

**South Dakota Board of Regents
South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship
Spring 2007 Term Recipient Report**

Executive Summary

For the Spring 2007 semester, 2042 recipients are eligible for funding across 17 participating institutions (See Table 1 and 3 for eligibility details by institution). Twenty-five new recipients are receiving the scholarship for their first semester (Spring 2007 Cohort). When combined with the Fall 2006 cohort, the 983 recipients for this academic year represents a 17% increase when compared to the 840 recipients from the 2004-05 cohorts, and a 15% increase when compared to the 858 recipients from the 2005-06 cohorts.

Continuing Eligibility Status

For the first five semesters of the SDOS program, a total of 2,656 recipients have been awarded funding, however 639 of these recipients are currently ineligible. A total of 2,017 recipients from the first five cohorts (76% of the original 2,656 recipients) have established continuing eligibility for Spring 2007. Students can lose their SDOS eligibility 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 3-5 detailing the eligibility status and CAAP performance of recipients at each institution).

For the Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 Cohorts, 309 recipients (36% of the original total of 840) were not eligible for Spring 2007. Additionally, for the Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 Cohort, 263 recipients (31% of the original total of 858) were not eligible for Spring 2007. Overall, for the first five cohorts the number and percentage of students losing eligibility for each of the above causes is as follows:

- Falling below required GPA – 92 (14%)
- Falling below the required credit hours – 397 (62%)
- Withdrawing/Transferring from the program - 141 (22%)
- Graduation – 8 (1%)
- Failure to sit for or pass the CAAP exam – 1 (0.1%)

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 92 students from the first five cohorts. This would increase the total, requiring funding to 2,134 for Fall 2007 if each of these students were able to return to good standing.

Executive Director Exemptions

State statute has granted the Executive Director of the Board of Regents the authority to grant exceptions to continuous enrollment requirements when good cause is shown. To date a total of 105 exemption requests have been received from students in the first five cohorts.

Twenty-six exemption requests have been denied, and 77 requests have been granted for students across nine institutions (see Attachment II, Table 6). The most common exemption waiver has been granted for student inability to meet *Credit Hour* requirements (84%), followed by Persistence (8%), *Other* (4%), *Proficiency Exam* (3%), and *GPA* requirements. In addition to these five waiver classifications, seven justifications have been attributed to student appeals for exemptions from the Executive Director. Thirty-five of the exemptions were granted because of student *Medical Hardship* (23 of the 77 granted exemptions), with a majority of these waivers granted for student inability to meet Credit Hour Requirements (see Attachment II, Table 7). Other justifications included student participation in *Exchange Programs* (22%), issues that emerged with *Program of Study Requirements* (22%), *Administrative Error* (12%), participation in institution approved *Internships* (5%), *Military Deferral* (5%), and *Repeat Courses* (4%).

SDOS Major Enrollment

The 20 most common majors for SDOS recipients are reported for the first time in this report (see Attachment II, Table 8). Enrollments in these majors represented more than 61% of all 2,681 recipients, and analysis revealed that recipients are more likely to enroll in majors resulting in career areas such as medicine, science, mathematics, engineering, and business. Overall, Biology (195 or 7.3%) has been the most common major during the first three years of the program.

Spring 2007 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 Spring 2007 includes 25 South Dakota graduates. This is an increase of 15 recipients when compared to the Spring 2006 cohort. For the 2006-07 academic year the top five institutions enrolling the largest number of recipients were SDSU followed by USD, Augustana, SDSMT, and BHSU who accounted for more than 82.7% of the recipients for the 2006-07 academic year (see Table 1 for number and percentage of recipients awarded by institution for Fall 2006 and Spring 2007).

