SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

New Certificate

Use this form to propose a certificate program at either the undergraduate or graduate level. A certificate program is a sequence, pattern, or group of academic credit courses that focus upon an area of specialized knowledge or information and develop a specific skill set. Certificate programs typically are a subset of the curriculum offered in degree programs, include previously approved courses, and involve 9-12 credit hours including prerequisites. In some cases, standards for licensure will state explicit requirements leading to certificate programs requiring more than 12 credit hours (in such cases, exceptions to course or credit requirements must be justified and approved). 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 Certificate Form to the university website for review by other universities after approval by the Executive Director and Chief Academic Officer.

UNIVERSITY:	BHSU
TITLE OF PROPOSED CERTIFICATE:	**American Indian Studies**
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	**~~Spring2027~~ Fall 2026**
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	**05.0202**
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	**School of Math & Social Sciences**
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	**BSMS**
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	**College of Liberal Arts**
BANNER DIVISION CODE:	**6A**

☒ **Please check this box to confirm that:**

- The individual preparing this request has read AAC Guideline 2.3.2.2.C, which pertains to new certificate 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.

Pamela Carrivean
Institutional Approval Signature
President or Chief Academic Officer of the University

Click here to enter a date. 4/16/26
Date

Note: In the responses below, references to external sources, including data sources, should be documented with a footnote (including web addresses where applicable).

1. **Is this a graduate-level certificate or undergraduate-level certificate (*place an "X" in the appropriate box*)?**

   Undergraduate Certificate ☒ Graduate Certificate ☐

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

   It is the aim to foster genuine cross-cultural understanding throughout our regional workforce. The online certificate in American Indian Studies will help prepare community members, and career professionals, who want to learn more about the history and culture of native peoples in South Dakota, and the surrounding area.

3. **If you do not have a major in this field, explain how the proposed certificate relates to your university mission and strategic plan, and to the current Board of Regents Strategic Plan 2014-2020.**
   Links to the applicable State statute, Board Policy, and the Board of Regents Strategic Plan are listed below for each campus.

BHSU:	*SDCL § 13-59*	*BOR Policy 1.2.1*
DSU:	*SDCL § 13-59*	*BOR Policy 1.2.2*
NSU:	*SDCL § 13-59*	*BOR Policy 1.2.3*
SDSMT:	*SDCL § 13-60*	*BOR Policy 1.2.4*
SDSU:	*SDCL § 13-58*	*BOR Policy 1.2.5*
USD:	*SDCL § 13-57*	*BOR Policy 1.2.6*

   Board of Regents Strategic Plan

   BHSU is currently authorized to deliver programs in American Indian Studies. This certificate in American Indian Studies is in alignment with the university's mission, as a regional, comprehensive, public institution that provides access to a higher education for aspiring students and American Indian Studies is a key component to BHSU.

4. **Provide a justification for the certificate program, 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.*

   This certificate in American Indian Studies will enhance the ability of students and professionals to think in a non-traditional, non-Western way and interact more effectively with American Indian populations. Students who complete the certificate will promote cultural sensitivity, provide cultural competency, and gain a deeper insight into the Native American tribes in the South Dakota region and beyond.

5. **Who is the intended audience for the certificate program (including but not limited to the majors/degree programs from which students are expected)?**

   The American Indian Studies Certificate is intended for both American Indian students, local residents, and professionals with a strong desire to serve the American Indian population

from all degree programs. American Indian students are historically an underrepresented minority group at mainstream colleges and universities nationwide, including South Dakota.

The intended audience is in local and regional industries to allow their staff members to participate in this cultural literacy program to better serve our communities.

6. **Certificate Design**
   A. **Is the certificate designed as a stand-alone education credential option for students not seeking additional credentials (i.e., a bachelor's or master's degree)? If so, what areas of high workforce demand or specialized body of knowledge will be addressed through this certificate?**

      Yes. Courses that comprise the certificate will cover current and historical aspects of Native American art, literature, contemporary issues, healthcare, public utilities, law, human services, banking, and business. This certificate could also be available to students who attend BHSU, or could be applied to BHSU's American Indian Studies major, or minor.

