Recently Added Online Programs

**Geography (B.S.):** Geography is the scientific study of the distribution of both physical and human features of the Earth's surface. Geographers seek to describe, relate, and explain the natural and cultural phenomena that distinguish places around the world. The process of change is a central theme in geography, and the examination of how humankind modifies the Earth is emphasized. The study of geography is of vital concern to all citizens and provides graduates with numerous career opportunities in business, education, and government. >>Learn more

**Agricultural Education (M.S.):** The Master's degree in Agricultural Education is designed to meet the needs of individuals who work (or plan to work) in agricultural education, non-profit organizations, post-secondary education, or provide leadership in agriculture industry. The department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership provides professional preparation for those who want to expand their knowledge and advance themselves professionally in the agricultural industry.

This graduate program has been developed through an interdisciplinary collaboration between the College of Education and Human Sciences and College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. >>Learn more

**Native Communities and Economic Development (Grad. Cert.):** This certificate is designed for professionals interested in expanding their skills and understanding of the Native community and economic development, as well as those with an interest in working with Native communities. Today, students taking these courses are often employed or seeking employment in Native-serving organizations and agencies who have extended their programming to Native-majority communities and neighborhoods. This certificate will provide access to graduate credentials for those working in these primarily isolated communities in a subject matter of interest, with useful information. >>Learn more
Welcome, Theresa and Jenna!

Theresa Swedzinski and Jenna Nelson are new to the Continuing and Distance Education Office. Now’s your chance to get to know them.

Theresa Swedzinski Ireland

Theresa is a new Student Services Facilitator in the CDE office. She works with students in the GPIDEA and AG*IDEA programs. She also advises Bachelor of General Studies students and works with the Associate of Arts Degree Completion Project.

What are your goals within the CDE office? I am very passionate about feminism and inclusivity. My goal is to intentionally allow these principles to guide and inform my work whenever possible.

What do you enjoy most about your job? I love that there are so many different pieces to what I do—there’s always something new to learn. It keeps me on my toes, and makes each day interesting!

What is your favorite flavor of SDSU ice cream? Right now, I’m in love with a flavor called Barry Berry. I recently found it was actually created by a group of students including a talented young woman from my hometown—shout out to Della S.!

What is your favorite TV show? The Masterpiece Classic version of Wuthering Heights

If you could be anyone in history, who would it be and why? Gandalf, but I’m not going to explain, because it would take way too long to do so properly. Wait, I didn’t have to pick a real person, did I?

Jenna Nelson

Jenna Nelson is the new Marketing and Communications Coordinator. She designs, plans, and executes the creative strategy for the International Affairs and Outreach department.

What do you enjoy most about your job? I love the variety of tasks that I have the privilege of doing—every day is definitely different! I truly am passionate about reaching out to students. I love knowing that my work might encourage students to enroll in one of our Dual Credit or online courses, or give them the courage they need to study abroad.

What is your favorite thing about SDSU? What isn’t there to love? I fell in love with SDSU during college and I have always been a huge advocate for the University. Some of my best memories took place as a student here, and it doesn’t hurt that this is where I met my husband. ;)

What are some things you do in your spare time? Draw, read, cook, and spend time with my friends and family.

What is your favorite TV show? The Walking Dead and The Big Bang Theory

If you could be anyone in history, who would it be and why? I honestly don’t have anyone specific that I would like to be, but I would love to live in the 60’s as a young adult. There was so much change taking place. I would have loved to see the way people all rallied and came together for one cause, plus there were great music and movies with the ideals of peace and love.
South Dakota State University’s office of Continuing and Distance Education will be celebrating National Distance Learning Week (NDLW) November 9-13, 2015 with activities throughout the week. Participate in any of the following activities for an opportunity to win some SD State Online swag.

**Student Testimonies:** We want to hear from you! Share your SD State Online story by Nov. 6th. [Share your story now.](#)

**Submit Your Photo:** We want to see you! Share your photos showing your school spirit and/or your favorite study places by Nov. 6th. [Submit your photo.](#)

**Student Polls:** Where is your favorite place to study? What is your learning style? Answer daily polls on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) throughout NDLW.

**Scavenger Hunt:** Join the hunt! Find and answer daily questions on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) during NDLW.

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**New Student Success Videos**

- **Are You Ready to be an Online Learner? Keys to Online Success**
- **Internet Etiquette: Netiquette Guidelines for the Online Classroom**
- **Overcoming Procrastination: Tips for Distance Learners**
- **Mastering Online Group Work: Tips for Distance Learners**
Meet SD State Online Students: Eric Markley and Erica Knippling

Eric Markley earned his Bachelor of General Studies degree this past summer. He is originally from Harrisburg, SD and is now living in Atlanta, GA.

“The freedom distance learning allowed was wonderful. It allowed me the flexibility to work as a firefighter, travel, and ultimately move, all while continuing on with my education,” Eric said. “I enjoyed the variety of classes I took. Many areas I had no experience with previously, so I loved learning new things in a variety of topics.”

Eric identified his physics and biology classes as the most interesting. “[I enjoyed] physics because it was something I had never taken before and biology because I discovered so much about the world around me,” Eric said.

When asked what piece of advice Eric would give to new distance students he said, “Just keep plugging away. It may seem like the day will never come, but slowly, one class or two classes at a time, you will eventually get there.”

Erica Blood Knippling is a current Bachelor of General Studies student originally from Webster, SD. She is now living in Flandreau, SD and plans to graduate in May, 2016.

“My mother had gone back to school to become a nurse later in life, and I had always admired her for that,” Erica said. “After her passing, I decided that it was time to make positive steps for not only my future, but for my family’s as well. Finishing my degree was one way I could help provide a future for my children and show them what you can achieve when you apply yourself. I wanted to live by example, not just by words.”

When asked why Erica chose an online education she said, “Taking courses online allowed me to continue working full time in conjunction with finishing my degree. I don’t have to compromise one for the other.”

Erica offers the following advice to other adults considering completing their degree online, “Don’t doubt yourself. Adult learners bring a new perspective to education. We have lived life, and most likely had some trials and tribulations along the way that allow us to view higher education concepts differently. Adult learners bring a new complexity to any college course they are in.”

Erica Blood Knippling

Contact Us
Continuing & Distance Education
South Dakota State University
Box 2115, SBL 119
Brookings, SD 57007
Phone: 605-688-4154

CLICK TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SD STATE ONLINE

Fall 2015 Important Dates
- Oct 16 — First half Fall Term ends
- Nov 6 — Last day to drop a course
- Nov 9-13 — NDLW
- Nov 11 — Veterans’ Day Holiday
- Nov 25-29 — Thanksgiving Recess
- Dec 10-16 — Final Exams
- Dec 21 — Grades due on WebAdvisor

Spring 2016 Important Dates
- Jan 11 — Start Date/Instruction Begins
- Jan 18 — Martin Luther King Holiday
- Jan 20 — Last day to adjust final fees
- Jan 29 — Spring graduation apps due
- Feb 15 — Presidents’ Day Holiday
- Mar 7-11 — Spring Break
- Mar 14 — First half Spring Term ends