

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs
Consent

AGENDA ITEM: 8 – J
DATE: June 22-23, 2022

SUBJECT

Accelerated Masters Agreement – NSU – BA in Sociology & USD Master of Social Work

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

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

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Northern State University (NSU) and the University of South Dakota (USD) are seeking the approval of an Accelerated Masters Agreement, which would create an accelerated 3+2 program for students completing NSU’s BA in Sociology, allowing them to be accepted into complete USD’s Master of Social Work (MSW) program.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

Up to 12 of the first credits the student earns in the MSW program at USD will also count as general electives toward the 120 credits required for the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at NSU. Up to 12 credits of 600-level courses from the MSW will apply towards both programs. Students must complete all requirements of the BA in Sociology at NSU with grades of “C” or higher to be admitted into the MSW program at USD with a 3.0 GPA. Students must apply and be accepted into the USD standard track MSW program to begin in the Fall semester.

Board office staff recommends approval.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – Accelerated Masters Agreement: NSU & USD

DRAFT MOTION 20220622_8-J:

I move to approve the Accelerated Master’s Agreement between Northern State University and the University of South Dakota, as presented.

ACCELERATED MASTER'S AGREEMENT

Towards the
Master of Social Work Degree
 Between
 NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY (NSU)
 and
 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA (USD)

I. Parties

The parties to this agreement are University of South Dakota (USD), Vermillion, SD and Northern State University (NSU), Aberdeen, SD.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to:

- A. have a signed agreement addressing the varying needs of students and the complementary nature of the institutions' programs;
- B. provide increased educational opportunities for students from the region;
- C. extend and clarify educational opportunities for students; and
- D. provide NSU students who have completed the required pre-requisite coursework an opportunity to pursue and earn a Master of Social Work from the University of South Dakota, streamlining the process from the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at NSU to the Master of Social Work at USD by creating a 3 + 2 model.

III. Academic Program

- A. Upon successful completion of the required pre-requisite coursework specified below, USD will offer guarantee of admission to the Master of Social Work (MSW) in this agreement and accept coursework in the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Students must successfully complete these courses with a "C" or higher at NSU prior to entry into the MSW program at USD for this agreement to apply. Students must meet all South Dakota Board of Regents policies and university graduation requirements in order to receive a degree.
- B. Up to 12 of the first credits a student earns in the MSW program at USD will count as general electives toward the 120 credits required for the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at NSU. Up to 12 credits from the MSW will apply towards both programs, i.e., the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (to complete the degree) at NSU and the Master of Social Work (to start the degree) at USD.
- C. Students must complete all requirements of the BA in Sociology at NSU to earn a BA in Sociology from NSU. Students must complete all requirements of the MSW from USD to earn a MSW from USD. Requirements to be completed at NSU and USD to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (NSU) and Master of Social Work (USD) are outlined below.
- D. Students must meet all NSU Graduation Requirements, including the residency requirement to graduate with a BA in Sociology from NSU. Specifically, students must complete fifteen of the last 30 hours earned preceding completion of the baccalaureate degree in NSU institutional credit.
- E. The student must apply and be accepted into the USD standard track MSW program to begin in the Fall semester. Under this agreement, the USD graduate dean gives approval to NSU BA Sociology students to take up to 12 credits at the 600 level from USD MSW program, and NSU provost gives approval to NSU BA Sociology students to take up to 12 credits at the 600 level from USD MSW program and count these credits toward the undergraduate degree.
- F. Students retain the right to transfer from NSU to USD at any point, in accordance with SDBOR policies.

NSU Coursework (must be taken at NSU unless noted):

Northern State University Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

First Year Fall	
Course	Credit
IDL 190, Freshman Seminar	2
ENGL 101, Composition I	3
CJUS 201, Introduction to Criminal Justice	3
SOC 100, Introduction to Sociology	3
MATH 114/L, College Algebra	4
Elective*	3
*Course could be taken during summer.	17-18
Second Year Fall	
Course	Credit
Introductory or Intermediate Foreign Language	4
BIOL 211/L, Environmental Biology	3
Human Values Course (see catalog)	3
SOC 281, Socio-Cultural Theory	3
SOC 483, Gender Roles (Strat and Inequality Elec)	3
Elective*	3
	18-19
*Course could be taken during summer.	
Third Year Fall	
Course	Credit
SOC 270, Introduction to Social Work	3
SOC 315, Social Work Practice I	3
Sociology Elective Course (see catalog)	3
SOC 400, Social Policy	3
Elective or Minor Course	3
Elective*	3
*Course could be taken during summer.	18
Fourth Year Fall (NSU); First Year Fall (USD MSW) **	
Course	Credit
SOCW 601 History and Philosophy of SW **	3
SOCW 610 Generalist Practice I **	3
SOCW 641 Human Behavior in Social Environment**	3
SOCW 683 Field Education **I (16 – 20 hours per week)	3
**Course will also count toward NSU Sociology undergraduate degree.	12
**Student applies for graduation from NSU with a BA in Sociology and graduates in December. Beginning in the spring semester (second semester of MSW coursework), the student will become a USD graduate student.	

