

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs
Consent

AGENDA ITEM: 5 – K (3)
DATE: March 29-30, 2023

SUBJECT

Request to Seek Accreditation – SDSU (CoARC)

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 1:10](#) – Relationship of Curriculum and Instruction to Statutory Objectives

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Board of Regents Policy 1:10 specifies that “Each campus must seek and receive Board approval before applying for initial accreditation or an expanded scope of accreditation for academic programs.” In accordance with Board policy, South Dakota State University requests approval to seek accreditation from the following accrediting agencies:

Accrediting Agency: Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)

Program: Respiratory Care (BS)

Advantages: Accreditation of the bachelor’s degree is essential as SDSU aligns with the profession’s goal of making all Respiratory Care Programs baccalaureate level entry by 2030. CoARC accreditation is required for students to sit for the credentialing exam offered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC). A valid credential is a minimum requirement for 49 state licensure boards in the United States.

Accreditation is important to ensuring high quality education is being provided to those seeking their professional degrees in Respiratory Care. Students seeking a bachelor's degree in Respiratory Care often go to the only Respiratory Care accrediting agency in the US to find programs. Currently, SDSU’s associate degree is listed on CoARC’s website. Achieving CoARC accreditation for the bachelor’s degree will ensure SDSU is promoting excellence in Respiratory Care education.

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, awards institutional accreditation for higher education institutions in South Dakota. A variety of unique organizations award specialized/program accreditation within distinct programs or departments at Regental institutions. A general

(Continued)

DRAFT MOTION 20230329_5-K(3):

I move to approve SDSU’s request to seek accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care for their BS in Respiratory Care.

reference document on institutional and specialized/program accreditation is available on the BOR website at the link below.

- [Special Analysis: Accreditation in Higher Education](#)

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

SDSU anticipates a one-time application fee of \$350 for initial accreditation, and an annual renewal fee of \$2,500 to be covered through department funds. SDSU will also be required to pay for travel costs for the required site visit by an accreditation team of three people, which is anticipated to cost \$5,000.

Board staff recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – SDSU Request to Seek Accreditation Form: Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care



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

Request to Seek Accreditation

Use this form to request permission to seek accreditation of an approved program. Board of Regents (BOR) action is required to seek program accreditation.

UNIVERSITY:	SDSU
PROGRAM:	Respiratory Care Program
CIP CODE:	51.0908
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Allied and Population Health
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	College of Pharmacy & Allied Health Professions

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

Click here to enter a date.

Date: November 3,
2022

1. Level of program seeking accreditation (place an "X" in the appropriate box):

- Certificate

 Associate

 Bachelor's
 Doctoral

 Master's

2. Accrediting Agency:

Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)

3. What are the advantages of accreditation?

Accreditation of the bachelor's degree or degree advancement is essential as we align with the profession's goal of making all Respiratory Care Programs baccalaureate level entry by 2030. CoARC accreditation is required for students to sit for the credentialing exam offered by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC). A valid credential is a minimum requirement for 49 state licensure boards in the United States (U.S).

Accreditation is important in ensuring high quality education is being provided to those seeking their professional degrees in Respiratory Care. Students seeking a bachelor's degree in Respiratory Care often go to the only Respiratory Care accrediting agency in the U.S. to find programs. Currently, our associate degree is listed on CoARC's website. Achieving CoARC

accreditation will ensure South Dakota State University is promoting excellence in Respiratory Care education.

4. What are the anticipated costs involved in accreditation, including:

A. Costs involved in undergoing self-study and preparing the application for accreditation:

The Respiratory Care Program currently holds an Associate degree accreditation from CoARC. The fees associated with accreditation would be for degree advancement and would fall under the “add-on degree track.”

Add-on Degree Track	
Letter of Intent	\$1,400.00
Provisional Self-Study Report	\$1,200.00
Continuing Self Study Report	\$950.00
Annual	\$1,200.00
Virtual Site Visit	
Site visit	1,000

B. Out-of-pocket costs related to dues or site visits:

The degree advancement would be offered online so no face-to-face site visit is required. The site visit fee would be associated with the virtual visit, this comes to \$1,000.

C. Base budget implications including incremental costs and minimum base resources required (dollars and FTE): The base budget will not be impacted by accreditation of this program. Current courses and FTE are already in place.

5. What is the source of the revenue needed? Department funds will be used for the site visit and accreditation fees.

6. What is the estimated date for submission of accreditation application?

Pending BOR approval, Spring/Summer 2023.