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:	BHSU
CURRENT PROGRAM DEGREE:	B.S.
CURRENT PROGRAM MAJOR/MINOR:	Environmental Physical Science
CURRENT SPECIALIZATION *(If applicable)*:	
CIP CODE:	409999
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	School of Natural Sciences
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	BSNS
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE:	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 Canivean
Vice President of Academic Affairs or
President of the University

Click here to enter a date. 12/28/25
Date

1. This modification addresses a change in (*place an "X" in the appropriate box*):

☐ Total credits required within the discipline
☐ Total credits of supportive course work
☒ Total credits of elective course work
☐ Total credits required for program
☒ Program name
☒ Existing specialization
☐ CIP Code
☐ Other (explain below)
☐ Modification requiring Board of Regents approval
Must have prior approval from Executive Director or designee

2. **Effective date of change:** 8/24/2026

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

Associate ☐ Bachelor's ☒ Master's ☐ Doctoral ☐

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

Certificate ☐ Specialization ☐ Minor ☐ Major ☒

5. **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: Environmental Science

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

6. **Is the program being modified associated with a current articulation agreement?**

Yes ☐ No ☒

a. **If yes, will the articulation agreement need to be updated with the partner institution following the approve of the program change? Please explain:**

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.**
GEOL	201/L	Physical Geology and Lab	4		GEOL	201/L	Physical Geology and Lab	4
GEOL	203/L	Historical Geology and Lab	4				DELETE	
GEOL	340	Mineralogy/Petrology	4		GEOL	340	Mineralogy/Petrology	4
					GEOL	350	Environmental Geology	3
					GEOL	305	Professional Development (2-4)	2
					take 1 seminar			1
					CHEM	490	Senior Seminar (1)	
GEOL	490	Seminar	3		GEOL	490	Seminar (3)	
MATH	123	Calculus I	4		MATH	123	Calculus I	4

MATH	125	Calculus II	4				DELETE	
take 2 of the following science sequences			16		take 4 lecture/lab combinations of the following			16-18
BIOL	151/L	General Biology I/Lab (4)			BIOL	151/L	General Biology I/Lab (4)	
BIOL	153/L	General Biology II/Lab (4)			BIOL	153/L	General Biology II/Lab (4)	
CHEM	112/L	General Chemistry I/Lab (4)			CHEM	112/L	General Chemistry I/Lab (4)	
CHEM	114/L	General Chemistry II/Lab (4)			CHEM	114/L	General Chemistry II/Lab (4)	
PHYS	211/L	University Physics I /Lab (5)			PHYS	211/L	University Physics I /Lab (5)	
PHYS	213/L	University Physics II /Lab (5)			PHYS	213/L	University Physics II /Lab (5)	
take 4 of the following			12		**Earth Science Core**			
					GEOL	203/L	Historical Geology/Lab	4
					take 12 credits of the following			12
					BIOL	311/L	Ecology/Lab (4)	
					BIOL	373/L	Evolution/Lab (4)	
					BIOL	460/L	Plant Ecophysiology & Soils/Lab (4)	
					CHEM	355	Field Environmental Chemistry (3)	
					GEOL	180	Meteorology (USD) (3)	
GEOL	310	Volcanology (3)			GEOL	310	Volcanology (3)	
GEOL	321	Conservation of Nat. Res. (3)			GEOL	321	Conservation of Nat. Res. (3)	
GEOL	322	Structural Geology (SDSMT) (3)			GEOL	322	Structural Geology (SDSMT) (3)	
GEOL	350	Environmental Geology (3)					DELETE	
					GEOL	325	Geologic Mapping (3)	
GEOL	370	Hydrogeology (3)			GEOL	370	Hydrogeology (3)	
					GEOL	375	Environmental Geochemistry (3)	
					GEOL	392	Topics (3)	
GEOL	491	Independent Study (1-4)			GEOL	491	Independent Study (3)	
					GEOL	492	Topics (3)	
					GEOL	494	Internship (3)	
GEOL	498	Undergraduate Research			GEOL	498	Undergraduate Research (3)	
					MATH	125	Calculus II (4)	
					PHYS	185	Astronomy and Lab (3)	
SCI	388	GPS/GIS			SCI	388	GPS/GIS (3)	
SCI	494	Internship (1-4)					DELETE	
					take 2 from the following			6
					Any 200-400		MATH	
					Any 300/400		BIOL, CHEM, GEOL, PHYS	
					Environmental Geochemistry Core			
					GEOL	375	Environmental Geochemistry	3
					take 16 credits of the following			16
					BIOL	317/L	Electron Microscopy/Lab (1)	
					CHEM	326/L	Organic Chem I/Lab (4)	

					CHEM	328/L	Organic Chem II/Lab (4)	
					CHEM	332/L	Analytical Chem/Lab (4)	
					CHEM	342	Physical Chemistry I (3)	
					CHEM	344	Physical Chemistry II (3)	
					CHEM	355	Field Environmental Chemistry (3)	
					CHEM	434/L	Instrumental Analysis/Lab (4)	
					CHEM	452/L	Inorganic Chemistry/Lab (4)	
					CHEM	492	Topics (3)	
					CHEM	494	Internship (3) (or GEOL 494)	
					CHEM	498	Research (3) (or GEOL 498)	
					GEOL	203/L	Historical Geology/Lab (4)	
					MATH	125	Calculus II (4)	
					take 1 from the following			3
					Any 200-400		MATH	
					Any 300/400		BIOL, CHEM, GEOL, PHYS	
take 2 of the following (cannot take BADM220 and MATH 281)			6				DELETE	
BADM	220	Business Statistics (3)					DELETE	
ECON	201	Principles of Microecon. (3)					DELETE	
ECON	202	Principles of Macroecon. (3)					DELETE	
MATH	225	Calculus III (4)					DELETE	
MATH	281	Intro to Statistics (3)					DELETE	
MATH	315	Linear Algebra (3)					DELETE	
MATH	316	Discrete Mathematics (3)					DELETE	
MATH	321	Differential Equations (3)					DELETE	
Total number of hours required for major, minor, or specialization			57		Total number of hours required for major, minor, or specialization			56-58
Total number of hours required for degree			120		Total number of hours required for degree			120

8. Explanation of the Change:

The change is to rebrand Environmental Physical Science (EPS) as Environmental Science and introduce two tracks to the program: Earth Science and Geochemistry to enhance clarity, relevance, and recruitment. It also adds a couple of courses previously taught as topics courses.

EPS is a degree unique to Black Hills State University and as such causes issues for our graduates when applying for jobs. Environmental Science on the other hand is a well-known degree, and students search for degree programs with that name. Furthermore, the two tracks allow students to specialize a little more within the degree, and again, will give a clearer understanding of their degree when applying for jobs. Students looking for a more geoscience career, or graduate program will benefit from having the Earth Science track; students more interested in a geochemical career will benefit from the Environmental Geochemistry track. Additionally, these changes are timely as more