



SD GEARUP Honors Program

June 12 through July 1, 2016

SOUTH DAKOTA GEARUP SUMMER PROGRAM STUDENT APPLICATION

The South Dakota Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (SD GEARUP) Summer Program is a three-week, residential, pre-college enrichment program which is designed for High School students who desire to enroll and succeed in higher education. **The summer program will be held on-campus at Black Hills State University**.**

**** Note:** Students will spend the 3rd week of the summer program at Placerville Camp, an off-campus site with modern facilities nestled in the Black Hills and located 6 miles from Pactola Lake. Placerville Camp will offer students a chance to relax and revel in the natural splendor of the Black Hills while participating in enriching, educational activities.

ELIGIBILITY - All students currently in eighth (8th) through eleventh (11th) grade who demonstrate a desire for college readiness are eligible**. Students selected to participate in the program will be required to live in a residential, higher education setting for the entire three-week period. Students are expected to commit to all aspects and requirements of the program.

**** Please Note:** *We understand some students may have previously completed applications and attended the summer program, but ALL students, even those previously accepted into GEAR UP, must submit an application. The deadline is May 3rd, 2016, so please complete and return applications as soon as possible.*

COST - Student instructional costs, room and board, 3 meals per day (plus 1 evening snack), books and learning supplies will be provided. Please remember, we are replicating the college experience. *If you wish to send money with your child, it is at your discretion and the child will be responsible for that money.*

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

1. **Application:** The student shall have thoroughly completed all sections of the application (questions 1-22), including personal information. ***Incomplete/unsigned applications will NOT be reviewed. Applications must also be neat and legible.***
2. **A Recommendation from ONE of the Following:**
 - i) A student's core teachers (English, Math, Science and Social Studies), counselors, or principal. *****Recommenders MUST seal recommendation in envelope, sign sealed area of envelope, and return to applicant.***
3. **Additional Required Documents:**
 - i) Signed Parental/Guardian Commitment Form
 - ii) Most recent Transcripts or School Report Card and Attendance record

STUDENT SELECTION - Student selection will be based upon application content and a demonstrated desire to prepare for higher education.

APPLICATION DEADLINE - *Applications must be postmarked by May 3rd, 2016.* Applications postmarked after this date will not be reviewed. Applicants will be notified no later than May 20th, 2016 regarding the status of their application. Direct questions go to Peggy.Diekhoff@bhsu.edu or you may call (605) 642-6961.

The SD GEARUP Program is made possible through a grant (Award # P334S110022) from the US Department of Education sponsored in cooperation with the State of SD, SD Department of Education, and Black Hills State University.

Application Checklist:

Be sure to complete and include ALL of the following documents:

- Student Application (ALL fields completed)
- Signed Parental/Guardian Commitment Form
- One Recommendation Form (Core Teacher, Counselor, or Principal)
- Most Recent Transcripts or School Report Card
- Attendance Record

Applications MUST be postmarked no later than May 3rd and mailed to:

SD GEARUP Summer Program
C/O Peggy Diekhoff
Black Hills State University
1200 University Street, Unit 9003
Spearfish, SD 57799

*****If you choose to fill-in the Adobe version of the Application, Parent/Guardian Commitment Form, or Recommendation Form on a computer, they MUST still be printed out and ALL signatures (pages 7, 8, and 10) MUST be signed in pen on the complete application that is mailed in to us.**

14. Do you currently qualify for your school's Free or Reduced Lunch Program? ***This is not used as an admission requirement for the SD GEARUP Honors Program.* Please check one. YES NO

15. In what two subjects in school do you feel you do your best work? Explain why.

a. _____

b. _____

Explain:

16. Please list any extra-curricular activities, academic organizations and activities you participate in. For example: sports, student organizations, cultural activities (language, dancing, drum groups), or community volunteerism.

17. Please list any awards and/or recognition you have received and the date. (Honor rolls, science fairs, most valuable player, etc.)

18. Discuss leadership positions you have taken in your school, community, church, athletics, with your friends, etc. How and why did you become a leader in this area?

19. Please provide a brief description of your background. (Example: school, community, family)

20. How will the math and science courses you take in high school prepare you for success in college?

21. In relation to college and a career, what are your short term and long-term goals? Discuss the steps you will need to complete in order to achieve these goals. How do you think your participation in this program will benefit you as you pursue these goals?

