



# SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS

## New Certificate

Use this form to propose a certificate program at either the undergraduate or graduate level. A certificate program is a sequence, pattern, or group of academic credit courses that focus upon an area of specialized knowledge or information and develop a specific skill set. Certificate programs typically are a subset of the curriculum offered in degree programs, include previously approved courses, and involve 9-12 credit hours including prerequisites. In some cases, standards for licensure will state explicit requirements leading to certificate programs requiring more than 12 credit hours (in such cases, exceptions to course or credit requirements must be justified and approved). 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 Certificate Form to the university website for review by other universities after approval by the Executive Director and Chief Academic Officer.

<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	NSU
<b>TITLE OF PROPOSED CERTIFICATE:</b>	<b>Germans from Russia Studies</b>
<b>INTENDED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION:</b>	<b>Summer 2021</b>
<b>PROPOSED CIP CODE:</b>	05.0125
<b>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</b>	<b>Languages, Literature, and Communication Studies</b>
<b>BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:</b>	NLAC
<b>UNIVERSITY DIVISION:</b>	<b>College of Arts and Sciences</b>
<b>BANNER DIVISION CODE:</b>	5A

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

- The individual preparing this request has read [AAC Guideline 2.7](#), which pertains to new certificate 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.*

Institutional Approval Signature

*President or Chief Academic Officer of the University*

1/5/2021

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. Is this a graduate-level certificate or undergraduate-level certificate (place an “X” in the appropriate box)?**

Undergraduate Certificate  Graduate Certificate

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

The purpose of this certificate is for students to (1) acquire the necessary reading knowledge in German to decipher personal writings and formal documents necessary to investigate topics in Germans-from-Russia Studies, (2) obtain a practical background in Germans-from-Russia history, culture, and language, (3) utilize the skills needed to interpret and translate handwritten and printed documents relating to Germans-from-Russia history, culture, and genealogy, and (4) obtain and utilize the skills necessary to execute undergraduate-level research projects relating to Germans-from-Russia history, culture, and language.

**3. If you do not have a major in this field, explain how the proposed certificate 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:	<a href="#">SDCL § 13-59</a>	<a href="#">BOR Policy 1:10:4</a>
DSU:	<a href="#">SDCL § 13-59</a>	<a href="#">BOR Policy 1:10:5</a>
NSU:	<a href="#">SDCL § 13-59</a>	<a href="#">BOR Policy 1:10:6</a>
SDSMT:	<a href="#">SDCL § 13-60</a>	<a href="#">BOR Policy 1:10:3</a>
SDSU:	<a href="#">SDCL § 13-58</a>	<a href="#">BOR Policy 1:10:2</a>
USD:	<a href="#">SDCL § 13-57</a>	<a href="#">BOR Policy 1:10:1</a>

[Board of Regents Strategic Plan 2014-2020](#)

Northern State University houses the South Dakota Germans from Russia Cultural Center in Williams Library. The Center is an integral part of the academic strategic plan for the University, which includes online graduate and undergraduate certificates, complimented by a certificate in public history, a minor in German language, and majors in History and in Global Language and Culture.

**4. Provide a justification for the certificate program, including the potential benefits to students and potential workforce demand for those who graduate with the credential. For workforce related information, please provide data and examples. Data 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.**

The Germans-from-Russia Studies certificate will be the undergraduate academic companion to the South Dakota Germans-from-Russia Cultural Center at NSU, as well as to the recently approved graduate certificate NSU is offering in this field. South Dakota has one of the highest national percentages of individuals with German ancestry (over 40%), and Germans make up the largest ethnic group in the state.<sup>1</sup> A majority of these German ancestors came to South Dakota from Russia. Preserving and cultivating the history of these settlers equates with preserving and

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://names.mongabay.com/ancestry/st-German.html>

cultivating the history of South Dakota. The graduates of the program will be trained directly in this endeavor.

