



SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

New Site Request

Use this form to request authorization to deliver an entire existing degree program (graduate program, undergraduate major or minor, certificate, or specialization) at a new site or by distance delivery (including online delivery). Board of Regents approval is required for a university to offer programs off-campus and through distance delivery. 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 Site Request Form to the university website for review by other universities after approval by the Executive Director and Chief Academic Officer.

UNIVERSITY:	NSU
DEGREE(S) AND PROGRAM:	BA History
NEW SITE(S): <i>Include address of new physical locations. Delivery methods are defined in AAC Guideline 2.4.3.B.</i>	online
INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:	Spring 2026
CIP CODE:	54.0101
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	History and Social Sciences
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	HSS
UNIVERSITY DIVISION:	College of Arts and Sciences
BANNER DIVISION CODE:	5A

☒ **Please check this box to confirm that:**

- The individual preparing this request has read [AAC Guideline 2.3.2.4.A](#), which pertains to new site 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.

Michael Wanous

President (or Designee) of the University

11/4/2025

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. What is the need for offering the program at the new physical site or through distance delivery?

As stated in its mission, Northern State University (NSU) “provides diverse academic, civic, social, and cultural opportunities that prepare students through the liberal arts, professional education, and E-learning for their future endeavors, while enriching both the local and regional community.” In direct alignment with this mission and NSU’s continued commitment to “anywhere, anytime” learning,

offering the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in History online represents a natural and strategic expansion of access.

All courses within the History program are currently authorized for online delivery, which can streamline the development of the degree for online delivery, positioning it to meet the growing demand among students who require flexibility in when and how they complete their degrees. Additionally, expanding the program’s delivery modality allows NSU to serve nontraditional students, working professionals, and geographically isolated learners who might otherwise be unable to pursue higher education.

This online option directly advances Goal 3: Academic Success, Student Outcomes, and Educational Attainment of the SDBOR Strategic Plan 2022–2027, specifically by responding to the Board’s charge to “expand the type of instructional methodologies/modalities to meet the demands of students” and to “promote working professionals’ and adult learners’ completion goals.”¹

There is growing national and regional demand for graduates who bring historical insight together with digital and analytical skills—particularly in fields like digital archiving, cultural resource management, and the expanding use of artificial intelligence in historical research. These areas increasingly rely on individuals who can think critically, synthesize information, and apply historical understanding—all strengths developed in NSU’s History online (and on-campus) program.

At present, no other South Dakota Board of Regents institution offers a fully online Bachelor of Arts in History, leaving a noticeable gap in access across the system. NSU is well-positioned to fill that gap. The university already has a strong foundation in online instruction and a long-standing commitment to making liberal arts education accessible to all students, regardless of location.

An online History degree will extend these opportunities to South Dakota residents who live far from regental campuses, as well as to working adults and out-of-state students looking for an affordable, high-quality degree they can complete on their own schedule. This expansion continues NSU’s mission to make education both accessible and responsive to the changing needs of students and the state.

2. Are any other Regental universities authorized to offer a similar program at the proposed site(s) or through distance delivery? If “yes,” identify the institutions and programs and explain why authorization is requested.

No, currently no SDBOR universities are authorized to offer the BA in History online. Northern State University, the University of South Dakota, Black Hills State University, and South Dakota State University each offer the degree on campus, but none provide it in an online format.

3. Are students enrolling in the program expected to be new to the university or redirected from other existing programs at the university? Complete the table below and explain the methodology used in developing the estimates.

Northern anticipates that most of the students who seek to complete their BA History online will be new to the university, although some may be re-directed from our on-campus program due to the flexibility of an online program, especially for those with work, family, or other commitments. Northern

¹ “Goal 3: Academic Excellence, Student Outcomes, Educational Attainment.” South Dakota Board of Regents Strategic Plan 2022–2027, page 12, https://sdbor.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/StrategicPlan_22_27.pdf

anticipates growth in enrollment in the BS History program given the appeal of an online option. The methodology used is the current enrollment in the program:

	Fiscal Years			
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
<i>Estimates*</i>	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30
Students new to the university	8	10	13	15
Students from other university programs	5	4	4	4
=Total students in the program at the site	13	14	17	19
Program credit hours (major courses)**	120	120	120	120
Graduates		5	7	10

*These estimates are for the online program only and do not include numbers for the on-campus program, which will remain active.

**This is the total number of credit hours generated by students in the program in the required or elective program courses.

4. What is the perceived impact of this request on existing programs in the Regental system?

No impact on existing Regental programs is anticipated. Offering the BA in History online will enhance flexibility and expand access for students who wish to continue their education but are place-bound due to employment, family, or other personal commitments.

5. Complete the table and explain any special circumstances. Attach a copy of the program as it appears in the current catalog. If there are corresponding program modifications requested, please attach the associated form. Explain the delivery of the new courses and attach any associated new course request forms.

