



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**

New Baccalaureate Degree Minor

Use this form to propose a new baccalaureate degree minor (the minor may include existing and/or new courses. An academic minor within a degree program enables a student to make an inquiry into a discipline or field of study beyond the major or to investigate a particular content theme. Minors provide a broad introduction to a subject and therefore develop only limited competency. Minors consist of a specific set of objectives achieved through a series of courses. Course offerings occur in a specific department or may draw from several departments (as in the case of a topical or thematic focus). In some cases, all coursework within a minor proscribed; in others cases, a few courses may form the basis for a wide range of choices. Regental undergraduate minors typically consist of 18 credit hours. Proposals to establish new minors as well as proposals to modify existing minors must recognize and address this limit. 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 Baccalaureate Degree Minor 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 MINOR:	Legal Studies
DEGREE(S) IN WHICH MINOR MAY BE EARNED:	BA or BS
EXISTING RELATED MAJORS OR MINORS:	Business, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	Fall 2023
PROPOSED CIP CODE:	220001
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 2.8](#), which pertains to new baccalaureate degree minor 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.

<hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto; padding: 5px 0;">President of the University</div>	<div style="text-align: right; margin-bottom: 5px;">Click here to enter a date.</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto; padding: 5px 0;">Date</div>

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

1. Do you have a major in this field (place an “X” in the appropriate box)? ☐ ☒
Yes No

2. If you do not have a major in this field, explain how the proposed minor 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 1:10:4](#)
DSU: [SDCL § 13-59](#) [BOR Policy 1:10:5](#)
NSU: [SDCL § 13-59](#) [BOR Policy 1:10:6](#)
SDSMT: [SDCL § 13-60](#) [BOR Policy 1:10:3](#)
SDSU: [SDCL § 13-58](#) [BOR Policy 1:10:2](#)
USD: [SDCL § 13-57](#) [BOR Policy 1:10:1](#)
[Board of Regents Strategic Plan 2014-2020](#)

Black Hills State University (BHSU) requests authorization to offer a minor in Legal Studies. Based on the interest of students and their needs, this minor takes existing courses and provides a focus to help those interested in Legal Studies prepare for law school. It also supports those students who would benefit from a greater familiarity with legal issues, but are not interested in pursuing a JD.

In accordance with SDCL § 13-59 and BOR Policy 1:10:4, a legal studies minor will support BHSU’s efforts to prepare “secondary teachers” and provision students with “four-year degrees...authorized by the Board of Regents.”¹ This minor will also help facilitate and compliment BHSU current efforts to offer students “educational programming, professional development, community partnerships, and community engagement.”² Political science majors,

¹ 13-59-1, Codified Laws, South Dakota Legislature Legislative Research Council, https://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/2043078; BOR Policy 1:10:4, South Dakota Board of Regents, <https://www.sdbor.edu/policy/documents/1-10-4.pdf>.

² BOR Policy 1:10:4.

business administration majors, history majors, sociology majors, and secondary education majors all stand to benefit from coupling their major with a minor geared towards expanding their knowledge of America's legal system, the Constitution, and the many ways in which the law interacts with society.

The establishment of a Legal Studies minor at BHSU is consistent with the SDBOR Strategic Plan mission of "enriching the intellectual, economic, civic, social, and cultural life of the state, its residents, and its communities."³ Additionally, the content of this minor coupled with experiential learning exercises and/or internship opportunities will support the strategic plan's efforts to "enhance state workforce development" and prepare students with high impact practices, i.e., "research-based instructional strategies that foster student engagement, enhance learning, and nurture skills like critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making."⁴

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

An interdisciplinary minor to teach students a fundamental understanding of the law, its institutions, and legal practices. This minor also supports a liberal arts framework that connects law to different academic methods and theories to help advance students' understanding of statutes, lawmaking, government, and society.

4. How will the proposed minor benefit students?

Currently, BHSU only offers a pre-law pre-professional program that suggests courses for students interested in the law. It does not confer a credential upon completion. The Legal Studies minor would equip students with a transcript credential, which will enhance opportunities in the pursuit of law-related careers.

A minor in Legal Studies will provision students with a basic grounding in the core knowledge areas of the law, including legal writing and research, reasoning, history, and government. This background will complement majors in related disciplines and will provide graduates with a foundational understanding of the law in preparation for further study or for careers that involve the interpretation and application of legal principles and practices. This includes acquiring knowledge to better understand contracts, corporate law, commercial transactions, securities regulation, employment law, and constitutional law. Additionally, the skills developed in the completion of this minor, including critical thinking, logic, intensive research and writing, and the interpretation of quantitative and qualitative information, are broadly applicable to students' intellectual development, civic engagement, and multiple career paths.