Table 1
2006-07 South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Recipient Summary

Participating Institution	# of Fall Recipients	# of Spring Recipients	Total % of Recipients
Augustana College (AUG)	80	4	8.5%
Black Hills State University (BHSU)	54	0	5.5%
Colorado Technical University (CTU)	0	0	0.0%
Dakota State University (DSU)	40	1	4.2%
Dakota Wesleyan University (DWU)	18	0	1.8%
Kilian Community College (KCC)	0	0	0.0%
Lake Area Technical Institute (LATI)	7	0	0.7%
Mount Marty College (MMC)	11	0	1.1%
Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI)	2	0	0.2%
National American University (NAU)	0	0	0.0%
Northern State University (NSU)	39	0	4.0%
Presentation College (PC)	10	0	1.0%
SD School of Mines and Technology (SDMT)	78	1	8.0%
SD State University (SDSU)	375	12	39.4%
Southeast Technical Institute (STI)	6	1	0.7%
University of South Dakota (USD)	204	6	21.3%
University of Sioux Falls (USF)	33	0	3.3%
Western Dakota Technical Institute (WDTI)	1	0	0.1%
	958	25	100%

Overall, SDSU (41.1%) has enrolled the most SDOS recipients in each of the six cohorts (see Table 2 for number of recipients awarded by institution for each of the six cohorts). When compared with institution enrollment for 2006-07, the top five institutions with the highest percentage of Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 recipients were Augustana (4.5%), followed by SDSMT (3.7%), SDSU (3.2%), USD (2.3%), and DWU (2.3%).

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

<i>Participating Institution</i>	<i>Fall 2004</i>	<i>Spring 2005</i>	<i>Fall 2005</i>	<i>Spring 2006</i>	<i>Fall 2006</i>	<i>Spring 2007</i>	<i>6 Term Total</i>	<i>6 Term %</i>
Augustana College (AUG)	79	0	58	0	80	4	221	8.3%
Black Hills State U. (BHSU)	33	2	52	1	54	0	142	5.3%
Colorado Technical U. (CTU)	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0.1%
Dakota State U. (DSU)	20	0	29	0	40	1	90	3.4%
Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)	7	1	8	0	18	0	34	1.3%
Kilian Community College (KCC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Lake Area Tech. Institute (LATI)	2	0	6	0	7	0	15	0.5%
Mount Marty College (MMC)	15	0	16	0	11	0	42	1.6%
Mitchell Tech. Institute (MTI)	3	0	0	0	2	0	5	0.2%
National American U. (NAU)	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.1%
Northern State U. (NSU)	29	0	31	0	39	0	99	3.8%
Presentation College (PC)	4	0	5	1	10	0	20	0.7%
SD Sch. of Mines & Tech. (SDMT)	64	0	79	0	78	1	222	8.2%
SD State U. (SDSU)	346	5	359	6	375	12	1103	41.1%
Southeast Tech Institute (STI)	3	0	6	0	6	1	16	0.6%
U. of South Dakota (USD)	190	4	169	2	204	6	575	21.4%
University of Sioux Falls (USF)	27	0	28	0	33	0	88	3.3%
W. Dakota Tech. Institute (WDTI)	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0.1%
	828	12	848	10	958	25	2,681	

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 enroll in the required number of credits at the beginning of either the Fall or Spring semester disqualifies the student from further participation in the program. Students also become ineligible at the end of the semester in which he/she 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.

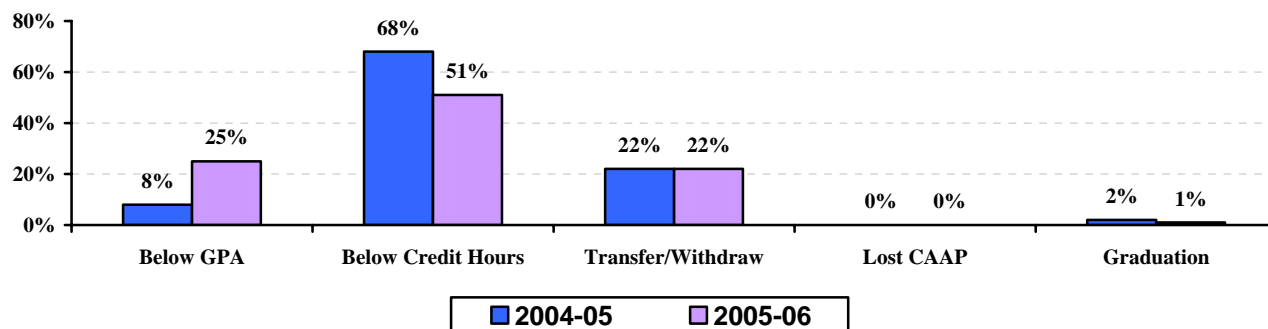
Across the first five cohorts, 639 recipients (24% of the 2681 total) are either permanently or temporarily ineligible for the SDOS for the Spring 2007 semester. To date, a total of 94 students have been reinstated after failing to meet the 3.0 GPA requirement, and there are 92 students that are temporarily ineligible and could be reinstated and funded in the future.

