South Dakota State University

Bachelor of Science
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	
MCOM 151	Introduction to Mass Communication (SGR #4)		3		
SGR #2	Oral Communication	CMST 205 suggested	3		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences		4		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

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		
SGR #4	Arts and Humanities	SGR #4 satisfied by coursework from 2 different disciplines or one modern language sequence; THEA course suggested	3		
SGR #5	Mathematics	p. Placement	3		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences		3		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

SECOND YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
CMST 215 or CMST 222	Public Speaking (SGR #2) or Argumentation and Debate (SGR #2)		3	F/S	
CMST 281	Speech and Debate Activities	3 credits required over 2 consecutive semesters	1		
CMST or MCOM Elective			3		
CMST 311	Business and Professional Communication		3	F	
ENGL 201	Composition II (SGR #1)	p. ENGL 101	3		
SGR #3	Social Science	Civics requirement	3		
		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 2 consecutive semesters	2		
CSMT 491	Independent Study: Forensics Team Management		1		
CMST or MCOM Elective			3-6		
Natural Science Course		See AHSS Natural Science list in the catalog	3		
		Total Credit Hours	12-15		

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		

Information Subject to Change. This is not a contract.

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

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
CMST 434	Small Group Communication		3	S	
CMST or MCOM elective			3		
EDFN 352	Teaching and Learning II	Education program consent required	3		
General Elective		THEA course, PSYC 101, SOC 100 suggested for general elective options	3-6		
		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	7-12 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
- Natural Sciences Coursework: 10+ credits in any two lab sciences; must include two prefixes.

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.

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