The skills taught in the Germans-from-Russia Studies certificate include the ability to read personal writings and formal documents related to this field with the help of a German-English dictionary, translation of historical documents such as letters, diaries, and genealogical records, otherwise inaccessible to persons lacking a knowledge of the older writing systems used by German Russians well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and foundational research skills in interpreting and drawing conclusions from German-language primary documents. Individuals with these skills can apply them in a variety of settings that may or may not be directly related to Germans-from-Russia studies, including: historical archives, museums, educational settings, genealogical research and translation, historical writing, and library work. Earning this certificate could lead to a career as a professional genealogist (with a 6% average job outlook growth rate from 2018-2028)<sup>2</sup> and/or German translator.

Translation work is a growth industry with a 19% job outlook from 2018-2028 as reported by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, which is much faster than average.<sup>3</sup> The demand for individuals who can provide reliable translations from German into English is growing.<sup>4</sup> There is also a significant demand for individuals who are able to translate documents written in the older handwriting styles used by German prior to WWII, Kurrentschrift and Sütterlinschrift, particularly among genealogical researchers. Translators who work on such documents often inform clients that there is a three-month waiting period before they can take on new projects. According to the *ATA Chronicle* (published by the American Translators Association), “Genealogical translation is a growing market niche” demanding historical knowledge and language competency, alongside skills directly targeted at deciphering old forms of handwriting.<sup>5</sup>

**5. Who is the intended audience for the certificate program (including but not limited to the majors/degree programs from which students are expected)?**

The intended audience for this certificate program includes individuals with an interest in German language and culture as well as individuals interested in German ancestry, including Germans-from-Russia, genealogy, and cultural anthropology. Because of the ready access to electronic databases and document collections relevant to these areas, interest in Germans-from-Russia history and German ancestry (including Prussian, Jewish, Austrian, Swiss, etc.) has grown in recent years.

An additional intended audience would include majors in business and history. Although it has recently experienced a slight slowing, Germany’s economy has proven to be one of the strongest in Europe, and as such “businesses from around the world have a high chance of working with a company from Germany.”<sup>6</sup> Therefore, a certificate that focuses on German translation would be

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/historians.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/media-and-communication/interpreters-and-translators.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <https://thespanishgroup.org/blog/languages-high-demand-translators/>; <https://www.evs-translations.com/blog/german-english-translation-services/>; <https://www.cnbc.com/2017/07/07/as-the-earth-feels-ever-smaller-demand-for-translators-and-interpreters-skyrockets.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.atanet.org/chronicle-online/featured/expanding-your-business-genealogical-translation/#sthash.WODWQfay.dpbs>

<sup>6</sup> <https://thespanishgroup.org/blog/languages-high-demand-translators/>

highly beneficial for business majors. Additionally, this certificate would pair well historians and cultural anthropologists as well as with Northern's Public History Certificate for students seeking to use the skills gained, as recorded in the certificate's catalog description, "in museums, archives, art galleries, state and local preservation offices, and a wide variety of private consulting firms."<sup>7</sup>

It is expected that this program will attract genealogists; history students interested in South Dakota, German ancestry, and Germans-from-Russia history; archivists working with German-language documents; independent scholars; and persons working in related areas in museums, archives, translation.

## **6. Certificate Design**

**A. Is the certificate designed as a stand-alone education credential option for students not seeking additional credentials (i.e., a bachelor's or master's degree)? If so, what areas of high workforce demand or specialized body of knowledge will be addressed through this certificate?**

This is designed as a stand-alone certificate. The areas of high workforce demand or specialized body of knowledge have been addressed in items 4 and 5 above.

**B. Is the certificate a value added credential that supplements a student's major field of study? If so, list the majors/programs from which students would most benefit from adding the certificate.**

While the certificate can be completed on its own, students with interest in museum studies and History will earn the certificate to make deepen their knowledge and make themselves more marketable in the region.

**C. Is the certificate a stackable credential with credits that apply to a higher level credential (i.e., associate, bachelor's, or master's degree)? If so, indicate the program(s) to which the certificate stacks and the number of credits from the certificate that can be applied to the program.**

This is not a stackable credential.

