SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

New Course Request

Use this form to request a new common or unique course. Consult the system course database through for information about existing courses before submitting this form.

BHSU	**College of Natural & Behavioral Science (Natural Science)**
Institution	**Division/Department**

Pamela Canivean	Click here to enter 12/2025
Institutional Approval Signature	**Date**

Section 1. Course Title and Description

If the course contains a lecture and laboratory component, identify both the lecture and laboratory numbers (xxx and xxxL) and credit hours associated with each. Provide the complete description as you wish it to appear in the system course database, including pre-requisites, co-requisites, and registration restrictions.

Prefix & No.	Course Title	Credits
GEOL 375	Environmental Geochemistry	3

NOTE: The Enrollment Services Center assigns the short, abbreviated course title that appears on transcripts. The short title is limited to 30 characters (including spaces); meaningful but concise titles are encouraged due to space limitations in the student information system.

Course Description

Environmental geochemistry examines the interactions among the atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere through the lens of geochemical cycles and reactions. Topics include aqueous geochemistry, weathering, redox processes, acid-base equilibria, and fate and transport of contaminants. Applications emphasize environmental change, pollution, and geochemical models for assessing human and natural impacts on the environment.

NOTE: Course descriptions are short, concise summaries that typically do not exceed 75 words. DO: Address the content of the course and write descriptions using active verbs (e.g., explore, learn, develop, etc.). DO NOT: Repeat the title of the course, layout the syllabus, use pronouns such as "we" and "you," or rely on specialized jargon, vague phrases, or clichés.

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites (add lines as needed)

Prefix & No.	Course Title	Pre-Req/Co-Req?
GEOL 201/L	Physical Geology and Lab	Pre-req
CHEM 112/L	General Chemistry I and Lab	Pre-req

Registration Restrictions

Section 2. Review of Course

2.1. Will this be a unique or common course (*place an "X" in the appropriate box*)?

☒ **Unique Course**
If the request is for a unique course, institutions must review the common course catalog in the system course database to determine if a comparable common course already exists. List the two closest course matches in the common course catalog and provide a brief narrative explaining why the proposed course differs from those listed. If a search of the common course catalog determines an existing common course exists, complete the Authority to Offer an Existing Course Form. Courses requested without an attempt to find comparable courses will not be reviewed.

Prefix & No.	Course Title	Credits
GEOL 421	Aqueous Geochemistry	

Provide explanation of differences between proposed course and existing system catalog courses below:

This course will provide a broader view of geochemical cycles and not simply focus on water systems. Aqueous geochemistry is centered on chemistry and reactions in natural waters; whereas this course will look at broader interactions between geology and water, but also with biology, and atmospheric cycles.

☐ **Common Course** *Indicate universities that are proposing this common course:*

☐ BHSU ☐ DSU ☐ NSU ☐ SDSMT ☐ SDSU ☐ USD

Section 3. Other Course Information

3.1. Are there instructional staffing impacts?

☐ **No.** Replacement of _____
(course prefix, course number, name of course, credits)
*Attach course deletion form

Effective date of deletion: Click here to enter a date.

☒ **No.** Schedule Management, explain below:
This course will fall into regular rotation of our geology faculty where topics courses have typically been taught

☐ **Yes.** Specify below:

3.2. Existing program(s) in which course will be offered (i.e., any current or pending majors, minors, certificates, etc.):
B.S. Environmental Physical Science; Earth Science minor

3.3. Proposed instructional method by university *(as defined by AAC Guideline 2.4.3.A)*: R

Please provide a brief description of how the course is appropriate for the instructional method, as defined in AAC Guidelines.

3.4. Proposed delivery method by university ***(as defined by*** *AAC Guideline 2.4.3.B and 2.4.3.B(A-1))*: X01 (Face-to-face)

3.5. Term change will be effective: Fall 2026

3.6. Can students repeat the course for additional credit?
☐ Yes, total credit limit: _____ ☒ No

3.7. Will grade for this course be limited to S/U (pass/fail)?
☐ Yes ☒ No

3.8. Will section enrollment be capped?
☒ Yes, max per section: 24 ☐ No

3.9. Will this course equate (i.e., be considered the same course for degree completion) with any other unique or common courses in the common course system database?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, indicate the course(s) to which the course will equate (add lines as needed):

Prefix & No.	Course Title

3.10. Is this prefix approved for your university?
☒ Yes ☐ No

If no, provide a brief justification below:

Section 4. Department and Course Codes (Completed by University Academic Affairs)

4.1. University Department: School of Natural Sciences

4.2. Banner Department Code: BSNS

4.3. Proposed CIP Code: 40.0606

Is this a new CIP code for the university? ☐ Yes ☒ No

NEW COURSE REQUEST
Supporting Justification for On-Campus Review

Abigail Domagall	Abigail Domagall	11/10/2025
Request Originator	**Signature**	**Date**
Dan Asunskis	Dan Asunskis	11-16-25
Department Chair	**Signature**	**Date**
Cynthia Anderson	Cynthia Anderson	11/17/25
School/College Dean	**Signature**	**Date**

1. Provide specific reasons for the proposal of this course and explain how the changes enhance the curriculum.
   The Environmental Physical Science program is unique to BHSU and is not a traditional geology program, so the curriculum is designed to bridge core geoscience principles with applied environmental problems. Environmental geochemistry strengthens the rigor of the EPS program which has been lacking in terms of geochemistry. This course enhances workforce readiness for our majors, especially as interest in mineral resources is on the rise again in the northern Black Hills. This course will also be essential to the Environmental Geochemistry track proposed for the Environmental Physical Science program.

2. Note whether this course is: ☐ Required ☒ Elective

3. In addition to the major/program in which this course is offered, what other majors/programs will be affected by this course?
   It is expected that this course will be added as an elective to the Earth Science minor, but should not impact any other programs

4. If this will be a dual listed course, indicate how the distinction between the two levels will be made.

5. Desired section size 24

6. Provide qualifications of faculty who will teach this course. List name(s), rank(s), and degree(s).
   Jill Schilling, Adjunct (Geochemist), M.S.

7. Note whether adequate facilities are available and list any special equipment needed for the course.
   Current facilities are adequate for this course

8. Note whether adequate library and media support are available for the course.
   Yes, adequate library and media support are available

9. Will the new course duplicate courses currently being offered on this campus?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, provide justification.

10. If this course may be offered for variable credit, explain how the amount of credit at each offering is to be determined.
    n.a.

11. Add any additional comments that will aid in the evaluation of this request.