

**South Dakota Board of Regents
South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship
Fall 2006 Term Recipient Report**

Executive Summary

For the Fall 2006 semester, 2130 recipients are eligible for funding across 17 participating institutions (See Table 1 and 3 for eligibility details by institution). Nine Hundred and fifty-nine recipients are receiving the scholarship for their first semester (Fall 2006 Cohort). This number represents 10.5% of the 9,109 South Dakota 2006 high school graduates, slightly more than the 829 students who started in Fall 2004 and the 849 who started in Fall 2005.

Continuing Edibility Status

For the first five semesters of the SDOS program, a total of 2656 recipients have been awarded funding, however 526 of these recipients are currently ineligible. A total of 1171 recipients from the first four cohorts (69% of the original 1697 recipients) have established continuing eligibility for Fall 2006. Students can lose their SDOS edibility for five reasons which include: 1) temporarily falling below the required GPA; 2) falling below the required credit hours; 3) withdrawing/transferring out of the program; 4) graduation; and/or 5) failure to pass the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) exam (See Attachment II, Table 3 and 4 detailing the eligibility status and CAAP performance of recipients across each cohort at each institution). For the first four cohorts the number and percentage of students losing eligibility for each of the above causes is as follows:

- Falling below required GPA – 124 (23.4%)
- Falling below the required credit hours – 281 (53.1%)
- Withdrawing/Transferring from the program - 117 (22.3%)
- Graduation – 7 (1.2%)
- Failure to pass the CAAP exam – 0 (0.0%)

For the Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 Cohorts, 289 recipients (34% of the original total of 840) were not eligible for Fall 2006. Additionally, for the Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 Cohort, 237 recipients (27% of the original total of 857) were not eligible for Fall 2006.

Students who are temporarily ineligible because they did not meet the 3.0 GPA requirement, could be reinstated and funded in the future for a possible addition of 124 students from the first four cohorts. This would increase the total requiring funding to 2254 for Spring 2007 if each of these students were able to return to good standing.

Executive Director Exemptions

A total of 64 exemption requests (12% of the 526 who have lost eligibility) have been received across the first five cohorts. Seventeen exemption requests have been denied, 45 exemption requests have been granted, and two exemption requests are pending. (see Attachment II, Table 5). The most common exemptions were for student failure to meet the course load requirements (84%), followed by military deferral (5%), high school curriculum (5%), failure to meet GPA requirements (2%), study abroad (2%), and medical hardship (2%).

South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Term Report

The South Dakota Legislature authorized the Regents Scholarship Program in 2003 to allow South Dakota's most academically accomplished high school graduates to receive an affordable education at any university, college, or technical school in South Dakota that is accredited by the North Central Association (NCA). In 2004, the Legislature renamed the scholarship the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship (SDOS) and authorized funding from the state of South Dakota's Education Enhancement Trust Fund, beginning with high school graduating classes in 2004. South Dakota high school graduates, who were residents of South Dakota at the time of graduation, received an ACT composite score of 24 or higher, and completed high school course requirements consistent with the Regents scholar curriculum were eligible for the SDOS. The purpose of the *South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Term Report* is to provide an update on the current status for the scholarship recipients for each active cohort.

Institutional Cohort Comparison

The most recent cohort of SDOS recipients for Fall 2006 includes 959 South Dakota graduates. This is an increase of 109 recipients when compared to the Fall 2005 cohort. The top five institutions awarding the largest number of recipients were SDSU followed by USD, Augustana, SDSMT, and BHSU who accounted for more than 82% of the recipients for Fall 2006 (see Table 1 for number and percentage of recipients awarded by institution for Fall 2006). Overall, SDSU (41.5%) has awarded the most SDOS recipients in each of the five cohorts (see Table 2 for number of recipients awarded by institution for each of the five cohorts). When compared with institution enrollment for 2006, the top five institutions with the highest percentage of Fall 2006 recipients were Augustana (5.1%), followed by SDSMT (3.7%), SDSU (3.2%), USD (2.3%), and DWU (2.3%).