South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship recipients from the 2004-05 academic year (Fall 2004 and Spring 2006 cohorts) had the highest number of ineligible recipients accounting for 37% 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 (68%), withdrawing from the program (22%), falling below the 3.0 GPA requirement (8%), or graduation (2%) from the institution (see Figure 1). One student from these two cohorts lost eligibility for failure to sit for the proficiency examination.

Table 3
Continuing Eligibility Status for Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 Cohorts

<i>Fall 2004 – Spring 2005</i>	<i>Cohort #</i>	<i>Below GPA</i>	<i>Below Cr. Hrs.</i>	<i>Transfer Withdraw</i>	<i>Lost-CAAP</i>	<i>Grad.</i>	<i>Still Receiving</i>
Augustana College (AUG)	79	0	25	1	0	0	53
Black Hills State U. (BHSU)	35	1	11	5	0	0	18
Colorado Technical U. (CTU)	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Dakota State U. (DSU)	20	0	6	1	0	0	13
Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)	8	0	3	0	0	1	4
Kilian Community College (KCC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Area Tech. Institute (LATI)	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mount Marty College (MMC)	15	0	0	2	0	0	13
Mitchell Tech. Institute (MTI)	3	0	2	0	0	0	1
National American U. (NAU)	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Northern State U. (NSU)	29	1	5	3	0	0	20
Presentation College (PC)	4	0	1	0	0	0	3
SD Sch. of Mines & Tech. (SDMT)	64	0	26	8	0	1	29
SD State U. (SDSU)	351	13	86	24	1	0	227
Southeast Tech Institute (STI)	3	0	1	1	0	1	0
U. of South Dakota (USD)	194	10	41	19	0	0	124
U. of Sioux Falls (USF)	27	0	4	3	0	0	20
W. Dakota Tech. Institute (WDTI)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	840	25	211	67	1	5	531

Figure 1
Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 Cohort Ineligibility Status Classifications



Similar trends existed for the 2005-06 academic year (Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 cohorts) which had the second largest pool of ineligible recipients (see Table 4). For these cohorts, 263 (31%) of the recipients had become temporarily or permanently ineligible since initially receiving the scholarship. The most common justifications for lost eligibility were failing to complete 15 semester credit hours (51%), falling below the 3.0 GPA requirement (25%), withdrawing from the program (22%), or graduation (1%) from the institution (see Figure 1). No students from these two cohorts have failed to meet the proficiency exam requirement.

Table 4
Continuing Eligibility Status for Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 Cohorts

Fall 2005 – Spring 2006	Cohort #	Below GPA	Below Cr. Hrs.	Transfer Withdraw	Lost-CAAP	Grad.	Still Receiving
Augustana College (AUG)	58	11	12	0	0	0	35
Black Hills State U. (BHSU)	53	3	9	5	0	0	36
Colorado Technical U. (CTU)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dakota State U. (DSU)	29	2	4	3	0	0	20
Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)	8	0	1	0	0	0	7
Kilian Community College (KCC)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Area Tech. Institute (LATI)	6	0	0	0	0	2	4
Mount Marty College (MMC)	16	0	0	0	0	0	16
Mitchell Tech. Institute (MTI)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National American U. (NAU)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern State U. (NSU)	31	1	4	2	0	0	24
Presentation College (PC)	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
SD Sch. of Mines & Tech. (SDMT)	79	12	19	3	0	0	45
SD State U. (SDSU)	365	31	64	13	0	0	257
Southeast Tech Institute (STI)	6	0	4	0	0	0	2
U. of South Dakota (USD)	171	6	11	33	0	0	121
U. of Sioux Falls (USF)	28	0	7	0	0	0	21
W. Dakota Tech. Institute (WDTI)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
	858	66	135	59	0	3	595

A total of 67 (7%) of the recipients from the Fall 2006 cohort are ineligible. Again, failure to complete 15 credit hours as the most common justification (76%) followed by student withdrawal from the program (22%).

