SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS
Substantive Program Modification Form

Use this form to request minor changes in existing programs (majors, minors, certificates, or specializations).

UNIVERSITY:	**Black Hills State University**
CURRENT PROGRAM DEGREE:	**Business Administration**
CURRENT PROGRAM MAJOR/MINOR:	**Business Administration**
CURRENT SPECIALIZATION *(If applicable)*:	**Accounting**
CIP CODE:	**520201 Business Major** **52.03.01 Accounting. Specialization**
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	**College of Business**
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	**BSCB**
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE:	**College of Business**
BANNER COLLEGE CODE:	**6U**

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.

Pamela Canivan
Vice President of Academic Affairs or
President of the University

3/11/26
Date

1. **This modification addresses a change in (*place an "X" in the appropriate box*):**
   - [ ] Total credits required within the discipline
   - [ ] Total credits of elective course work
   - [ ] Program name
   - [ ] CIP Code
   - [ ] Modification requiring Board of Regents approval
     Must have prior approval from Executive Director or designee
   - [ ] Total credits of supportive course work
   - [ ] Total credits required for program
   - [X] Existing specialization
   - [ ] Other (explain below)

Effective date of change: August 3, 2026

3. **Program Degree Level (*place an "X" in the appropriate box*):**
   [ ] Associate [X] Bachelor's [ ] Master's [ ] Doctoral

Category (*place an "X" in the appropriate box*):
[ ] Certificate [X] Specialization [ ] Minor [ ] Major

If a name change is proposed, the change will occur (*place an "X" in the appropriate box*):
- [ ] On the effective date for all students
- [ ] On the effective date for students new to the program (enrolled students will graduate from existing program)

Proposed new name: ____

Reminder: Name changes may require updating related articulation agreements, site approvals, etc.

6. **Is the program associated with a current articulation agreement?** No
   a. **If yes, will the articulation agreement need to be updated with the partner institution as a result of this minor program modification? Why or why not?**

7. Primary Aspects of the Modification (*add lines or adjust cell size as needed*):

Existing Curriculum				*Proposed Curriculum (highlight changes)*			
Pref.	**Num.**	**Title**	**Cr. Hrs.**	**Pref.**	**Num.**	**Title**	**Cr. Hrs.**
		Business Core	51			**Business Core**	51
		Accounting Specialization				**Accounting Specialization**	
ACCT	310	Intermediate Accounting I	3	ACCT	310	Intermediate Accounting I	3
ACCT	311	Intermediate Accounting II	3	ACCT	311	Intermediate Accounting II	3
ACCT	430	Income Tax Accounting	3	ACCT	430	Income Tax Accounting	3
ACCT	450	Auditing	3	ACCT	450	Auditing	3
ACCT	460	Managerial Accounting	3	ACCT	460	Managerial Accounting	3
ACCT	480	Advanced Accounting	3	ACCT	480	Advanced Accounting	3
				ACCT	300/400	Any two (2) 300/400-level ACCT elective courses/ Only three (3) credits may be taken as ACCT 494.	6
		Total number of hours required for major, minor, or specialization	18			Total number of hours required for major, minor, or specialization	24
		Total number of hours required for degree	120			Total number of hours required for degree	120

8. Explanation of the Change:

In January 2024, the South Dakota Board of Accountancy revised the eligibility requirements for candidates seeking to sit for the CPA examination. While the requirement of 24 credit hours of accounting coursework remains in place, Principles of Accounting and 200-level accounting courses may no longer be applied toward this total.

Per the South Dakota Board of Accountancy CPA eligibility requirements from https://dlr.sd.gov/accountancy/cpa_exam.aspx ... "Both a major in accounting or a course of study substantially equivalent to a major in accounting must include 24 semester hours in accounting at the undergraduate or graduate level from an accredited college or university, not including elementary principles of accounting and at least one course in each of the following: intermediate or advanced accounting, auditing, taxation and cost accounting. A degree in accounting or a course of study substantially equivalent to a major in accounting must also include 24 semester hours in business courses other than accounting courses at the undergraduate or graduate level."

Additionally, legislation proposing an alternative pathway to CPA licensure is expected to be considered by the South Dakota Legislature in spring 2026 (House Bill 1035). Under this proposed pathway, candidates holding a bachelor's degree consisting of 120 credit hours would be permitted to sit for the CPA examination, with licensure requiring two years of relevant professional experience. The current 150-hour pathway (requiring one year of professional experience) would remain available. Students pursuing the 150-hour pathway may continue to do so through the Professional Accountancy degree, which meets all current eligibility requirements. However, the accounting specialization within the BSBA does not currently produce CPA-eligible graduates under either pathway: under the 150-hour option, students cannot qualify even with an additional 30 credits because the specialization's accounting coursework relies on Principles courses that no longer count toward the 24-hour requirement; under the proposed 120-hour option, the specialization would still fall two accounting courses short of that requirement. The proposed curriculum revision would address both issues, ensuring

the accounting specialization provides a viable pathway to CPA eligibility regardless of whether HB 1035 passes.

Specific information from the SD legislature can be found at (https://sdlegislature.gov/Session/Bill/26664). As of January 2026, twenty-six states Twenty-six states have already enacted similar laws including Iowa, Minnesota, and Montana. Twelve to fifteen others (including Nebraska) have similar bills in front of their state legislatures this year. We want to ensure that BHSU is ahead of the changes so that our students have the degree that equips them for the CPA credential.

The current specialization does not satisfy existing CPA exam eligibility standards. Revising the specialization is necessary to ensure compliance with updated requirements and to align with the proposed alternative licensure pathway. The revised structure will ensure that students complete an appropriate number of upper-level accounting credits to be eligible for the CPA examination.

For substantial modifications requiring Board approval, complete the items below. References to external sources should be documented with a footnote (including web addresses where applicable).

9. Date of approval from the Executive Director or designee.

10. Identify the program modification requested.

The program modification consists of adding upper level (300/400) accounting electives to the Business Administration – Accounting Specialization degree. This will increase the required credits in the specialization from 18 credits to 24 credits. This will not increase the total credits in the degree.

11. Provide justification for the desired modification.

The CPA is the most common professional licensure pursued by accounting graduates. Recent changes to South Dakota Board of Accountancy requirements mean the current Accounting Specialization does not produce CPA-eligible graduates. This modification rectifies that.

12. Would the requested modification require a change to the catalog description and/or the program learning outcomes? If so, describe.

No.

13. Indicate the number of students currently enrolled in the program.

As of spring 2026, there are 47 students enrolled in this program.

14. Describe the real impact to students.

Students will take two additional accounting electives to ensure that they meet the requirements to take the CPA exam under either of the pathways to licensure (120 credits or 150 credits).

15. Describe the real impact to the university.

BHSU would continue to provide degree options for students to pursue their accounting degree and meet the appropriate requirements to sit for the CPA exam under either of the two pathways to licensure (120 credits or 150 credits).

16. Describe any cost associated with the program modification.

The accounting courses required are already taught at BHSU so there would be no additional costs.

17. Describe any risks and unintended consequences associated with the program modification.

There are no risks or unintended consequences with this program modification.

18. Would this modification be effective for current and future students, or only students who enroll following the change?

This modification would be effective for future students who enroll after the change has been made.