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SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

<u>Academic and Student Affairs</u>
<u>Consent</u>

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AGENDA ITEM: 7 – F (2)
DATE: June 21-22, 2023

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SUBJECT
> New Specialization Request – USD – Specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis – MS in Health Sciences

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY
> [BOR Policy 2:23](#) – New Programs, Program Modifications, Curricular Requests and Inactivation/Termination

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION
> The University of South Dakota (USD) requests authorization to offer a specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis within the MS in Health Sciences program. Applied Behavior Analysis, or ABA, is a scientific approach to discovering environmental variables that reliably influence significant social behavior and developing a behavior change technology that takes practical advantage of those discoveries. The ABA specialization establishes a pathway for graduate students to obtain Board Certified Behavior Analysis (BCBA) certification.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION
> USD requests authorization to offer the specialization on campus, at USD Sioux Falls, and using hybrid delivery. USD is not requesting additional state resources to offer the program. No new courses will be required.
>
> Board office staff recommends approval of the program.

ATTACHMENTS
> Attachment I – New Specialization Request Form: USD – Applied Behavior Analysis – MS in Health Sciences

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DRAFT MOTION 20230621_7-F(2):
> I move to authorize USD to offer a specialization in Applied Behavior Analysis within the MS in Health Sciences, as presented.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

New Specialization

Use this form to propose a new specialization within an existing degree program. Specializations provide students with an alternative to the primary format of the major or it may be one of several tracks within a broad major. Specializations contain courses within the discipline(s) of the existing program. Specializations appear in the institutional catalog and on the transcript. Majors that offer specializations typically have one-third to two-thirds of the credits in common with the remaining course work fulfilling the requirements of the specialization(s) offered. 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 Specialization Form to the university website for review by other universities after approval by the Executive Director and Chief Academic Officer.

UNIVERSITY:	**University of South Dakota**
TITLE OF PROPOSED SPECIALIZATION:	**Applied Behavior Analysis**
NAME OF DEGREE PROGRAM IN WHICH SPECIALIZATION IS OFFERED:	**Master of Science, Health Sciences**
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	**Fall 2024**
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	**510000**
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	**Public Health and Health Sciences**
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	**UHSC**
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	**School of Health Sciences**
BANNER DIVISION CODE:	**2H**

X	<u>**Please check this box to confirm that**</u> **(place an "X" in the left box):** • The individual preparing this request has read AAC Guideline 2.6, which pertains to new specialization 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.

Elizabeth M. Freeburg	4/20/2023
Institutional Approval Signature	Date
President or Chief Academic Officer of the University	

1. Level of the Specialization (place an "X" before the specialization):

	Baccalaureate	X	Master's		Doctoral

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

    Applied Behavior Analysis, or ABA, is a scientific approach to discovering environmental variables that reliably influence significant social behavior and developing a behavior change technology that takes practical advantage of those discoveries. The ABA specialization establishes a pathway for graduate students to obtain BCBA certification.

3. **Provide a justification for the specialization, 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.

    South Dakota has a significant shortage of trained professionals holding the BCBA credential. The landscape and demand for ABA services provided by professional behavior analysts has changed significantly in the last decade. Since 2010, there has been a 1,942% increase in demand for these professionals.[1] With the establishment of South Dakota's codified law 58-17-157 mandating insurance coverage for ABA for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders, the need for professionals trained in ABA continues to grow exponentially.[2] In addition, South Dakota codified law 36-38-6 established the licensing and regulating authority to oversee the professional practice of behavior analysts, creating the opportunity for expanding practice within South Dakota.[3] The remaining strategy for making significant gains in filling this workforce gap and providing much-needed care to individuals across our state was to establish a training program to credential BCBA professionals.

    The current BCBA graduate certificate program is an approved curriculum by the Association for Behavior Analysis International (ABAI) toward the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Board Certified Behavior Analyst® examination. The proposal is to move the BCBA curriculum into a Master's level program as a specialization track. This will meet the proposed new requirements that an applicant must be master's prepared for eligibility to sit for the BACB exam.