Students who are interested in pursuing a law degree often struggle to identify courses that will build the analytical skills necessary for success in law school. By identifying and offering appropriate courses for students, this minor will enable students to pursue their post-graduation plans more efficiently and presumably with greater success. At BHSU, we have a large number of talented students interested in pursuing a law degree. We also anticipate that a Legal Studies minor will become a pipeline to the Knudson School of Law (USD). This would mean

³ Strategic Plan 2022-2027, South Dakota Board of Regents, https://www.sdbor.edu/the-board/StrategicPlan/Documents/StrategicPlan_22_27.pdf.

⁴ Ibid.

developing a prelaw program that provides our students with direct contact to Knudson's resources, faculty, information packets, guest lectures, and other information sharing opportunities. Another consideration is that a pre-law minor for law school applicants has increased in importance since the ABA ended its LSAT requirement for law school admissions (starting in 2025).⁵ Law school admission officials will likely pay more attention now to the content of undergraduate course selections and its correspondence to law school courses.

For students who choose not to pursue a law degree, this minor will provide them with the writing, analytical, and professional skills necessary for entry-level positions in the legal field, such as clerk of court, legal secretary, or paralegal. When combined with a major in the natural sciences, graduates will be well positioned for careers in research compliance or regulatory affairs. Graduates will also be eligible for entry-level jobs in Human Resources, Equal Opportunity Compliance, or similar administrative fields.

BHSU also has many of students who anticipate careers in which their profession will interact with the law, including government employees, nonprofits, businesspersons, military officers, police officers, and other positions within the criminal justice system. Social studies teachers also stand to benefit from a minor teaching them about the law and its interaction with government, business, and society. More generally, the minor will provide students with knowledge of America's legal and constitutional system, which should foster civic engagement and civic responsibility.

5. Describe the workforce demand for graduates in related fields, including national demand and demand within South Dakota. *Provide data and examples; data sources 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.*

There is a clear need for academic programs in legal studies in the state and region, based on the increased enrollment in law programs, workforce need, and anticipated growth. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the South Dakota Department of Labor, the occupational outlook for lawyers is anticipated to grow at 10% nationally from 2021-2031, and 14.27% in South Dakota from 2020-2030.⁶ According to the American Bar Association, "Over the past decade, the number of lawyers nationwide has grown by more than 80,000 – an increase of 6.6% from 2012 to 2022."⁷ South Dakota ranks 46 out of 50 states per capita in lawyers, which corresponds with a national trend of lawyer shortages in rural areas.⁸ Indeed, this

⁵ Karen Sloan, "Law Schools Face 'Biggest Jolt' in Decades with LSAT Rule Change, U.S. News Exodus," Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/legal/legalindustry/law-schools-face-biggest-jolt-decades-with-lsat-rule-change-us-news-exodus-2022-11-22>.

⁶ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/lawyers.htm>; Statewide South Dakota Employment Projections by Occupation, Labor Market Information Center, South Dakota Department of Labor & Regulation, https://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/menu_projections_occupation_statewide.aspx.

⁷ Growth of the Legal Profession, ABA Profile of the Legal Profession in 2022, <https://www.abalegalprofile.com/demographics.php#anchor1>.

⁸ "Fitzgerald: Shortage of Lawyers Hurts South Dakota," *Rapid City Journal*, July 30, 2022, https://rapidcityjournal.com/opinion/fitzgerald-shortage-of-lawyers-hurts-south-dakota/article_4b87dd6d-188d-5d5d-a26e-c632dfc2b7e0.html; "Lawyers by State," ABA Profile of the Legal Profession, 2022, <https://www.abalegalprofile.com/demographics.php#anchor1>.

paucity is especially true for cities and towns in South Dakota, including BHSU's hosting city of Spearfish.⁹ Exposing BHSU students (many of whom are from this region) to the legal professions via a legal studies minor will help address this shortage.

Job opportunities for the paralegal profession are also expanding. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the South Dakota Department of Labor, the occupational outlook for paralegals and legal assistants is anticipated to grow 14% nationally from 2021-2031, and 20% in South Dakota from 2020-2030.¹⁰ According to Paralegal 411, paralegal salaries in South Dakota rank 11th in the nation and the anticipated growth rate of paralegals in the state is 20% (between the years 2018 and 2028), which is 6th in the nation.¹¹ This increase will be driven, in substantial measure, by law firms trying to create more efficiencies and drive down the cost of their services.¹²

According to Projections Central, there is a projected 14.3% increase in the number of lawyers serving South Dakota between 2020 and 2030. There is also a 19.1% projected increase in South Dakota in the number of paralegals and legal assistants between 2020 and 2030.¹³ Other professions in South Dakota that interact with the law are also expected to grow. For example, the same site shows a projected increase of 7.4% in the number of human resource managers, 11.3% in the number of human resources specialists, 5.2% in the number of police and Sheriff patrol officers, 6.3% in the number of secondary school teachers, and 4.4% in the number of Court, Municipal, and License Clerks.

