

**Intent to Plan for a New Program  
South Dakota Board of Regents  
Academic Affairs Forms**

**Internal Ticket ID: 6811  
Created: 3/1/2023  
Modified: 9/5/2023**

*Use this form to request authorization for a new baccalaureate major, associate program, or graduate program; formal approval or waiver of the Intent to Plan is required before a university can submit a related full proposal request for a new program to the Executive Director and their designees. Additional information. After the university President approves the Intent to Plan, submit a signed copy of the Executive Director through the System Academic Officer through the proposed process. Only post the Intent to Plan to the university website for review by other universities after approval by the Executive Director and System Academic Officer or designee. This form is meant to capture critical elements for stakeholder review prior to a full proposal.*

**University** SDSU

**Degree** M

**Name of Major**

**Global Agricultural Sustainability and Leadership**

**Specialization Request**

*If the new proposed program includes specific specializations, complete and submit a New Specialization form for each proposed specialization and attach it to this form. Since specializations appear on transcripts, they require Board approval.*

**College/Department**

F : SDSU Agricultural and Environmental College  
g/Food/Env S (FES)

**Intended Date of Full Proposal**

2024

**Planned CIP**

**Program Description**

**1. Provide the working program description that may appear in the university catalog.**

The accelerated master's program in Global Agricultural Sustainability and Leadership is a professional program in agriculture. Students in the program will enhance their leadership skills and economics awareness in a complex global MM



experience. Classes in the Precision Agriculture major will be part of their plan of study to help enhance the students' proficiency in information technology or "Big Data" management, and other classes will include the social and political issues affecting and being affected by agriculture to broaden the understanding of our students.

- South Dakota will require advanced levels of education to support the knowledge-based economy. The accelerated master's degree in Global Agricultural Sustainability and Leadership will take undergraduate students that are technically competent in their fields of study and further develop them through classes, team-focused case studies, and internships/externships to be leaders in the knowledge-based economy.

## Program Summary

### 4. If a new degree is proposed, what is the rationale?

*This question refers to the type of degree, not the program. For example, if your university has authorization to offer the Bachelor of Science and the program requested is a Bachelor of Science, then the request is not for a new degree.*

~~Agreement~~ new degree.

### 5. What modality/modalities will be used to offer the new program?

~~Note: GTB Accreditation requir~~

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

## Academic Quality

### **7. What peer institutions and current national standards will be referenced to develop the curriculum for this program? Include links to at least 3 comparable programs at peer institutions and links to national or accreditation standards, if any.**

There are peer land-grant institutions that offer graduate Agricultural Leadership programs or graduate programs in Agricultural Sustainability. The programs typically have not included both components of agricultural leadership and sustainability.

- Arizona State University - Master of Science in Sustainable Food Systems (online) <https://asuonline.asu.edu/online-degree-programs/graduate/masters-sustainable-food-systems/>
- Iowa State University, Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture – <https://www.susag.iastate.edu/>
- Oklahoma State University - Master's in Agricultural Leadership <https://go.okstate.edu/graduate-academics/programs/masters/agricultural-leadership-mag.html>
- University of Illinois - Master's Degree in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications <https://alec.illinois.edu/academics/graduate-degrees/masters-degree>
- University of Missouri - Master of Science in Agricultural Leadership, Communication and Education <https://online.missouri.edu/degrees-programs/mu/cafnr/agricultural-leadership-communication-and-education/ms>
- Washington State University, Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Agriculture – <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/degrees/graduate-certificate-in-sustainable-agriculture/>

Therefore, since this graduate program integrates sustainability and leadership, the strengths of both types of graduate program will be used when developing the curriculum for the master's program in Global Agricultural Sustainability and Leadership.

### **8. What program accreditation is available, if any?**

There are currently no accreditation standards available.

### **9. Will the proposed program pursue accreditation or certifications?**

No

### **If no, why has the department elected not to pursue accreditation for the program?**

There are currently no national accreditation or certification programs for the program. Once national accreditation or certification programs are developed for this type of major, they will be pursued.

## Duplication and Competition

### 10. Do any related programs exist at other public universities in South Dakota?

*A list of existing programs is available through the university websites and the RIS Reporting: Academic Reports Database. If there are no related programs within the Regental system, indicate **none**.*

While there are programs at the other Regental institutions in South Dakota on either leadership or sustainability, there are no graduate programs within the Regental system that link specifically agriculture with sustainability and leadership. Below are the related programs offered by the other SD Regental Institutions including:

Black Hills State University

- Strategic Leadership (M.S.)
- Sustainability (M.S.)

Northern State University

- Leadership and Administration (MSEd)

South Dakota Mines

- Green and Sustainable Chemistry (M.S.)

University of South Dakota

- Sustainability (M.S., Ph.D.)
- Educational Administration and Leadership (M.Ed., M.A., Ed.D., Ed.S.)
- Leadership in Public Management (Graduate Certificate)

The Global Agricultural Sustainability and Leadership (M.S.) at South Dakota State University does not duplicate any of the current degrees offered at any of the other Regental institutions. The accelerated master's will be a professional program in agriculture and will approach leadership and sustainability in an agricultural context. SDSU is the only land-grant university in the South Dakota Regental system so there are no other programs offered at any of the regental institutions in South Dakota that focus specifically on bringing together global agricultural sustainability and leadership. This program will focus specifically on food production, agriculture, the multiple facets of sustainability (including resource, community, and environmental), and leadership development in an integrated manner. A key component of the program is linking the real-life experiences that students have in intensive, agricultural-focused internships with the material in their coursework.

#### **A. If yes, defend the need for an additional program within the state, Include IPEDS enrollment data and additional data as needed.**

N/A. The program does not duplicate existing programs in the Regental system.

#### **B. If yes, would this program be a candidate for Regental system collaboration?**

N/A. The program does not duplicate existing programs in the Regental system.

### 11. Do any related programs exist at any non-Regental college or university within 150 miles of the university?

*List those programs here:*

No

#### **A. If yes, use IPEDS to identify the enrollment in those programs.**

N/A

#### **B. What evidence suggests there is unmet student demand for the proposed program, or that the proposed program would attract students away from the existing program?**

No other graduate programs integrating sustainability and leadership in agriculture exist. This will be a unique professional program in agriculture that fills a need within the agricultural industry. Discussions with the Ag Prexy Council have been positive, and students are excited about the possibilities with the program.

As this graduate degree will be an accelerated program enrolling existing SDSU students, the university does not anticipate redirection from other programs. Students will complete their bachelor's degree in any major within the SDSU College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences and will then be recruited into the master's program in Global Agricultural Sustainability and Leadership. This will allow for a diversity of majors, experiences, and thought processes, which will be extremely beneficial in developing functional teams and creating a cohort of peers that will be invaluable resources once the students graduate.



Graduates of this program will have a wide range of salaries depending on the career pathway they select. As an example, Indeed.com lists the average annual salary for agricultural leadership positions at around \$100,000.

**15. Optional: Provide any additional evidence of regional demand for the pr**

