



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

Substantive Program Modification Form

UNIVERSITY:

SDSU

CURRENT PROGRAM DEGREE:

<i>Existing Curriculum</i>				<i>Proposed Curriculum (highlight changes)</i>			
Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.	Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.
				EDFN			

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SPED prefixes).

in ECE covers both social studies and science, but due to the requirements of the Praxis certification exam, students need more in-depth coverage of these subjects to do well in those areas. ECE 322 teaches several other topics and content, not giving adequate time and information to students in both science and social studies. In addition, because the ECE program believes in using an inquiry-based philosophical approach as well as integrated forms of curriculum, it was clear that math methods should also be included so that STEAM goes beyond.

Removed CHEM 106-106L Chemistry Survey and Lab (3, 1 cr.), PHYS 101-101L Survey of Physics and Lab (3, 1 credits), and PHYS 185-185L Solar System Astronomy and Lab (2, 1 cr.) to require all ECE majors will complete PHYS 216-216L Physical Science for Early Childhood and Lab (2, 1 cr.).

Increased ECE 488 Student Teaching (K-3rd grade) from 10 to 11 credits to provide students with BDC 5F1 1dT/Fd

with DSU. At present, the only specialization available within the Early Childhood Education major is Birth to Age 8. The School of Education, Counseling, and Human Development has requested to discontinue the Birth to Age 8 specialization and instead offer a standalone major. The proposed change from a specialization to a standalone major will enhance both student understanding and the visibility of the program, making it easier for students to navigate their academic and career goals while retaining the rigor and outcomes of the current program.

The Early Childhood Education - Birth to Grade 3 curriculum and student learning outcomes for the program were evaluated by faculty to determine curricular adjustments that needed to be made to support the addition of six credits for the Gateway to Education Certificate and streamline the curriculum while maintaining alignment with accreditation standards and student learning outcomes. Key changes include:

- Added EDFN 102 Introduction to Education (3 cr.) and SPED 100 Introduction to Persons with Exceptionalities (3 cr.) to align with the Gateway to Education Certificate.

- Removed ECE 150-150L Early Experience and Lab (1, 1 cr.) and EDFN 475 Human Relations (3 cr.) from the program requirements. Course content for ECE 150-150L and EDFN 475 is integrated into other existing courses.

- Reduced ECE 495 Practicum