    [1] Behavior Analyst Certification Board. (2019). US employment demand for behavior analysts: 2010-2018. Littleton, CO

    [2] http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=58-17-157

    [3] http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&Statute=36-38-6

    The MS in Health Sciences and BCBA curricula already have existing content. The proposal is to move the stand along BCBA graduate certificate program into the MS in Health Sciences as a specialization track. 2032 Eligibility Pathway: The Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) committee has proposed guidance on the elimination of Pathway 2 (Behavior Analytic Coursework)[1] meaning that all BCBA applicants would qualify by earning a master's degree in behavior analysis, which is the conventional pathway in most major professions. Because BCBA certification requirements are reviewed approximately every five years, and universities may need time to develop their program(s) to meet ABAI accreditation standards, the BACB committee announced in the March 2022 Newsletter

(https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/BACB_March2022_Newsletter-220713.pdf) that the Board Certified Behavior Analysis (BCBA) profession must effectively prepare for and achieve what will perhaps be the terminal educational requirement for BCBA certification: a comprehensive, integrated, program-based education in behavior analysis as defined by ABAI accreditation. BACB committee will no longer accept

2032 BCBA Eligibility Pathway

	Pathway 1: ABAI-Accredited Degree Program
Degree	Master's degree or higher from an ABAI-accredited degree program (ABAI Tier 1)
Behavior-analytic content	
Fieldwork	Practical fieldwork in applied behavior analysis

USD will continue to offer the BCBA Graduate Certificate option with a plan to admit the last cohort of students in Fall 2028.

4. **List the proposed curriculum for the specialization (including the requirements for completing the major – highlight courses in the specialization):**

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
Teaching (6 credits)				
HSC	795	Practicum	3	No
Choose one course from the following:				
AHED	701	Adult Learning Theories	3	No
AHED	751	College Curriculum	3	No
HSC	601	Principles and Concepts ABA I	3	No
		Advisor approved elective		
Leadership & Issues in Health & Human Services (6 credits)				
HSC	700	Globalization and Health	3	No
HSC	760	Leadership in Health Care	3	No
OCTH	759	Trauma Informed Care: Pediatrics	3	No
ACP	754	Public Policy & Addiction	3	No
PUBH	740	Introduction to Health Systems and Policy	3	No
PUBH	750	Social & Behavioral Sciences in Public Health	3	No
SOCW	600	Social Policy Analysis	3	No
SOCW	640	Diversity & Social Justice in Rural & Urban Communities	3	No
HSC	606	ABA in Practice: Ethics	3	No
		Advisor Approved Elective		
Research (6 credits)				
Choose one course from the following:				
PUBH	701	Biostatistics for Public Health	3	No
PUBH	710	Epidemiology	3	No
HSC	602	Single Subject Research Design	3	No
HSC	603	Principles and Concepts ABA II	3	No
Choose one course from the following:				
HSC or CPHD	703	Grant Writing and Grantsmanship	3	No

Prefix	Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
HSC	763	Qualitative Research Methods in the Health Sciences	3	No
HSC	890	Seminar* *Only available to students in the PhD in Health Sciences track	3	No
Capstone (3 credits)				
HSC	788	Master's Research Problems/Projects	3	No
Discipline-Related Coursework (9 credits)				
		Transfer Credit Subject to Advisor and Graduate Committee Approval		
HSC	604	Behavior Assessment	4	No
HSC	605	Behavior Change Procedures	4	No
HSC	607	ABA in Practice: Supervision	1	No

Total number of hours required for completion of specialization | 21
Total number of hours required for completion of major | 30
Total number of hours required for completion of degree | 30

5. 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., UC Sioux Falls, Capital University Center, Black Hills State University-Rapid City, etc.) or deliver the entire specialization through distance technology (e.g., as an on-line program)?

	Yes/No	*Intended Start Date*
On campus	No	

	Yes/No	*If Yes, list location(s)*	*Intended Start Date*
Off campus	Yes	USD Sioux Falls	**Fall 2024**

	Yes/No	*If Yes, identify delivery methods* *Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 5.5.*	*Intended Start Date*
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	No		

B. Complete the following chart to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver more than 50% but less than 100% of the specialization 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*
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	Yes	U15 Internet asynchronous – term based instruction U18 Internet synchronous U30 Blended/Hybrid	Fall 2024