	X	X	X
STAT/MATH 281 Intro to Statistics	X			
BADM 220 Business Statistics	X			
ECON 441 International Trade	X	X	X	
ECON 410 Economic Growth & Development		X	X	
ECON 472 Resources & Environmental Economics	X	X	X	
ECON 301 Intermediate Micro	X		X	
ECON 433 Public Finance	X	X	X	

Individual Student Outcomes	Effectively Analyze Quantitative Data	Describe the process of making new laws, policies, or regulations	Evaluate programs, policies, or laws using concepts of economic efficiency or efficacy	Evaluate programs, policies, or laws using concepts such as equity, equality, or justice
ECON 450 Industrial Organization	X	X	X	
ECON 445 Int'l Macroeconomics		X	X	
ECON 482 Labor Economics	X		X	
POLS 438 Legislative Process		X		X
POLS 426 Public Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation	X	X	X	X
POLS 467 Analytical Techniques	X	X	X	X
POLS 421 Nonprofit Sector				
POLS 442 National Security Policy		X	X	X
POLS 407 Environmental Law and Policy		X	X	X
POLS 452 Int'l Policy		X		
POLS 404 Local Government Admin		X		

10. What instructional approaches and technologies will instructors use to teach courses in the minor? *This refers to the instructional technologies and approaches used to teach courses and NOT the technology applications and approaches expected of students.*

The primary mode of instruction will be face-to-face instruction. If courses are offered online they will also be accepted, though many courses in the minor do not have online equivalents.

11. 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.

University of South Dakota or any regental institutions with course equivalents.

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 Center 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 online program)?

	Yes/No	Intended Start Date
On campus	Yes	Fall 2022

	Yes/No	If Yes, list location(s)	Intended Start Date
Off campus	No		

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods <i>Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 5.5.</i>	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	No	POLS 421 is offered using 015, but most courses are 001 and the minor cannot be completed online	
Does another BOR institution already	No	If yes, identify institutions:	

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods <i>Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 5.5.</i>	Intended Start Date
have authorization to offer the program online?			

B. Complete the following chart to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver more than 50% but less than 100% of the minor through distance learning (e.g., as an online program)? This question responds to HLC definitions for distance delivery.

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	No	POLS 421 is offered using 015, but most courses are 001 and the minor cannot be completed online	

12. Does the University request any exceptions to any Board policy for this minor? Explain any requests for exceptions to Board Policy. If not requesting any exceptions, enter "None."

No, but there is the possibility of students choosing to take electives that require prerequisite courses which would require an exception.

13. Cost, Budget, and Resources: Explain the amount and source(s) of any one-time and continuing investments in personnel, professional development, release time, time redirected from other assignments, instructional technology & software, other operations and maintenance, facilities, etc., needed to implement the proposed minor. Address off-campus or distance delivery separately.

None; all courses are offered through POLS or ECON majors either as core courses or electives and require no new courses nor additional resources.

14. New Course Approval: New courses required to implement the new minor may receive approval in conjunction with program approval or receive approval separately. Please check the appropriate statement. (place an "X" before the correct response)

	YES, the university is seeking approval of new courses related to the proposed program in conjunction with program approval. All New Course Request forms are included as Appendix C and match those described in section 7.
X	NO, the university is not seeking approval of all new courses related to the proposed program in conjunction with program approval; the institution will submit new course approval requests separately or at a later date in accordance with Academic Affairs Guidelines.

15. Additional Information: