SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Bachelor of Arts**
**Major: Communication Studies**
**Specialization: Communication Education**
**2025-2026 Sample 4-Year Plan**
**Total Degree Requirements: 120 credits**

**Student** _____ **Student ID#** _____ **Student Phone #** _____

**Advisor** _____ **Minimum GPA** 2.5 **Minor/Career Interest(s)** _____

Students are not limited to this plan; it is meant to be used as a guide for planning purposes in consultation with your advisor. The sample schedule is one possible path to completing your degree within four years. For official program requirements, please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog.

## FIRST YEAR

**Fall**

| Prefix + Number | Course Title | Prerequisites/Comments | Credits | Semester | Grade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EDFN 102 | Introduction to Teaching | | 3 | | |
| MCOM 119 | First-Year Seminar in Communication and Journalism | | 2 | F | |
| Modern Foreign Language Course | Students must complete through the 202 level in an approved Modern Language (SGR #4) | Placement testing is required to determine proficiency level | 4 | | |
| SGR #2 | Oral Communication | CMST 205 suggested | 3 | | |
| SGR #3 | Social Science | Civics requirement | 3 | | |
| SGR #6 | Natural Sciences | | 3 | | |
| | | **Total Credit Hours** | 16 | | |

**Spring**

| Prefix + Number | Course Title | Prerequisites/Comments | Credits | Semester | Grade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CMST 201 | Interpersonal Communication (SGR #3) | | 3 | | |
| ENGL 101 | Composition I (SGR #1) | p. Placement | 3 | | |
| MCOM 151 | Introduction to Mass Communication | | 3 | | |
| Modern Foreign Language Course | Students must complete through the 202 level in an approved Modern Language (SGR #4) | p. 101 | 4 | | |
| SGR #5 | Mathematics | p. Placement | 3 | | |
| | | **Total Credit Hours** | 16 | | |

## SECOND YEAR

**Fall**

| Prefix + Number | Course Title | Prerequisites/Comments | Credits | Semester | Grade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CMST 215 or CMST 222 | Public Speaking or Argumentation and Debate | | 3 | F/S | |
| CMST 281 | Speech and Debate Activities | 3 credits required over two consecutive semesters | 1 | | |
| ENGL 201 | Composition II (SGR #1) | p. ENGL 101 | 3 | | |
| CMST or MCOM Elective | | | 3 | | |
| Modern Foreign Language Course | Students must complete through the 202 level in an approved Modern Language. | p. 102 | 3 | | |
| CMST 311 | Business and Professional Communication | | 3 | F | |
| | | **Total Credit Hours** | 16 | | |

**Spring**

| Prefix + Number | Course Title | Prerequisites/Comments | Credits | Semester | Grade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AIS 211 | SD American Indian Culture and Education | | 3 | | |
| CMST 281 | Speech and Debate Activities | 3 credits required over two consecutive semesters | 2 | | |
| SGR #6 | Natural Sciences | | 3 | | |
| CMST 491 | Independent Study: Forensics Team Management | | 1 | | |
| CMST or MCOM Elective | | | 3 | | |
| Modern Foreign Language Course | Students must complete through the 202 level in an approved Modern Language. | p. 201 | 3 | | |
| | | **Total Credit Hours** | 15 | | |

**Information Subject to Change. This is not a contract.**

p. = Course Prerequisite c. = Course Corequisite
Semester: F = Fall, S = Spring, SU = Summer

## THIRD YEAR

### Fall

| Prefix + Number | Course Title | Prerequisites/Comments | Credits | Semester | Grade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CMST 305 | Communication Research | | 3 | F | |
| CMST 470 | Intercultural Communication | | 3 | F | |
| EDFN 340 | Adolescent Development in Educational Contexts | | 3 | | |
| EDFN 351 | Teaching and Learning I | | 1 | | |
| ENGL 424 | 7-12 Language Arts Methods | p. Junior class standing | 3 | F | |
| MCOM 416 | Mass Media and Society | | 3 | F | |
| | | **Total Credit Hours** | 16 | | |

