

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS**

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

**AGENDA ITEM: 5 – E (2)**  
**DATE: March 29-30, 2023**

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**SUBJECT**

**New Site Request – SDSU – AS/BS in Respiratory Care (Brookings, Huron, and Madison)**

**CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

[BOR Policy 2:23](#) – New Programs, Program Modifications, Curricular Requests, and Inactivation/Termination

[BOR Policy 2:12](#) – Distance Education

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION**

South Dakota State University (SDSU) requests approval to offer the AS & BS in Respiratory Care at three new locations: Huron Regional Medical Center, Madison Regional Health System, and Brookings Health System. The Community Practice Innovation Center within the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions at SDSU has received a three-year, \$1.545 million federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. The project aims to increase workforce awareness and provide educational opportunities through recruitment, training, and job placement for respiratory therapists in rural South Dakota communities. SDSU would be partnering with the Northern Plains Network (Brookings, Huron, and Madison) to expand access to rural communities and give them the opportunity to complete their Respiratory Care degrees. Currently, the program is only available in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. The new sites would expand the program’s reach into rural areas across South Dakota, helping contribute to the workforce shortages in those areas.

**IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION**

SDSU anticipates 64 enrollments and 32 graduates after four years of the program being at the three new locations. The university requests no new resources.

Board office staff recommends approval to offer the program at the proposed sites.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment I – New Site Request: SDSU – AS/BS in Respiratory Care

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**DRAFT MOTION 20230329\_5-E(2):**

I move to approve SDSU’s new site proposal to offer the AS and BS in Respiratory Care at Huron Regional Medical Center, Madison Regional Health System, and Brookings Health System, as presented.



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**

**New Site Request**


<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	SDSU
<b>DEGREE(S) AND PROGRAM:</b>	Respiratory Care (A.S. & B.S.)
<b>NEW SITE(S):</b> <i>Include address of new physical locations. Delivery methods are defined in <a href="#">AAC Guideline 5.5</a>.</i>	Huron Regional Medical Center 172 4th St SE, Huron, SD 57350  Madison Regional Health System 323 10th St SW, Madison, SD 57042  Brookings Health System 300 22nd Ave, Brookings, SD 57006
<b>INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:</b>	2023-2024 Academic Year
<b>CIP CODE:</b>	51.0908
<b>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</b>	Allied & Population Health
<b>BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:</b>	SAPH
<b>UNIVERSITY DIVISION:</b>	College of Pharmacy & Allied Health Professions
<b>BANNER DIVISION CODE:</b>	3P

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

- The individual preparing this request has read [AAC Guideline 2:11](#), which pertains to new site 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.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the University

12/28/2022  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**1. What is the need for offering the program at the new physical site or through distance delivery?**

South Dakota State University (SDSU) requests authorization to offer the A.S. and B.S. in Respiratory Care at the Brookings Health System, Huron Regional Medical Center, and Madison Regional Health System. The Community Practice Innovation Center within the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions at SDSU has received a three-year, \$1.545 million federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration. The project aims

to increase workforce awareness and provide educational opportunities through recruitment, training, and job placement for respiratory therapists in rural South Dakota communities. SDSU would be partnering with the Northern Plains Network (Brookings, Huron, and Madison) to expand access to rural communities and give them the opportunity to complete their Respiratory Care degrees. Currently, the professional program is limited to the urban areas in SD (Rapid City and Sioux Falls). A large majority of SDSU students gain employment at the clinical affiliate sites post-graduation. For some prospective students, moving from rural communities to earn a Respiratory Care degree is not always feasible. Expanding the program's reach across SD will give more students the opportunity to earn their degree and contribute to the workforce shortages in those areas.