6. Provide estimated enrollments and completions in the table below and explain the methodology used in developing the estimates (*replace "XX" in the table with the appropriate year*).

The estimates below are based on input from academic advisors and recent enrollments in related courses in political science, business administration, philosophy, and criminology

legalprofile.com/demographics.php#anchor2; "Wanted: Lawyers for Rural America," *Pew*, June 26, 2019, <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2019/06/26/wanted-lawyers-for-rural-america>.

⁹ Laura Johnson, "Attorney Shortage Creates Challenge to Affordable Representation," *South Dakota Public Broadcasting*, April 13, 2022, <https://listen.sdpb.org/crime-courts/2022-04-13/attorney-shortage-creates-challenge-to-affordable-representation>.

¹⁰ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/paralegals-and-legal-assistants.htm>; Statewide South Dakota Employment Projections by Occupation, Labor Market Information Center, South Dakota Department of Labor & Regulation, https://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/menu_projections_occupation_statewide.aspx.

¹¹ "Paralegal Salaries By State," *Paralegal 411*, <https://www.paralegal411.org/salaries/>.

¹² Occupational Outlook Handbook, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/paralegals-and-legal-assistants.htm#tab-6>.

¹³ Long-Term Occupational Projections (2020-2030), Projections Central, <https://projectionscentral.org/Projections/LongTerm>.

courses, and the success of similar programs at other institutions in the state, including University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University, and Northern State University.¹⁴

	Fiscal Years*			
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
<i>Estimates</i>	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26
Students enrolled in the minor (fall)	5	10	15	20
Completions by graduates		3	7	10

*Do not include current fiscal year.

7. What is the rationale for the curriculum? Demonstrate/provide evidence that the curriculum is consistent with current national standards.

A working group of faculty representing programs in political science, business administration, philosophy, communications, and sociology collaborated on the development of the curriculum, in consultation with colleagues across BHSU and following review of existing programs at other institutions. The curriculum is based on core competencies required for a comprehensive understanding of the history, impact, and application of the law, as well as existing areas of expertise in the current undergraduate curriculum. The American Bar Association (ABA) identifies the following core skills, values, knowledge, and experience as a sound foundation for law school:

- Problem solving
- Critical reading
- Writing and editing
- Oral communication and listening
- Research
- Organization and management
- Public service and promotion of justice
- Relationship-building and collaboration
- Background knowledge
- Exposure to the law¹⁵

The curriculum we are proposing is comparable to the legal studies minors offered by University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University, and Northern State University.¹⁶

¹⁴ The University of South Dakota established its legal studies minor in 2008. See: "New Legal Studies Minor Approved for USD (News Release)," South Dakota Board of Regents, <https://www.sdbor.edu/mediapubs/Documents/2008/032708Legal.pdf>. South Dakota State University established its legal studies minor in 2015. See: "New Program: SDSU Minor in Legal Studies," Academic Affairs Council, SDBOR, February 26, 2015, https://www.sdbor.edu/administrative-offices/academics/aac/Documents/4_A7_AAC0215.pdf. Northern State University established its legal study minor in 2018. See: "Academic Offerings Respond to State Workforce Needs (News Release)," *South Dakota State News*, <https://news.sd.gov/newsitem.aspx?id=23512>.

¹⁵ Pre-Law: Preparing for Law School, *ABA*, https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/resources/prelaw.

¹⁶ Legal Studies Minor, University of South Dakota, https://catalog.usd.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=33&poid=6813; Legal Studies Minor, South Dakota State University, <https://catalog.sdstate.edu/>

8. Complete the tables below. Explain any exceptions to Board policy requested.

Minors by design are limited in the number of credit hours required for completion. Minors typically consist of eighteen (18) credit hours, including prerequisite courses. In addition, minors typically involve existing courses. If the curriculum consists of more than eighteen (18) credit hours (including prerequisites) or new courses, please provide explanation and justification below.