Table 1
SDOS Fall 2006 Recipient Summary

Participating Institution	# of Students Receiving Scholarship	% of Students Receiving Scholarship
Augustana College (AUG)	82	8.5%
Black Hills State University (BHSU)	55	5.7%
Colorado Technical University (CTU)	0	0.0%
Dakota State University (DSU)	40	4.2%
Dakota Wesleyan University (DWU)	18	1.9%
Kilian Community College (KCC)	0	0.0%
Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI)	6	0.6%
Mount Marty College (MMC)	11	1.1%
Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI)	2	0.2%
National American University (NAU)	1	0.1%
Northern State University (NSU)	38	3.9%
Presentation College (PC)	11	1.1%
SD School of Mines and Technology (SDMT)	79	8.2%
SD State University (SDSU)	373	38.9%
Southeast Technical Institute (STI)	7	0.7%
University of South Dakota (USD)	201	20.9%
University of Sioux Falls (USF)	34	3.5%
Western Dakota Technical Institute (WDTI)	1	0.1%
Total	959	100%

Table 2
South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship – Recipients Funded Across First Five Cohorts

<i>Original Recipients</i>	AUG	BHSU	CTU	DSU	DWU	KCC	LATI	MMC	MTI	NAU	NSU	PC	SDMT	SDSU	STI	USD	USF	WDTI	Total
<i>Fall 2004</i>	81	29	2	22	9	0	1	16	1	2	31	3	67	354	4	177	28	1	828
<i>Spring 2005</i>	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	4	0	0	12
<i>Fall 2005</i>	62	46	1	29	10	0	6	15	0	0	30	5	86	358	4	170	27	1	850
<i>Spring 2006</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	2	0	0	7
<i>Fall 2006</i>	82	55	0	40	18	0	6	11	2	1	38	11	79	373	7	201	34	1	959
5 Term Total	225	132	3	91	20	0	13	42	3	2	99	20	232	1094	15	554	89	3	2656
5 Term %	8.5%	5.0%	.1%	3.4%	.7%	.0%	.5%	1.6%	.1%	.1%	3.7%	.7%	8.7%	41.5%	.5%	21%	3.4%	.1%	

Continuing Eligibility Status

After a student is awarded the SDOS, he/she must meet a number of standards each semester to remain eligible. First, each student must maintain a cumulative grade point average for all credit hours completed of at least 3.0, as well as attempt and complete 15 semester credit hours of instruction each semester in courses in which instructors assign letter grades or their numeric equivalent. Any student who loses eligibility because the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0 may reestablish eligibility by raising the cumulative grade point average to 3.0 or greater. Failure to complete the required number of courses disqualifies the student from further participation in the program, effective at the end of the semester in which the student fails to complete 15 semester credit hours. Additionally, students can lose their SDOS eligibility by withdrawing/transferring out of the program, and/or failing to pass the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) exam.

Across the first four cohorts, 526 recipients (31% of the 1697 total) are either permanently or temporarily ineligible for the SDOS for the Fall 2006 semester. The Fall 2004 cohort has the highest number of ineligible recipients accounting for 34% of the students who were initially awarded the scholarship (see Table 3). Across this cohort, the most common justifications for ineligibility were failing to complete 15 semester credit hours (63%), withdrawing from the program (21%), falling below the 3.0 GPA requirement (14%), or graduation (1%) from the institution (see Table 3). Similar trends existed for the Fall 2005 cohort which had the second largest pool of ineligible recipients (27%). The most common justifications for lost eligibility were failing to complete 15 semester credit hours (40%), falling below the 3.0 GPA requirement (35%), withdrawing from the program (25%), or graduation (1%) from the institution (see Table 3). However, a total of 124 students are temporarily ineligible because they did not meet the 3.0 GPA requirement, and could be reinstated and funded in the future.

