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:	**Lakȟóta Language Certificate**
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	**Fall 2026**
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	**16.1001**
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.

Institutional Approval Signature
President or Chief Academic Officer of the University

Click here to enter a date.
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.**

The Certificate in Lakȟóta Language at Black Hills State University will provide both introductory and intermediate Lakota language skills, these skill include pronunciation, speech patterns, environmental and cultural contexts, and sentence structure. Develop emphasis on grammar, expanded vocabulary, continued practice in reading, writing, and speaking, and analysis of Lakota language.

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. The university's mission, as a regional, comprehensive, public institution that provides access to a higher education for aspiring students. To promote excellence in teaching and public engagement and serving as a regional economic leader. The Lakȟóta Language Certificate will contribute to BHSU's missions by helping students learn the language that is indigenous to the land on which BHSU resides. Many students and residents of the Black Hills area are Lakota, and this is their ancestral language. The Lakȟóta language is deeply important culturally, historically, spiritually, and socially. It's much more than just a way to communicate. It carries identity, worldview, and ancestral knowledge.

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.*

The benefits of this certificate highlight a need for intercultural competence across many professions. The certificate will assist with the demand for individuals across the State of South Dakota who can communicate and teach the Lakota language, including equipping K – 12 educators with the Lakota language ability and skills in the state and region.

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

   This 14-credit certificate is intended for students in the American Indian Studies major, along with other majors in the School of Math and Social Sciences. This certificate will also be useful for students seeking education degrees and professionals that are integrated into the Native communities of South Dakota.

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 provide foundational communication skills in Lakota to those who engage within the native communities across the State of South Dakota and region beyond.

   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.**

      - Psychology
      - Sociology/Human Services
      - Business Administration
      - Education
      - Fine Arts
      - Political Science
      - 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 14 credits from the certificate can be applied to the American Indian Studies major or minor. In addition, six or more credits, can be applied towards the Board of Regents General Education Requirements Goal #4 – Arts & Humanities and the language requirement for the Bachelors of Art.

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)**
LAKL/AIS	101	Introductory Lakota I		4	No
LAKL/AIS	102	Introductory Lakota II	LAKL/AIS 101	4	No
LAKL/AIS	201	Intermediate Lakota I	LAKL/AIS 101 + LAKL/AIS 102	3	No
LAKL/AIS	202	Intermediate Lakota II	LAKL/AIS 101 + LAKL/AIS 102	3	No
			Subtotal	14	

Please note on credit hour deviation: The credit hour total exceeds 12 credits because the two beginning language classes are 4-credit courses.

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.*

At completion of the certificate students will be able to:

- Demonstrate oral and written communication skill ability up to the intermediate low proficiency in Lakȟóta.
- Gain cultural competency awareness through cultural perspectives and behavior

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)	LAKL/ AIS 101	LAKL/ AIS 102	LAKL/ AIS 201	LAKL/ AIS 202
Students will demonstrate ability up to the intermediate low proficiency level in oral and written Lakota. Including pronunciation, speech patterns, grammar, and continued practice in reading, writing, and speaking	X	X	X	X

Students will demonstrate awareness of and respect for differences in cultural perspectives, environmental and cultural contexts, behavior, and languages	X	X	X	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	**Fall 2027**

	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	**Fall 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 X01 X18	**Fall 2027**
Does another BOR institution already have authorization to offer the program online?	Yes	**If yes, identify institutions: South Dakota State University**	

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	**Fall 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.*