

# YOUR ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

@ South Dakota State University

This roadmap provides you with **practical** and **proven** steps you can take to be successful at South Dakota State University. The first list of items covers your entire college experience. The other three task lists serve as a more specific guide for each stage of your journey. Good luck!

## THE BIG PICTURE

You will be successful at SDSU if you:

- Attend **every class** session and plan your weekly schedule to include time devoted to studies. On average, students should plan to study two-three hours/week for every one hour in class.
- Become an **active learner** by engaging in thoughtful classroom discussions and thinking about course material and how it applies to your life outside of class.
- During the **first few weeks** of class each term access campus resources such as tutoring, supplemental instruction, peer mentoring and other campus support services.
- **Connect** with faculty members – ask questions, visit during office hours, seek feedback.
- Be **well-prepared** for every class – complete all readings and homework assignments on time.
- Demonstrate academic integrity – **be honest** and do not cheat.
- Help to create and ensure an inclusive learning environment, **showing respect** for other students, faculty, staff and community members.
- **Get involved.** Experience positive co-curricular activities, outside the classroom, that push you beyond your comfort zone and challenge you to experience new things.
- **Communicate often** with your academic advisor and professors regarding personal successes, challenges and goals.
- Think beyond your time at SDSU – consider how you will contribute to your **future** community and prepare yourself to be a citizen of the world.

## MY COMMITMENT

The people and programs at South Dakota State University are designed to promote your **success** and help you **graduate**. Follow this roadmap, take advantage of available resources and put yourself in the position to **achieve great things**.

Sign below and make a commitment to your own success.

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(Signature)

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(Date)

## YOUR FIRST YEAR

- **Participate** in hall activities, meet your academic advisor at the beginning of the semester and introduce yourself to your professors.
- Build a positive support network by surrounding yourself with others who model good academic behaviors; develop a **sense of belonging** through friendships and involvement.
- Develop a **personal organization system** that allows you to prioritize and plan ahead, manage your time and maintain a positive healthy balance.
- Work with an academic advisor to develop the first two years of a four-year **graduation plan**.
- **Set realistic goals** and work with faculty and staff who can help you reach them. Goals might include GPA, number of credits completed, career exploration, major selection and involvement.
- **Live on campus**, even if your family is local. Social and academic support offered through residential life programs is critical to your success
- Earn at least **24 credits**, completing required **math** and **English** courses.
- Select your major and know the requirements and career **opportunities** related to your major.

## YOUR SECOND &amp; THIRD YEARS

- **Maintain your connections** with friends, faculty and staff .
- Meet with your academic advisor and develop or update your four-year **graduation plan**.
- **Connect** with the Office of Career Development and your academic department/college to check out possible internships, summer jobs and other experiential learning opportunities.
- Get engaged in **challenging** and **relevant** activities (study abroad, undergraduate research, service-learning and leadership development).
- Explore **housing options** on campus and/or within the community. Be a good neighbor.
- Think about your plan **after graduation** (career path, graduate school or volunteer service).
- Consider **employment** and attend a job or career fair.

## YOUR FINAL YEAR

- **Reflect** on your goals and **self-assess** your values, strengths and weaknesses.
- Utilize programs from the Office of **Career Development** (resume review, career planning workshops, practice interviews, career/job fairs, register/update profile on Campanile Connections).
- Prepare for graduation by completing the **graduation application**.
- Complete **capstone** and **practicum** courses (if available in your discipline).
- Complete **exit exams** and **interviews** (if required by your major).
- Use your **experience** and take on **leadership** roles in campus organizations.
- Join **professional organizations** if available for your major/discipline.
- Complete **graduate** and **professional school** applications (if applicable).
- **Contribute** in a way that makes South Dakota State University an even better place than it was when you arrived.