22. How do you think your participation in the SD GEARUP Honors Program will benefit you in preparation for college and in relation to achieving your goals?

SD GEARUP Parent/Guardian Commitment Form

The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a program funded by the United States Department of Education to the South Dakota Department of Education. The goal of the SD GEARUP Program is to increase the number of students that are prepared to graduate from college. SD GEARUP Program seeks to accomplish this goal by collaborating with twenty-four middle schools and fourteen high schools, most of which are on American Indian reservations in South Dakota. A specific focus of SD GEARUP is to increase the number of American Indian students that achieve success at the post-secondary level.

SD GEARUP is an innovative, cohort-oriented program that focuses on providing students and their families pathways and information that lead to success in college. SD GEARUP Honors is a modified version of a residential pre-college enrichment summer program that has targeted students in grades 9-12 since 1992. Students who have completed four years of the high school Honors Program have historically had a 100% graduation rate from high school and a college entrance rate of 85%.

Data collected since 1992 indicates that students who complete the full four-year commitment in the high school summer program have the best chances for success in college. The format of the SD GEARUP Honors Program builds upon each successive year and students add more knowledge and experiences that will guide them to success in college. SD GEARUP provides a proven road map to success in higher education for those students that participate. Information, experiences, and opportunities are provided to students, but the support of families and the dedication of our students has been the foundation for the success of this program. The program format is only a vehicle that can take students to graduate from college; the true drivers and navigators of a student's college education are the parents/guardians.

It is important to note that SD GEARUP Honors only places students into the program the summer after their eighth grade school year. If a student attends his or her first summer, but does not attend the second, third, or fourth summer, then the student's spot is not refilled. Each year over half of the students who apply but do not make it into the program are placed on alternate lists, but most of these do not ever get a chance to be in the program. *If your student gets into the program and then does not return each year, an opportunity is wasted.* Please encourage and help your students to understand that it does take a long-term commitment to participate in the program, but the long-term benefits of participation are substantial.

I understand that _____ (student's name) is applying to the SD GEARUP Honors Summer residential program. As the parent/guardian of a student applying for the SD GEARUP Program, I realize that both my student and I have commitments, such as ensuring transportation to the summer sessions, completing required documents, and completing program and school requirements. These commitments will be requested from my student and me during the summer and academic year over the next four years. My signature indicates that I will do all I can do to support and encourage my student in his or her path to higher education. This includes working with my student during the school year to make sure they enroll in college preparatory courses and completing any documentation that will be needed to continue monitoring my student's progress. I also understand that I will prioritize ensuring that my student is at the program and understand that students should only be checked out for religious, family, or medical appointments or outside of class times.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Phone #'s – Home: _____ **Work:** _____ **Mobile:** _____

Parent/Guardian Mailing Address:

SD GEARUP Summer Program Student RECOMMENDATION FORM

Recommender: Please answer the following questions about the SD GEARUP Summer Program applicant. This recommendation must be from a core teacher (i.e. math, science, social studies, English) OR another teacher, counselor, or principal. *****Please seal the completed recommendation in an envelope and sign the sealed area before returning to applicant.***

Recommender Name _____ Position/Content Area _____

Email _____ Phone Number _____

Please rate the student's academic strengths in comparison with peers.

Below Average Average Above Average Very Good Extraordinary

Please rate their overall academic performance.

Below Average Average Above Average Very Good Extraordinary

The student has shown interest in learning more about leadership and taking on leadership roles formally or informally.

Below Average Average Above Average Very Good Extraordinary

The student seems confident in handling new situations or challenges.

Below Average Average Above Average Very Good Extraordinary

The student sets realistic long-term and short-term goals and manages steps to attain them.

Below Average Average Above Average Very Good Extraordinary

The student takes advantage of personal strengths and tries to improve areas of weakness.

Below Average Average Above Average Very Good Extraordinary

The student has shown a desire to serve others and contribute to the community.

Below Average Average Above Average Very Good Extraordinary

The student has been involved in or taken progressively more responsibility in the community, employment, extracurricular activity, or leadership activity.

Below Average Average Above Average Very Good Extraordinary

Please provide the most compelling reason you believe the student should be selected for the SD GEARUP Summer Program.

Recommender Signature: _____ Date: _____