The project focuses on developing local training pathways in rural communities for respiratory therapists, who were found to be in high demand during the pandemic. SDSU's partner sites have reported that they all have been operating at about 50% of staffing levels for respiratory therapists throughout the pandemic. During the height of the pandemic there were not enough respiratory therapists to see all patients, requiring other healthcare workers who lack specialty training, including nurses and paramedics, to provide respiratory care services. This stopgap solution highlighted the need to expand the respiratory therapy workforce in rural counties. It is also estimated that over 90,000 respiratory therapists will leave the profession by 2030 due to retirements, further contributing to the workforce gap.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that between 2021 and 2031, openings for respiratory therapists will grow by 14%, faster than the average for all healthcare occupations.<sup>2</sup> This is due primarily to factors including an aging population, elevated patient acuity, and increased cases of respiratory illness. With demand projected to continue increasing, it is paramount that the state develops pathways to recruit and train local people to fill these positions, as they will be more likely to remain in rural areas.

Coursework and clinical experiences will be offered at the three sites; some coursework will also be offered online. Students can complete general education requirements online, at the SDSU Brookings main campus, or at Dakota State University in Madison. The university does not request new state resources or new student fees to support delivery in Brookings, Huron, or Madison.

**2. Are any other Regental universities authorized to offer a similar program at the proposed site(s) or through distance delivery? If "yes," identify the institutions and programs and explain why authorization is requested.**

No other Regental universities offer respiratory care programs.

**3. Are students enrolling in the program expected to be new to the university or redirected from other existing programs at the university? Complete the table below and explain the methodology used in developing the estimates.**

Students enrolling at the additional sites will be new to the university. The program is projected to enroll 16 new/additional students each year combined across the three sites. The first A.S. students from the additional sites will graduate in 2024. These graduates will then have the

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<sup>1</sup> National Board for Respiratory Care. Why the World Needs More RTs, and How You Can Help. <https://www.nbrc.org/why-the-world-needs-more-rt-and-how-you-can-help>

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, Respiratory Therapists, at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/respiratory-therapists.htm> (visited October 05, 2022).

option to continue toward completion of the B.S. in Respiratory Care. The first B.S. graduates would complete in 2026.

Program credit hours are based on each year of the 4-year degree: Year 1= 29 credits, Year 2= 39 credits, Year 3= 25, Year 4= 27.

	Fiscal Years*			
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
<i>Estimates</i>	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26
Students new to the university	16	16	16	16
Students from other university programs	0	0	0	0
=Total students in the program at the site	16	32	48	64
Program credit hours (major courses)**	464	1,088	1,488	1,920
Graduates	0	16	16	32

**4. What is the perceived impact of this request on existing programs in the Regental system?**

No impact on existing Regental programs is anticipated.

**5. Complete the table and explain any special circumstances. Attach a copy of the program as it appears in the current catalog. If there are corresponding program modifications requested, please attach the associated form. Explain the delivery of the new courses and attach any associated new course request forms.**

The Respiratory Care major courses will be delivered via a combination of online courses and face-to-face lecture and clinical courses at the Brookings Health System, Huron Regional Medical Center, and Madison Regional Health System. Students can complete the system general education requirements, supporting courses, and electives via distance education or at the SDSU Brookings main campus or at Dakota State University in Madison.

	Credit hours	Credit hours currently available from this university at this site	Credit hours currently available from other universities available at this site	Credit hours currently available online	Credit hours new to this university
<b>Respiratory Care (A.S.)</b>					
System General Education Requirements	20	0	20	20	0
<i>Subtotal, Degree Requirements</i>	20	0	20	20	0
Major Requirements	48	0	0	7	41
<i>Subtotal, Requirements of the Proposed Major</i>	48	0	0	7	41
Free Electives	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Total, Degree with Proposed Major</i>	68				

Requirements for the Respiratory Care (A.S.)