Online/On-Campus BA History Degree	Credit hours	Credit hours currently available from this university at this site	Credit hours currently available from other universities available at this site	Credit hours currently available via distance	Credit hours new to this university
System General Education Requirements	30	30		30	
<i>Subtotal, Degree Requirements</i>	30	30		30	
Required Support Courses	0	0		0	
Major Requirements	39	39		39	
Major Electives or Minor	0	0		0	
<i>Subtotal, Requirements of the Proposed Major</i>	39	39		39	
Free Electives	51	51		51	
<i>Total, Degree with Proposed Major</i>	120	120		120	

Note: All courses in the major are currently available online.

The program requirements as they appear in the current catalog

Core Coursework:

No grade below a C will be accepted in a course taken to fulfill the History requirements. Students must maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average in the major to meet graduation requirements.

It is recommended that students take HIST 121, HIST 122, HIST 151, and HIST 152 before beginning their upper-division work.

- HIST 121 Western Civilization I - **3 credits**
- HIST 122 Western Civilization II - **3 credits**
- HIST 151 United States History I - **3 credits**
- HIST 152 United States History II - **3 credits**
- HIST 480 Historical Methods and Historiography - **3 credits**
- FYS 101 First Year Seminar - **2 credits**

Upper Division U.S History (6 credits)

Choose two:

- HIST 352 Revolution and Early National United States - **3 credits**
- HIST 358 The United States Since 1941 - **3 credits**
- HIST 360 Antebellum America and the Civil War - **3 credits**
- HIST 361 The United States During the 1960s - **3 credits**
- HIST 363 The United States from 1890-1940 - **3 credits**
- HIST 365 Cold War - **3 credits**
- HIST 409 Environmental History of the United States - **3 credits**
- HIST 450 American Colonial History - **3 credits**
- HIST 459 Vietnam War, 1945-1975 - **3 credits**
- HIST 460 American Military History - **3 credits**
- HIST 464 20th Century Frontier - **3 credits**
- HIST 476 History of South Dakota - **3 credits**
- HIST 492 Topics - **1-4 credits**

Upper Division European History (6 credits)

Choose two:

- HIST 326 Renaissance and Reformation - **3 credits**
- HIST 329 French Revolution and Napoleon, 1789 to 1815 - **3 credits**
- HIST 330 Nineteenth Century European History - **3 credits**
- HIST 341 English History to 1688 - **3 credits**
- HIST 413 Ancient Israel - **3 credits**
- HIST 420 Contemporary Europe - **3 credits**
- HIST 422 Ancient Rome - **3 credits**
- HIST 424 Early Church - **3 credits**
- HIST 425 Medieval Europe - **3 credits**
- HIST 440 Ancient Greece - **3 credits**
- HIST 444 History of Modern Russia - **3 credits**
- HIST 470 History of World War II - **3 credits**
- HIST 492 Topics - **1-4 credits**

Upper Division Non-Western History (3 credits)

Choose one:

- HIST 256 World History - **3 credits**
- HIST 311 Chinese History - **3 credits**
- HIST 313 History of the Middle East - **3 credits**
- HIST 443 History of Russia Under Tsars - **3 credits**
- HIST 485 History of Modern Genocide - **3 credits**

History Electives (9 credits)

Three (9 credits) HIST courses, or with advisor approval, as many as two of the following courses may be substituted.

- ARTH 211 History of World Art I - **3 credits**
- ARTH 212 History of World Art II - **3 credits**
- GEOG 320 Regional Geography - **3 credits**

- HIST 240 Introduction to Public History and Cultural Resources - **3 credits**
- HIST 352 Revolution and Early National United States - **3 credits**
- HIST 365 Cold War - **3 credits**
- POLS 461 Early Political Philosophy - **3 credits**
- POLS 462 Modern Political Philosophy - **3 credits**

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to use historical methods in investigating important questions about people and society.
- Students will be able to express clearly in writing the results of their historical research.
- Students will be able to identify and explain the significance of important figures and events in American and world history.
- Students will be able to use history techniques and concepts in analyzing new knowledge and current events.

6. How will the university provide student services comparable to those available for students on the main campus?

NSU offers a variety of degree programs, minors, and certificates in an online format, and therefore has well-established support services for distance learners. Student advising is provided through the Student Success Center, the dedicated academic advisor for the Department of History and Social Sciences, and faculty within the department. All student support services and necessary technology resources are readily accessible through distance technology. In addition, NSU's Beulah Williams Library provides extensive resources for online students, including remote access to library materials, interlibrary borrowing, and comprehensive guidance for conducting online research.

7. Is this program accredited by a specialized accrediting body? If so, address any program accreditation issues and costs related to offering the program at the new site(s).

There is no specialized accrediting body for this program.

8. Does the university request any exceptions to Board policy for delivery at the new site(s)? Explain requests for exceptions to Board policy.

We do not request any exceptions to Board policy.

9. Cost, Budget, and Resources related to new courses at the site: 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. *Complete Appendix B – Budget using the system form.*

NSU is not requesting additional faculty or resources to deliver the BA in History online. All courses required for the program are currently authorized to be offered online and are all taught by existing faculty within their regular teaching loads. As a result, no additional costs are anticipated, and tuition revenue from online enrollment will sufficiently support the program.