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:	**Master of Science**
CURRENT PROGRAM MAJOR/MINOR:	**Strategic Leadership**
CURRENT SPECIALIZATION *(If applicable)*:	**NA**
CIP CODE:	**521003**
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	**School of Behavioral Sciences**
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	**BSBS**
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE:	**College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences**
BANNER COLLEGE CODE:	**6S**

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 Camivean

Vice President of Academic Affairs or
President of the University

August 19, 2026
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
- [X] Total credits required for program
- [ ] Existing specialization
- [ ] Other (explain below)

Effective date of change:

3. Program Degree Level (*place an "X" in the appropriate box*):

[ ] Associate [ ] Bachelor's [X] Master's [ ] Doctoral

Category (*place an "X" in the appropriate box*):

[ ] Certificate [ ] Specialization [ ] Minor [X] 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
- [X] On the effective date for students new to the program (enrolled students will graduate from existing program)

Proposed new name: _NA___

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

6. Is the program associated with a current articulation agreement? (Yes or No) 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? NA**

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.**
SLDR	710	Leadership and Innovation	3	SLDR	710	Leadership and Innovation	3
SLDR	728	Levels of Leadership	3	SLDR	728	Levels of Leadership	3
SLDR	740	Leading Change: Ethics and Social Responsibility	3	SLDR	740	Leading Change: Ethics and Social Responsibility	3
SLDR	748	Social Change and Diversity	3	SLDR	748	Social Change and Diversity	3
SLDR	752	Strategic Decision Making	3	SLDR	752	Strategic Decision Making	3
SLDR	695	Practicum	3	SLDR	695	Practicum	3
SLDR	775	Mentoring	3	SLDR	775	Mentoring	3
SLDR	770	Visioning and Strategic Planning	3	SLDR	770	Visioning and Strategic Planning	3
		Elective #1	3			Elective #1	3
		Elective #2	3			Elective #2	3
		Elective #3	3			~~Elective #3~~	~~3~~
		Total number of hours required for major, minor, or specialization	33			Total number of hours required for major, minor, or specialization	30
		Total number of hours required for degree	33			Total number of hours required for degree	30

8. **Explanation of the Change:** Reducing credit hours required from 33 to 30 hours.

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.**
Eliminate one required elective course from the Master of Science in Strategic Leadership degree, reducing it from 33 hours to 30 hours.

11. **Provide justification for the desired modification.**
Eliminating a required elective credit will streamline the MSSL program bringing it to 30 hours (making it competitive with similar degree programs in leadership, nationally) and will facilitate a "4+1" option for BHSU students who would like the option of potentially completing a master's degree within one additional year of completing their undergraduate degree. Elective credit is, by definition, "optional" so this proposed change does not alter anything previously deemed essential / core to the program.

12. **Would the requested modification require a change to the catalog description and/or the program learning outcomes? If so, describe.**
No change to learning outcomes. No change to catalogue description (save for mention of total hours required)

13. **Indicate the number of students currently enrolled in the program.**
32

14. **Describe the real impact to students.**
    Student have the option of a more streamlined master's degree program, which gets them into the world with one degree above an undergraduate degree with only one more year of effort (in the case of the "4 + 1" option which this change would facilitate as an option.

15. **Describe the real impact to the university.**
    The impact to the university is the opportunity to gain market share by competitively streamlining a graduate degree program. Additionally, the university stands to gain the retention of undergraduate students who would likely leave BHSU entirely after matriculation. Being able to sew up a master's degree with just one more year of school would, in effect, allow BHSU to retain students who would otherwise certainly depart the campus (i.e., we don't have to bring a student "back to campus for the graduate degree" if they never left campus to begin with).

16. **Describe any cost associated with the program modification.**
    No foreseeable costs are involved with this proposed change.

17. **Describe any risks and unintended consequences associated with the program modification.**
    During the transition there could be some communication for some students regarding requirements (e.g., if university materials are not updated in a timely fashion).

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