SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts
Major: Criminology
2025-2026 Sample 4-Year Plan

Total Degree Requirements: 120 credits

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

Advisor _____ **Minimum GPA** 2.2 **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
SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology (SGR #3)		3		
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		
ACS 119	First Year Seminar	Suggested	2		
SGR #1	Written Communication	p. Placement	3		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences		3-4		
		Total Credit Hours	15-16		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
CJUS 201	Introduction to Criminal Justice		3		
Modern Foreign Language Course	Students must complete through the 202 level in an approved Modern Language (SGR #4)	p. 101	4		
SGR #3	Social Science	SGR #3 satisfied by coursework from 2 disciplines; one must fulfill civics requirement.	3		
SGR #5	Mathematics	p. Placement	3		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences		3-4		
		Total Credit Hours	16-17		

SECOND YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
Modern Foreign Language Course	Students must complete through the 202 level in an approved Modern Language	p. 102	3		
SGR #1	Written Communication	p. ENGL 101; ENGL 201 recommended	3		
SGR #2	Oral Communication		3		
Minor/2nd Major Class			3		
General Electives		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements.	3		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
SOC 283	Working with Diverse Populations		3		
Modern Foreign Language Course	Students must complete through the 202 level in an approved Modern Language	p. 201	3		
Minor/2nd Major Course			6		
General Electives		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements.	3		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

Information Subject to Change. This is not a contract.

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

THIRD YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
SOC 307	Research Methods I	Recommended preparatory course SGR #5	3	F	
SOC 351	Criminology	p. SOC 100 or SOC 150	3		
Major Elective		SOC or CJUS elective used to meet career goals. 300-400 level course recommended.	3		
Minor/2nd Major Class		300-400 level course recommended.	3		
General Electives		Taken as needed to reach 120 credits.	3		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
SOC 308	Research Methods II	Recommend preparatory courses: SOC 307 & SGR #5	3	S	
SOC 400	Social Policy	p. SOC 100 or SOC 150	3	S	
Major Elective		SOC, or CJUS elective used to meet career goals. 300-400 level course recommended.	3		
Minor/2nd Major Class			3		
General Electives		Taken as needed to reach 120 credits.	3		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

FOURTH YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
CJUS 431	Criminal Law		3		
Major Elective		SOC, or CJUS elective used to meet career goals. 300-400 level course recommended.	3		
Minor/2nd Major Class		300-400 level course recommended.	3		
General Electives		Taken as needed to reach 120 credits.	6		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
SOC 460	Advanced Criminology	p. SOC 351; Capstone	3	S	
General Electives		Taken as needed to reach 120 credits.	9-12		
		Total Credit Hours	12-15		

COMMENTS/NOTES

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

Academic Requirements

Students must earn a "C" or better in courses in the major and maintain at least a 2.20 cumulative GPA. Students pursuing the Criminology major are not eligible for the Criminal Justice minor.

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.

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.