First Year Spring	
Course	Credit
ENGL 201, Composition II	3
SPCM 101, Fundamentals of Speech	3
MUS 100, Music Appreciation	3
HIST 121, Western Civilization I	3
BIOL 101/L, Biology Survey I	3
Elective*	3
*Course could be taken during summer.	18
Second Year Spring	
Course	Credit
ENGL 210, Introduction to Literature	3
CJUS 380, Research and Data Analysis in Criminal Justice	3
SOC 350, Race and Ethnic Relations (Strat and Inequality Elec)	3
SOC 396, Field Experience/ (Traveling Classroom in Summer)	1-3
Elective or Minor Course	3
Sociology Elective Course (see catalog)	3
Elective*	3
*Course could be taken during summer.	19+
Third Year Spring	
Course	Credit
SOC 320, Social Work Practice II	3
Social Institution Course (see catalog)	3
SOC 485, Social Science Capstone	3
Sociology Elective Course (see catalog)	3
Sociology Elective Course (see catalog)	3
Elective*	3
*Course could be taken during summer.	18
First Year Spring (USD MSW)	
Course	Credit
SOCW 600 Social Policy	3
SOCW 630 Practice with Small Groups	3
SOCW 640 Diversity and Social Justice	3
SOCW 684 Field Education II (16 – 20 hours per week)	3
	12

USD Coursework (must be taken at USD unless noted):

Second Year Summer (USD MSW)	
Course	Credit
SOCW 712 Advanced Child Welfare Practice	3
SOCW 741 Social Work in Mental Health: Assessment and Treatment	3
Advisor Approved Elective	3
Advisor Approved Elective	3
	12

Second Year Fall (USD MSW)		Second Year Spring (USD MSW)	
Course	Credit	Course	Credit
SOCW 730 Advanced Practice with Organizations and Communities	3	SOCW 700 Advanced Policy	3
SOCW 740 Advanced Practice with Individuals, Children, and Families	3	SOCW 750 Advanced Practice in Social Work Research	3
SOCW 783 Advanced Field Education and Seminar III (16-20 hours)	3	SOCW 784 Advanced Field Education and Seminar IV (16-20 hours)	3
Advisor Approved Elective	3	Advisor Approved Elective	3
	12		12

Additional requirements:

- A. NSU Sociology students wishing to pursue an MSW degree, must apply in the Fall semester of their junior year between September 1 and December 1. By the Spring semester of their junior year, students will be formally accepted into the MSW program at USD and start courses their senior year. To be accepted into the MSW, students from NSU must have a 3.0 grade point average. Any course taken at NSU with a grade below a "C" must be retaken at USD if required for the MSW program at USD.
- B. USD will substitute CJUS 380 Research and Data Analysis in Criminal Justice for SOC 209 Statistical Reasoning for Social Science as part of the MSW requirements. CJUS 380 includes a statistical module to meet the needs of statistical reasoning as required for the MSW.
- C. Up to 12 credit hours of the 600-level courses that will count toward Northern State University's Sociology degree as well as University of South Dakota's Social Work degree.

IV. Obligations

Both parties agree to confer with each other on a regular basis regarding changes in curricula involved in this agreement. Additionally:

- A. NSU will develop advising sheets and related materials delineating educational pathways for students to complete the USD MSW degree, starting their last semester at NSU;
- B. NSU will provide advising to students pursuing the BA in Sociology going into the MSW at USD while enrolled as NSU students;
- C. NSU will market this educational pathway in cooperation with USD; all marketing materials need to be approved by both NSU and USD;
- D. USD will support the development of the repertoire of MSW courses for online delivery to allow students at NSU to complete these courses in their final semester of the NSU BA in Sociology.
- E. NSU will help support a student-mentorship program (e.g., student instructors) to facilitate select coursework mastery.

V. Modifications

This agreement may be modified from time to time by the South Dakota Board of Regents. Modifications may not diminish the entitlements enjoyed by students who have already attended classes delivered under the terms of earlier versions of the agreement, except in rare instances in which retroactive implementation of modifications may be required to comply with accreditation standards or to conform to professional licensure requirements.

VI. Effective Date of Agreement

This agreement will go into effect at the start of the Fall 2022 semester term at NSU and USD.

VII. Acceptance of Agreement

For the University of South Dakota:

Dean, School of Health Sciences

Date: _____

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Date: _____

President

Date: _____

For Northern State University:

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Date: _____

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Date: _____

President

Date: _____