System General Requirements

- Goal #1 Written Communication: ENGL 101 – Composition I (COM) [SGR #1] Credits: 3
- Goal #2 Oral Communication: SGR #2 Elective Credits: 3
- Goal #3 Social Sciences/Diversity: PSYC 101 – General Psychology (COM) [SGR #3]

Credits: 3

- Goal #5 Mathematics: MATH 114 – College Algebra (COM) [SGR #5] Credits: 3
- Goal #6 Natural Sciences:
  - BIOL 151 – General Biology I (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 4 and BIOL 151L – General Biology I Lab (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 0
  - CHEM 106 – Chemistry Survey (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 3 and CHEM 106L – Chemistry Survey Lab (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 1 or CHEM 112 – General Chemistry I (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 3 and CHEM 112L – General Chemistry I Lab (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 1

Major Requirements

- BIOL 221 – Human Anatomy (COM) Credits: 4
- BIOL 221L – Human Anatomy Lab (COM) Credits: 0
- RESP 105 – Respiratory Care Physical Science Credits: 3
- RESP 110 – Introduction to Respiratory Care Credits: 4
- RESP 110L – Introduction to Respiratory Care Lab Credits: 2
- RESP 119 – Introduction to the Respiratory Care Profession Credits: 2
- RESP 150 – Clinical Experience I Credits: 4
- RESP 180 – Pathophysiology for Respiratory Care I Credits: 2
- RESP 210 – Respiratory Critical Care Credits: 3
- RESP 210L – Respiratory Critical Care Lab Credits: 2
- RESP 250 – Clinical Experience II Credits: 5
- RESP 280 – Pathophysiology for Respiratory Care II Credits: 3
- RESP 310 – Advanced Respiratory Care Credits: 4
- RESP 350 – Clinical Experience III Credits: 5
- RESP 355 – Respiratory Care in Clinical Medicine Credits: 3
- RESP 395 – Practicum (COM) Credits: 2

Total required credits: 68

	Credit hours	Credit hours currently available from this university at this site	Credit hours currently available from other universities available at this site	Credit hours currently available online	Credit hours new to this university
<b>Respiratory Care (B.S.)</b>					
System General Education Requirements	32	0	32	32	0
<i>Subtotal, Degree Requirements</i>	32	0	32	32	0
Major Requirements	88	0	0	47	41
<i>Subtotal, Requirements of the Proposed Major</i>	88	0	0	47	41
Free Electives	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Total, Degree with Proposed Major</i>	120				

Requirements for the Respiratory Care (B.S.)

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System General Requirements

- Goal #1 Written Communication: ENGL 101 – Composition I (COM) [SGR #1] Credits: 3 and ENGL 201 – Composition II (COM) [SGR #1] Credits: 3
- Goal #2 Oral Communication: SGR #2 Elective Credits: 3
- Goal #3 Social Sciences/Diversity: PSYC 101 – General Psychology (COM) [SGR #3] Credits: 3 and SGR #3 Electives Credits: 3

- Goal #4 Arts and Humanities/Diversity: SGR #4 Electives Credits: 6
- Goal #5 Mathematics: MATH 114 – College Algebra (COM) [SGR #5] Credits: 3
- Goal #6 Natural Sciences:
  - BIOL 151 – General Biology I (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 4 and BIOL 151L – General Biology I Lab (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 0 \*
  - CHEM 106 – Chemistry Survey (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 3 and CHEM 106L – Chemistry Survey Lab (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 1  
or CHEM 112 – General Chemistry I (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 3 and CHEM 112L – General Chemistry I Lab (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 1