Additional analysis was also performed for the 639 recipients that lost eligibility to further evaluate SDOS program criteria. To date, 397 recipients have become permanently ineligible because they failed to complete 15 or more credit hours during their final semester of eligibility. However, when comparing recipient GPA during the semester they were assigned an ineligible classification, a total of 299 recipients attempted fewer than 15 credits. These recipients represented students who had been classified as temporarily ineligible due to their failure to maintain a 3.00 GPA. As a result, approximately 75% of the students who lost eligibility due to credit hour requirements had also failed to meet one of the program requirements. One-hundred and fourteen of these students lost permanent eligibility during the same semester when they failed to complete at least 15 credit hours. For these students, only 60 (53%) would have met the 3.0 GPA requirement at the end of the semester. The other 47% of these students fell below the 3.0 requirement, with approximately 38% failing to obtain at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA.

CAAP Performance

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 730 students have sat for the proficiency exam across the first four 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 5
Recipient CAAP Performance

<i>Participating Institution</i>	<i># of Recipients</i>	<i># Tested</i>	<i># Passed</i>	<i>% Passed</i>
Augustana College (AUG)	221	62	62	100%
Black Hills State U. (BHSU)	142	22	22	100%
Colorado Technical U. (CTU)	3	3	3	100%
Dakota State U. (DSU)	90	20	20	100%
Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)	34	7	7	100%
Kilian Community College (KCC)	0	0	0	**
Lake Area Tech. Institute (LATI)	15	0	0	**
Mount Marty College (MMC)	42	18	18	100%
Mitchell Tech. Institute (MTI)	5	2	2	100%
National American U. (NAU)	3	2	2	100%
Northern State U. (NSU)	99	24	24	100%
Presentation College (PC)	20	3	3	100%
SD Sch. of Mines & Tech. (SDMT)	222	43	66	100%
SD State U. (SDSU)	1103	319	319	100%
Southeast Tech Institute (STI)	16	1	1	100%
U. of South Dakota (USD)	575	181	181	100%
U. of Sioux Falls (USF)	88	22	22	100%
W. Dakota Tech. Institute (WDTI)	3	1	1	100%
		730	730	100%

Executive Director Exemptions

State statute grants the Executive Director of the Board of Regents the authority to grant exceptions to continuous enrollment requirements when good cause is shown. As a result, when a situation arises that hinders a student from meeting the eligibility requirements for the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship, he/she has the opportunity to request an exception waiver from the Executive Director. Exemption waivers can be granted for student inability to meet *Credit Hour*, *GPA*, *Persistence*, or *Proficiency Examination* requirements. Furthermore, instances have and will continue to occur that represent unique situations where the Executive Director has granted a waiver to ensure that student interests and the intent of the scholarship program are best served. In these situations, the classification of *other* has been assigned. In addition to these five waiver classifications, seven justifications have been attributed to student appeals for exemptions from the Executive Director that include:

1. Situations where *Medical Hardship* has hindered a students progress;
2. Student participation in an approved *Exchange Program* through their institution;
3. Conflict with *Program of Study Requirements* that influence student credit hours;
4. Instances where *Administrative Error* has occurred;
5. Participation in an institution approved *Internship* program;
6. *Military Deferral* for National Guard or military service;
7. Instances where students have taken a *Repeat Course* to fulfill degree requirements.

In the first three years of the SDOS program, the Executive Director has received 105 exemption requests from students across the six cohorts. Twenty-six of these exemption requests have been denied, while 77 have been granted to students across nine institutions (see Table 6).