Each student must sit for and pass all four sections of the CAAP exam that the Board requires for regular students attending state universities. If the student does not pass the proficiency examinations on the student's first attempt, the student loses eligibility to continue participation in the scholarship program. A total of 559 students have sat for the proficiency exam across the first three cohort groups. All students who have sat for the exam have successfully achieved cut scores for Mathematics, Reading, Writing and Science Reasoning set by the South Dakota Board of Regents (see Table 4 for CAAP testing and passing percentage by institution).

Table 3
South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship – Continuing Eligibility Report

Original Recipients	AUG	BHS	CTU	DSU	DWU	KCC	LATI	MMC	MTI	NAU	NSU	PC	SDMT	SDSU	STI	USD	USF	WDTI	Total
Fall 2004	81	29	2	22	9	0	1	16	1	2	31	3	67	354	4	177	28	1	828
Temp Below GPA	6	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	18	0	14	0	0	41
Below Cr. Hrs.	22	10	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	22	80	1	32	4	0	182
Transfer/Withdrew	0	1	0	3	2	0	0	3	0	0	4	0	11	18	1	10	5	0	58
Lost/CAAP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Graduated	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
Still Receiving	53	18	2	14	4	0	1	13	0	2	22	2	32	238	2	121	19	0	543
Spring 2005	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	4	0	0	12
Temp Below GPA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Below Cr. Hrs.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
Transfer/Withdrew	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lost/CAAP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Graduated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Still Receiving	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	8
Fall 2005	62	46	1	29	10	0	6	15	0	0	30	5	86	358	4	170	27	1	850
Temp Below GPA	18	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	12	43	0	4	3	0	83
Below Cr. Hrs.	8	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	12	51	0	7	3	0	96
Transfer/Withdrew	3	2	0	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	11	3	0	29	0	0	54
Lost/CAAP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Graduated	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Still Receiving	33	34	1	23	7	0	4	15	1	0	24	5	51	261	4	130	21	0	614
Spring 2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	2	0	0	7
Temp Below GPA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Below Cr. Hrs.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer/Withdrew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Lost/CAAP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Graduated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Still Receiving	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	6

Executive Director Exemptions

If a student fails to meet the eligibility requirements for the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship, he/she has the opportunity to request an exemption for the Executive Director. A total of 64 exemption requests have been received from students in the four cohorts. Seventeen of these exemption requests have been denied, while 45 have been granted and two are still pending (see Table 5). For those request receiving Executive Director approval, the most common exemptions were for student failure to meet the course load requirements (84%), followed by military deferral (5%), high school curriculum (5%), failure to meet GPA requirements (2%), study abroad (2%), and medical hardship (2%).

Table 5
Executive Director Exemptions – Cumulative for all Five Cohorts and Five Terms

<i>Participating Institution</i>	<i>Requested Exemptions</i>	<i>Denied Exemptions</i>	<i>Pending Exemptions</i>	<i>Granted Exemptions</i>
Augustana College (AUG)	6	2	0	4
Black Hills State University (BHS)	5	4	0	1
Colorado Technical University (CTU)	0	0	0	0
Dakota State University (DSU)	0	0	0	0
Dakota Wesleyan University (DWU)	1	0	0	1
Kilian Community College (KCC)	0	0	0	0
Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI)	0	0	0	0
Mount Marty College (MMC)	2	0	0	2
Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI)	1	1	0	0
National American University (NAU)	0	0	0	0
Northern State University (NSU)	1	0	0	1
Presentation College (PC)	0	0	0	0
SD School of Mines and Technology (SDMT)	6	2	1	3
SD State University (SDSU)	30	8	1	21
Southeast Technical Institute (STI)	0	0	0	0
University of South Dakota (USD)	10	0	0	10
University of Sioux Falls (USF)	2	0	0	2
Western Dakota Technical Institute (WDTI)	0	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>	64	17	2	45