#### Major Requirements

- BIOL 221 – Human Anatomy (COM) Credits: 4
- BIOL 221L – Human Anatomy Lab (COM) Credits: 0
- MICR 231 – General Microbiology (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 4
- MICR 231L – General Microbiology Lab (COM) [SGR #6] Credits: 0
- PHA 330 – Pharmacology for Allied Health Professions Credits: 3
- RESP 105 – Respiratory Care Physical Science Credits: 3
- RESP 110 – Introduction to Respiratory Care Credits: 4
- RESP 110L – Introduction to Respiratory Care Lab Credits: 2
- RESP 119 – Introduction to the Respiratory Care Profession Credits: 2
- RESP 150 – Clinical Experience I Credits: 4
- RESP 180 – Pathophysiology for Respiratory Care I Credits: 2
- RESP 210 – Respiratory Critical Care Credits: 3
- RESP 210L – Respiratory Critical Care Lab Credits: 2
- RESP 250 – Clinical Experience II Credits: 5
- RESP 280 – Pathophysiology for Respiratory Care II Credits: 3
- RESP 310 – Advanced Respiratory Care Credits: 4
- RESP 350 – Clinical Experience III Credits: 5
- RESP 355 – Respiratory Care in Clinical Medicine Credits: 3
- RESP 360 – Communication Skills for Respiratory Care Credits: 3
- RESP 380 – Respiratory Care for Special Populations Credits: 3
- RESP 395 – Practicum (COM) Credits: 2
- RESP 420 – Critical Review of Healthcare Research Credits: 3
- RESP 440 – Ethics for Health Professionals Credits: 4
- RESP 450 – Advanced Concepts in Adult and Neonatal/Pediatric Respiratory Care Credits: 3
- RESP 460 – Current Issues in Respiratory Care Credits: 4
- RESP 489 – Capstone Project Credits: 3
- RESP 495 – Practicum (COM) Credits: 3
- STAT 281 – Introduction to Statistics (COM) [SGR #5] Credits: 3

Total required credits: 120

#### 6. How will the university provide student services comparable to those available for students on the main campus?

Students will have timely access to faculty and academic support services for help with their academic concerns and problems regardless of location of instruction. The Office of Student Services for the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions offers virtual office hours for students at remote locations. An academic advisor will be assigned to those distance students in the major. They will connect with the students using e-mail, phone, Zoom, and

other technologies as they communicate. An enrollment and student success coach is housed in Continuing and Distance Education and is available to assist students with the onboarding process through orientation for online learners and connecting to necessary resources online and on campus. Finally, online tutoring support is available through Smarthinking (Pearson Education) and student services such as disability services accommodations will be available to students upon request.

Students have online access to resources through the South Dakota State University Hilton M. Briggs Library and the Wegner Health Science Information Center. The Hilton M. Briggs library has long served students engaged in coursework away from campus. This includes students enrolled online. Library support services will be available to students through a variety of means:

- Students can contact librarians for research assistance. The librarian provides online research guides and is available for consultations with faculty and students.
- Distance Library Services include book and article delivery for materials owned by the library. Students may request materials not held by the library through interlibrary loan.
- SDSU students have online access to research databases such as Web of Science, EBSCOhost MegaFILE, and JSTOR.

Students will have access to technical support provided by SDSU's Information Technology Services and to academic support services such as the writing center. Students close in proximity to the main SDSU campus will have access to all university services offered to on-campus students.

**7. Is this program accredited by a specialized accrediting body? If so, address any program accreditation issues and costs related to offering the program at the new site(s).**

The A.S. in Respiratory Care is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). The program will seek approval from CoARC for an increase in enrollment and site additions.

**8. Does the university request any exceptions to Board policy for delivery at the new site(s)? Explain requests for exceptions to Board policy.**

The program has prior approval for an exception on the number of general education credits required to obtain the A.S. degree. This exception was based on the number of major courses required by accreditation standards. No curriculum modifications are proposed for the additional sites.

**9. Cost, Budget, and Resources related to new courses at the site: 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. Complete Appendix B – Budget using the system form.**

The College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions does not request additional state resources to support delivery of the respiratory care program (A.S. and B.S) in Brookings, Huron, or Madison. The Community Practice Innovation Center within the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions at SDSU has received a three-year, \$1.545 million federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to increase workforce

awareness and provide educational opportunities through recruitment, training, and job placement for respiratory therapists in rural South Dakota communities. The grant provides initial funding to start the program at the three sites. This includes hiring a new faculty member as well as technology and equipment costs to enhance teaching in classroom, clinical, and laboratory instruction. Equipment to be purchased with the grant funding includes a pediatric simulator mannequin, EKG, cardiac simulator, neonatal ventilator, noninvasive ventilator, and oximeter. Following completion of the grant, tuition and fee revenue will be utilized to sustain the additional sites.