SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Science
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
ACS 119	First Year Seminar	Suggested.	2		
SOC 100	Introduction to Sociology (SGR #3)		3		
SGR #1	Written Communication	p. Placement	3		
SGR #3	Social Science	SGR #3 satisfied by coursework from 2 disciplines; one must fulfill civics requirement.	3		
SGR #4	Arts and Humanities	SGR #4 satisfied by coursework from 2 different disciplines or 2 classes from a modern language sequence.	3		
		Total Credit Hours	14		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
CJUS 201	Introduction to Criminal Justice		3		
SGR #2	Oral Communication		3		
SGR #5	Mathematics	p. Placement	3		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences	BIOL 101-101L recommended	3-4		
Minor/2nd Major Class		If needed, use for exploration.	3		
		Total Credit Hours	15-16		

SECOND YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
SGR #1	Written Communication	p. ENGL 101	3		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences	GEOG 131-131L or GEOG 132-132L recommended	3-4		
Minor/2nd Major Class			3		
Major Elective		Approved SOC or CJUS elective used to meet career goals.	3		
General Electives		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements.	3		
		Total Credit Hours	15-16		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
SOC 283	Working with Diverse Populations		3		
SGR #4	Arts and Humanities	SGR #4 satisfied by coursework from 2 different disciplines or 2 classes from a modern language sequence.	3		
Natural Science Elective		See AHSS Natural Science list in the catalog.	3-4		
Minor/2nd Major Class			3		
General Electives		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements.	3		
		Total Credit Hours	15-16		

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		Approved SOC or CJUS elective used to meet career goals.	3		
Minor/2nd Major Class			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		Approved 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		

FOURTH YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
CJUS 431	Criminal Law		3		
Major Elective		Approved 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.	12		
		Total Credit Hours	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
- Natural Sciences Coursework: 10+ credits in any two lab sciences; must include two prefixes.

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.