South Dakota State University

Bachelor of Arts
Major: Journalism
2025-2026 Sample 4-Year Plan
Total Degree Requirements: 120 credits

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

Advisor _____ **Minimum GPA** 2.00 overall (2.50 major) **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
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 #1	Written Composition	p. Placement	3		
SGR #3	Social Sciences	SGR #3 satisfied by coursework from 2 disciplines; one must fulfill civics requirement	3		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences		3		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
MCOM 210	Basic Media Writing	p. ENGL 101	3	F/S	
Modern Foreign Language Course	Students must complete through the 202 level in an approved Modern Language (SGR #4).	p. 101	4		
SGR #2	Oral Communication		3		
SGR #3	Social Sciences	SGR #3 satisfied by coursework from 2 disciplines; one must fulfill civics requirement	3		
SGR #5	Mathematics	p. Placement	3		
		Total Credit Hours	16		

SECOND YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
MCOM 220	Introduction to Digital Media		3	F/S	
Minor/2nd Major Course			3		
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	3		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences		3		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
MCOM 219	Social Media Strategies	MCOM 210 recommended preparation	3	F/S	
MCOM 270	Data Analysis in Communication		3	F/S	
Minor/2nd Major Course			3		
Modern Foreign Language Course	Students must complete through the 202 level in an approved Modern Language.	p. 201	3		
Minor/2nd Major Course			3		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

THIRD YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
MCOM 265	Basic Photography		3	F/S	
MCOM 333	Broadcast News Reporting	p. MCOM 210	3	F	
MCOM 495	Practicum	Two credits required (take 1 credit per semester); Department Permission Required	1		

Information subject to change. This is not a contract.

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

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
MCOM Elective	Select an approved major elective: MCOM 266, MCOM 331, MCOM 410, MCOM 412, MCOM 413, MCOM 420, MCOM 438, MCOM 474, PUBR 243 OR PUBR 345, MCOM 491 (3 credits), MCOM 492 (3 credits), MCOM 495 (limited to 1 credit as an elective beyond the 2 required credits), or MCOM 498 (3 credits)		3		
Minor/2nd Major Course			3-6		
		Total Credit Hours	15-16		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
MCOM 311	News Editing	p. MCOM 210; offered even spring terms	3	S	
MCOM 317	Multimedia Reporting	p. MCOM 210	3	S	
MCOM 495	Practicum	Two credits required (take 1 credit per semester); Department Permission Required	1		
Minor/2nd Major Course			3-9		
		Total Credit Hours	15-16		

Summer

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
MCOM 394 or MCOM 494	Internship	Department Permission Required	3		
		Total Credit Hours	3		

FOURTH YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
MCOM 416			3	F	
MCOM Elective	Select an approved major elective: MCOM 266, MCOM 331, MCOM 410, MCOM 412, MCOM 413, MCOM 420, MCOM 438, MCOM 474, PUBR 243 OR PUBR 345, MCOM 491 (3 credits), MCOM 492 (3 credits), MCOM 495 (limited to 1 credit as an elective beyond the 2 required credits), or MCOM 498 (3 credits)		3		
Minor/2nd Major Course or General Elective		Taken as needed to reach 120 credits	3-9		
		Total Credit Hours	14-15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
MCOM 434	Advanced Multiplatform Storytelling	p. MCOM 265, 331, 333 or 334	3	S	
MCOM 430	Media Law		3	S	
Minor/2nd Major Course or General Elective		Taken as needed to reach 120 credits	3-9		
		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.

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

As part of the Journalism and Mass Communication program, students must:

- Earn a minimum major GPA of 2.50 and a minimum course grade of "C" or better in all major courses

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.