A. Distribution of Credit Hours

[Insert title of proposed minor]	Credit Hours	Percent
Requirements in minor	12	67%
Electives in minor	6	33%
Total	18	100%

B. Required Courses in the Minor

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)
BADM	350	Legal Environment of Business	N/A	3	No
POLS	263	Intro to Political Theory	N/A	3	No
SOC	201	Intro to Criminal Justice	N/A	3	No
Choose one of the following					
PHIL	200	Introduction to Logic	N/A	3	No
PHIL	220	Introduction to Ethics	N/A	3	No
Subtotal				12	

9. Elective Courses in the Minor: List courses available as electives in the program. Indicate any proposed new courses added specifically for the minor.

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)
BADM	351	Business Law	BADM 350	3	No
CMST	222	Argumentation & Debate	N/A	3	No
POLS	401	U.S. Institutions	POLS 100	3	No

preview_program.php?catoid=45&poid=10429; Legal Studies Minor, Northern State University, http://catalog.northern.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=14&poid=3704&returnto=1151.

POLS	417	American Indian Government & Politics	AIS/HIST 257	3	No
POLS	430	Constitutional Law	N/A	3	No
POLS	494	Internship	N/A	3	No
SOC	351	Criminology	SOC 100 or SOC 150	3	No
Subtotal				6	

A. What are the learning outcomes expected for all students who complete the minor? How will students achieve these outcomes? *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)	Program Courses that Address the Outcomes					
	BADM 350*	BADM 351	CMST 222	PHIL 200*	PHIL 220*	POLS 263*
Effective written communication within a legal context	X	X				
Effective oral communication and presentation of complex ideas	X	X	X	X	X	X
Logical and critical thinking required for the interpretation and application of the law	X	X	X	X	X	
Knowledge of American legal systems, civic engagement, and the Constitution	X	X				X

Individual Student Outcome (Same as in the text of the proposal)	Program Courses that Address the Outcomes					
	POLS 401	POLS 417	POLS 430	POLS 494	SOC 201*	SOC 351
Effective written communication within a legal context	X	X	X	X		
Effective oral communication and presentation of complex ideas	X	X	X	X	X	X
Logical and critical thinking required for the interpretation and application of the law	X	X	X	X	X	X
Knowledge of American legal systems, civic engagement, and the Constitution	X	X	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.

10. What instructional approaches and technologies will instructors use to teach courses in the minor? *This refers to the instructional technologies and approaches used to teach courses and NOT the technology applications and approaches expected of students.*

Oral and written assignments will be closely integrated with lectures and discussion-based approaches. Students will demonstrate the following discipline-specific core competencies related to interdisciplinary field of legal studies:

- Effective written communication within a legal context.
- Effective oral communication and presentation of complex ideas.
- Logical and critical thinking required for the interpretation and application of the law.
- Knowledge of American legal systems, civic engagement, and the Constitution

Students will achieve these outcomes through successful completion of the curriculum.

11. 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 Center 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 online program)?**

	Yes/No	Intended Start Date
On campus	Yes	Fall 2023

	Yes/No	If Yes, list location(s)	Intended Start Date
Off campus	No		Choose an item. Choose an item.

	Yes/No	If Yes, identify delivery methods Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 5.5 .	Intended Start Date
Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)	No		Choose an item. Choose an item.
Does another BOR institution already have authorization to offer the program online?	Choose an item.	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 minor through distance learning (e.g., as an online 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)	Choose an item.		Choose an item. Choose an item.

12. Does the University request any exceptions to any Board policy for this minor? Explain any requests for exceptions to Board Policy. If not requesting any exceptions, enter "None."
None.

13. Cost, Budget, and Resources: Explain the amount and source(s) of any one-time and continuing investments in personnel, professional development, release time, time redirected from other assignments, instructional technology & software, other operations and maintenance, facilities, etc., needed to implement the proposed minor. Address off-campus or distance delivery separately.
No additional costs are associated with the implementation of this minor program.

14. New Course Approval: New courses required to implement the new minor may receive approval in conjunction with program approval or receive approval separately. Please check the appropriate statement (place an "X" in the appropriate box).

- ☐ YES,
the university is seeking approval of new courses related to the proposed program in conjunction with program approval. All New Course Request forms are included as Appendix C and match those described in section 7.
- ☒ NO,
the university is not seeking approval of all new courses related to the proposed program in conjunction with program approval; the institution will submit new course approval requests separately or at a later date in accordance with Academic Affairs Guidelines.

15. 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.

Students who minor in Legal Studies must have twelve credits unique to the minor, that are not shared with the major or any other minor. After that, double counting between the major and the minor is allowed. For example, a Political Science major could only take two of the political science courses in the legal studies minor. The rest of this student's Legal Studies courses must come from disciplines other than political science.