### Spring

| Prefix + Number | Course Title | Prerequisites/Comments | Credits | Semester | Grade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CMST 434 | Small Group Communication | | 3 | S | |
| CMST or MCOM elective or General Electives | | THEA course, PSYC 101, SOC 100 suggested for general elective options | 3-9 | | |
| EDFN 352 | Teaching and Learning II | Education program consent required | 3 | | |
| | | **Total Credit Hours** | 12-15 | | |

## FOURTH YEAR

### Fall

| Prefix + Number | Course Title | Prerequisites/Comments | Credits | Semester | Grade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EDFN 453-453L | Teaching and Learning III and Lab | Education program consent required | 7 | | |
| SEED 450 | Reading and Content Literacy | Education program consent required | 2 | | |
| General Electives | | Taken as needed to reach 120 credits | 6 | | |
| | | **Total Credit Hours** | 15 | | |

### Spring

| Prefix + Number | Course Title | Prerequisites/Comments | Credits | Semester | Grade |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EDFN 454 | Teaching and Learning IV: Student Teaching | p. EDFN 453; c. SEED 456; Education program consent required; Capstone | 11 | | |
| SEED 456 | Capstone/Action Research | c. EDFN 454 | 1 | | |
| SPED 100 | Introduction to Persons with Exceptionalities | | 3 | | |
| | | **Total Credit Hours** | 15 | | |

## COMMENTS/NOTES

Students from all academic majors can pursue graduation with Fishback Honors College distinction. View the Honors program requirements.

### Teacher Education Program Progression Requirements

**Acceptance into Teacher Education**

- A grade of "C" or better is required in education coursework (classes with AIS, EDFN, SPED, or SEED prefixes).
- An overall GPA of 2.5 is required.
- A GPA in the academic major of 2.6 is required.
- Completion of program application and professional licensure location form.

**Acceptance into Residency I**

- A grade of "C" or better is required in education coursework (classes with AIS, EDFN, SPED, or SEED prefixes).
- An overall GPA of 2.5 is required.
- A GPA of 2.7 is required in both major and education courses.
- The teacher candidate must take the Praxis content exam.
- The teacher candidate is also required to complete a criminal background check with field placements, a TB test with negative reading, and CPR and first aid certification.

**Acceptance into Residency II**

- A grade of "C" or better is required in education coursework (classes with AIS, EDFN, SPED, or SEED prefixes).
- An overall GPA of 2.5 is required.
- A GPA of 2.7 is required in both major and education courses.
- The teacher candidate must take the Praxis PLT exam.

### Academic Requirements

- A grade of "C" or better is required in education coursework (classes with AIS, EDFN, SPED, or SEED prefixes).
- A grade of "C" or better is required in academic major coursework (classes with CMST or MCOM prefix).
- An overall GPA of 2.5 is required.
- A GPA of 2.7 is required in both major and education courses.

As part of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, students in this program must complete/earn:

- a minimum of 33 upper division credits (300-400 level courses)
- a capstone course in the major
- a minor, second major, or teaching specialization
- 6+ credits of Modern Foreign Language coursework, including completion of the 202-level

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Semester: F = Fall, S = Spring, SU = Summer

**Certification and Licensure**

- Completion of an approved teacher preparation program.
- Completion of an approved South Dakota Indian studies course.
- Pass the state designated content knowledge test or 2.7 GPA in content major coursework.
- Pass the state designated pedagogy test.
- Apply online with the South Dakota Department of Education.
- Written recommendation from institution of higher education (SDSU) verifying program completion.

Testing into a higher-level language course may reduce time to graduation. To begin coursework above the 101 level, take the free modern language placement test at https://www.sdstate.edu/school-american-global-studies/language-placement-information. Students with any modern language experience are strongly encouraged to complete the placement test.