

Professional and Applied Doctoral Concept Proposal

Letter of Intent and Abstract - Cycle 3

Program Identification

The CSU Office of the Chancellor invites campuses to submit a Provost-signed letter of intent accompanied by an abstract of up to 500 words for any new professional or applied doctoral program under consideration.

This advance submission supports review of proposed degree designations and disciplinary areas, preliminary concepts, and possible duplication before the July 1, 2027 Concept Proposal deadline. Submission does not constitute approval to develop or implement the program.

Submission deadline: End of day October 12, 2026

Questions: Tracy Love-Geffen (tlove@sdsu.edu) or Madhavi McCall (mccall@sdsu.edu)

Degree Designation *

Enter the proposed doctoral degree designation (e.g., DPA, DSc).

Projected Degree Title *

Enter the full and exact title of the projected doctoral degree.

Proposed Term and Academic Year of Implementation *

Example: Fall 2028.

Proposed CIP Code *

Use the [CSU/CIP Code Crosswalk](#); consult the NCES CIP User Site if the code does not exist in the CSU.

Name of Person Submitting *

Email Address of Person Submitting *

Anticipated Support Mode *

Select all that apply.

☐ State

☐ Self

Anticipated Delivery Format *

Select all that apply.

☐ F2F = in person

☐ ON = online

☐ HY = hybrid

Abstract guidance

Professional and applied doctoral degrees must respond to demonstrable workforce demands that cannot be adequately met at the master's level and must be distinct in purpose and design from research-oriented doctoral programs offered by the UC. The 500-word abstract should provide:

- The program's purpose, intended professional audience, and distinguishing characteristics;
- A preliminary overview of the curriculum structure and culminating doctoral experience;
- An evidence-informed summary of statewide workforce demand supporting the proposed degree;
- A preliminary framework and metrics for evaluating the program's return on investment; and
- A concise assessment of possible duplication with existing UC doctoral programs and the principal ways the proposed program would be differentiated.

Where professional accreditation is anticipated, briefly explain how applicable requirements may affect curricular overlap with UC programs holding the same or a related accreditation.

Letter of Intent and Abstract Upload

The CO Smartsheet form requires a Provost-signed letter of intent and 500-word abstract.

☐ Provost signature confirmed

☐ Abstract is 500 words or fewer

Consultation, Coordination, and Program Duplication *

Summarize consultation or coordination with academic departments or programs on your campus and other CSU campuses offering related master's or doctoral programs, including independent or joint doctoral programs. Address possible effects on existing programs and consultation with the UC, as appropriate, regarding possible duplication with existing or planned UC doctoral programs.

Identify the campuses or UC representatives consulted, the general topics discussed, and any issues or distinctions identified. If consultation has not yet occurred, briefly describe planned next steps.

Workforce Demand for the Doctoral-Level Degree *

Summarize the evidence of workforce demand specifically for graduates prepared at the doctoral level. Explain why the identified need cannot be adequately addressed through existing bachelor's or master's degrees, certificates, or other educational pathways. Where available, identify relevant occupations, industries, employers, workforce projections, professional standards, or other evidence supporting the need.

Student Demand *

Provide a high-level summary of anticipated student demand, including:

- The populations or educational pathways from which students are expected to be drawn;
- Evidence that may indicate demand, such as enrollment trends, applicant data, surveys, employer input, or demand for related programs; and
- The likely geographic scope of recruitment.