**7. List the courses required for completion of the certificate in the table below (if any new courses are proposed for the certificate, please attach the new course requests to this form). Certificate programs by design are limited in the number of credit hours required for completion. Certificate programs consist of nine (9) to twelve (12) credit hours, including prerequisite courses. In addition, certificates typically involve existing courses. If the curriculum consists of more than twelve (12) credit hours (including prerequisites) or includes new courses, please provide explanation and justification below.**

---

<sup>7</sup> Northern State University Catalog, 2019-2020:  
[http://catalog.northern.edu/preview\\_program.php?catoid=6&poid=1312](http://catalog.northern.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=6&poid=1312)

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Course Title</b> <i>(add or delete rows as needed)</i>	<b>Prerequisites for Course</b> <i>Include credits for prerequisites in subtotal below.</i>	<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>New (yes, no)</b>
GLAN	420	German for Reading Knowledge	N/A	3	No
GLAN	440	Germans-from-Russia History	GLAN 420	3	No
GLAN	450	Germans-from-Russia Documents	GLAN 420	3	No
GLAN	461	Germans-from-Russia Research	GLAN 420, GLAN 440, GLAN 450	3	No
Subtotal				12	

**8. Student Outcome and Demonstration of Individual Achievement.**

*Board Policy 2:23 requires certificate programs to “have specifically defined student learning outcomes.*

**A. What specific knowledge and competencies, including technology competencies, will all students demonstrate before graduation?** *The knowledge and competencies should be specific to the program and not routinely expected of all university graduates.*

- read German-language writings and documents related to Germans-from-Russian history
- distinguish between the various historical groups of Germans-from-Russia in terms of their history and cultural identity
- gain an appreciation of Germans-from-Russia historical experience in light of the connections between this and German, Russian, US, and South Dakota history
- decipher Germans-from-Russia historical documents (letters, journals, certificates [marriage, birth, etc.], and other relevant documents written in old forms of printing (Fraktur) and handwriting (Kurrentschrift, Sütterlinschrift) in German
- translate the above types of documents into standard English
- make sound use of the above primary documents to execute undergraduate-level research projects that document Germans-from-Russia historical experience and thus aid in preserving this important history for succeeding generations

**B. 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.*

<b>Individual Student Outcome</b>	GLAN 420	GLAN 440	GLAN 450	GLAN 461
Read German-language writings and documents related to Germans-from-Russian history.	X			
Distinguish between the various historical groups of Germans-from-Russia in terms of their history and cultural identity.		X		
Gain an appreciation of Germans-from-Russia historical experience in light of the connections between this and German, Russian, US, and South Dakota history.		X		
Decipher Germans-from-Russia historical documents (letters, journals, certificates [marriage, birth, etc.], and other relevant documents written in old forms of printing (Fraktur) and handwriting (Kurrentschrift, Sütterlinschrift) in German/ Germans-from-Russia dialect(s).			X	
Translate the above types of documents into standard English.			X	
Make sound use of the above primary documents to execute undergraduate-level research projects that document Germans-from-Russia historical experience and thus aid in preserving this important history for succeeding generations.				X

## 9. 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., UC Sioux Falls, Capital University Center, Black Hills State University-Rapid City, etc.) or deliver the entire program through distance technology (e.g., as an on-line program)?**

	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Intended Start Date</b>
<b>On campus</b>	No	Choose an item. Choose an item.

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

	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>If Yes, identify delivery methods</b> <i>Delivery methods are defined in <a href="#">AAC Guideline 5.5</a>.</i>	<b>Intended Start Date</b>
<b>Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)</b>	Yes	015	<b>Summer 2021</b>
<b>Does another BOR institution already have authorization to</b>	No	<b>If yes, identify institutions:</b>	

<b>offer the program online?</b>			
----------------------------------	--	--	--

**B. Complete the following chart to indicate if the university seeks authorization to deliver more than 50% but less than 100% of the certificate through distance learning (e.g., as an on-line program)? This question responds to HLC definitions for distance delivery.**

	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b><i>If Yes, identify delivery methods</i></b>	<b><i>Intended Start Date</i></b>
<b>Distance Delivery (online/other distance delivery methods)</b>	No		Choose an item. Choose an item.