   B. **Is the certificate a value added credential that supplements a student's major field of study? If so, list the majors/programs from which students would most benefit from adding the certificate.**

      Yes. Students in a variety of majors could benefit from adding this certificate, particularly students in the following majors offered at Black Hills State University:
      - American Indian Studies
      - History
      - Political Science
      - Psychology
      - Sociology/Human Services
      - Business Administration
      - Education
      - Fine Arts
      - English
      - Communications & Media

   C. **Is the certificate a stackable credential with credits that apply to a higher level credential (i.e., associate, bachelor's, or master's degree)? If so, indicate the program(s) to which the certificate stacks and the number of credits from the certificate that can be applied to the program.**

      Yes. This certificate stacks with the B.S. in American Indian Studies. All 12 credits from the certificate can be applied to the American Indian Studies major or minor.

7. **List the courses required for completion of the certificate in the table below (if any new courses are proposed for the certificate, please attach the new course requests to this form).** *Certificate programs by design are limited in the number of credit hours required for completion. Certificate programs consist of nine (9) to twelve (12) credit hours, including*

prerequisite courses. In addition, certificates typically involve existing courses. If the curriculum consists of more than twelve (12) credit hours (including prerequisites) or includes new courses, please provide explanation and justification below.

Prefix	Number	Course Title *(add or delete rows as needed)*	Prerequisites for Course *Include credits for prerequisites in subtotal below.*	Credit Hours	New (yes, no)
AIS/HIST	257	Early American Indian History and Culture (online)		3	No
AIS/HIST	369	Modern American Indian History and Culture (online)		3	No
AIS/SOC	422	Issues in Contemporary Indian Life (online)		3	No
AIS/SOC	444	Native Societies of the Northern Plains (online)	AIS/HIST 257	3	No
			Subtotal	12	

8. Student Outcome and Demonstration of Individual Achievement.
Board Policy 2:23 requires certificate programs to "have specifically defined student learning outcomes.

A. What specific knowledge and competencies, including technology competencies, will all students demonstrate before graduation? *The knowledge and competencies should be specific to the program and not routinely expected of all university graduates.*

- Students will have an increased understanding of the social, cultural, political, and economic history of the Indigenous peoples of North American. Study the analysis of American Indian life that includes an inquiry of government policies, economies, and social adjustment to non-Native societies. As well as the cultural changes related to Tribal citizens on and off the reservations.

B. Complete the table below to list specific learning outcomes – knowledge and competencies – for courses in the proposed program in each row. *Label each column heading with a course prefix and number. Indicate required courses with an asterisk (*). Indicate with an X in the corresponding table cell for any student outcomes that will be met by the courses included. All students should acquire the program knowledge and competencies regardless of the electives selected. Modify the table as necessary to provide the requested information for the proposed program.*

Individual Student Outcome (Same as in the text of the proposal)	AIS/HIS T 257	AIS/HIS T 369	AIS/SOC 422	AIS/SOC 444
Develop knowledge of the historical aspects of social, cultural, political, and economic history of the Indigenous peoples of North America.	X			X

Survey the Social, cultural, political, and economic history Indigenous peoples of North America in the modern era.		X	X	X
Analyze current Indigenous life, inquiring government policies, economics, and social adjustment to non-Indigenous society and life off the reservation.			X	
Examine the culture of the Siouan speaking tribes of the Northern Plains by looking into the identities, communication and organization, and past events of the Lakota, Nakota, Dakota peoples				X

Modify the table as necessary to include all student outcomes. Outcomes in this table are to be the same ones identified in the text.

9. 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., USD Community College for Sioux Falls, Black Hills State University-Rapid City, Capital City Campus, etc.) or deliver the entire program through distance technology (e.g., as an on-line program)?

	Yes/No	***Intended Start Date***
On campus	Yes	Choose an item. Choose an item.

	Yes/No	***If Yes, list location(s)***	***Intended Start Date***
Off campus	Yes	Crazy Horse Memorial 12151 Avenue of the Chiefs Crazy Horse, SD 57730	**Spring 2027**

	Yes/No	***If Yes, identify delivery methods*** *Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 2.4.3.B.*	***Intended Start Date***
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	Yes	~~X15~~ K15 ~~X18~~ K18 ~~X01~~ K07	
Does another BOR institution already have authorization to offer the program online?	No	**If yes, identify institutions:**	

B. Complete the following chart to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver more than 50% but less than 100% of the certificate 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	Face to Face Online	**Spring** **2027**

10. **Additional Information:** *Additional information is optional. Use this space to provide pertinent information not requested above. Limit the number and length of additional attachments. Identify all attachments with capital letters. Letters of support are not necessary and are rarely included with Board materials. The University may include responses to questions from the Board or the Executive Director as appendices to the original proposal where applicable. Delete this item if not used.*