Table 6
Executive Director Exemption Requests – Cumulative for all Five Cohorts and Five Terms

<i>Participating Institution</i>	<i>Requested Exemptions</i>	<i>Denied Exemptions</i>	<i>Granted Exemptions</i>
<i>Augustana College (AUG)</i>	7	2	5
<i>Black Hills State U. (BHSU)</i>	5	4	1
<i>Dakota Wesleyan U. (DWU)</i>	2	0	2
<i>Mount Marty College (MMC)</i>	3	0	3
<i>Mitchell Tech. Institute (MTI)</i>	1	1	0
<i>Northern State U. (NSU)</i>	1	0	1
<i>SD Sch. of Mines & Tech. (SDMT)</i>	8	3	4
<i>SD State U. (SDSU)</i>	51	12	40
<i>U. of South Dakota (USD)</i>	21	3	19
<i>U. of Sioux Falls (USF)</i>	3	1	2
	99	26	77

The majority of Executive Director waivers have been granted for student inability to meet *Credit Hour* requirements (84%), followed by *Persistence* (8%), *Other* (4%), *Proficiency Exam* (3%), and *GPA* requirements (1%). Additionally, *Medical Hardship* (30%) was the most common justification for the Executive Director to grant a waiver to students seeking exemptions (see Table 7).

Table 7
Executive Director Exemption Waiver Request by Exemption Justifications

<i>Exemption Justification</i>	<i>Exemption Waiver Request</i>					<i>Total</i>
	<i>Credit Hour</i>	<i>GPA</i>	<i>Persistence</i>	<i>Proficiency Exam</i>	<i>Other</i>	
<i>Medical Hardship</i>	21	1	1	0	0	23 ^(30%)
<i>Exchange Program</i>	16	0	0	1	0	17 ^(22%)
<i>Program of Study Req.</i>	17	0	1	0	0	17 ^(22%)
<i>Administrative Error</i>	6	0	0	0	3	9 ^(12%)
<i>Internship</i>	2	0	1	1	0	4 ^(5%)
<i>Military Deferral</i>	0	0	4	0	0	4 ^(5%)
<i>Repeat Course</i>	3	0	1	0	0	3 ^(4%)
	65 ^(84%)	1 ^(1%)	6 ^(8%)	2 ^(3%)	3 ^(4%)	77

SDOS Major Enrollments

Participating institutions are asked to identify recipients' major enrollments on their campus. Those recipients who maintain eligibility have their major status updated in the SDOS database each semester. Major enrollment for those recipients who have lost eligibility is documented at the point of their last eligible semester. An analysis of data reveal that SDOS recipients are more likely to enroll in majors resulting in career areas such as medicine, science, mathematics, engineering, and business. Table 8 provides frequency and percentages for the top twenty majors across the 2,681 SDOS recipients. Biology (195 or 7.3%) has been the most common major during the first three years of the program, with student enrollment in these 20 majors representing 61% of the 2,681 recipients.

Table 8
Twenty Most Common Majors for SDOS Recipients

<i>Major</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage of SDOS Recipients</i>
<i>1. Biology</i>	195	7.3%
<i>2. Undeclared</i>	174	6.5%
<i>3. Pre-Medicine</i>	125	4.7%
<i>4. Nursing</i>	120	4.5%
<i>5. Pre-Pharmacy</i>	118	4.4%
<i>6. Mechanical Engineering</i>	114	4.3%
<i>7. Psychology</i>	89	3.3%
<i>8. Pre-Business</i>	76	2.8%
<i>9. Elementary Education</i>	74	2.7%
<i>10. Civil Engineering</i>	71	2.6%
<i>11. Chemistry</i>	67	2.5%
<i>12. Mathematics</i>	65	2.4%
<i>13. Political Science</i>	54	2.0%
<i>14. Computer Science</i>	52	1.9%
<i>15. Business Management</i>	47	1.8%
<i>16. Business</i>	45	1.7%
<i>17. Electrical Engineering</i>	45	1.7%
<i>18. Pre-Economics</i>	40	1.5%
<i>19. English</i>	37	1.4%
<i>20. Pre-Physical Therapy</i>	36	1.3%
<i>Total</i>	<i>1644</i>	<i>61.3%</i>