South Dakota State University

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

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

Advisor _____ **Minimum GPA** 2.0 **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
AHSS 192	Introduction to American and Global Studies	Suggested	1	F	
ENGL 101	Composition I (SGR #1)	p. Placement	3		
POLS 101	Introduction to Political Science		3	F	
POLS 253	Current World Issues		3		
SGR #2	Oral Communication		3		
General Elective			3		
		Total Credit Hours	16		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS 100	American Government (SGR #3)	Fulfills civics requirement	3		
POLS 102 or POLS 141	POLS 102 American Political Issues or POLS 141 Governments of the World		3		
SGR #1	Written Communication	p. ENGL 101	3		
SGR #3	Social Sciences	SGR#3 non-POLS	3		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences		3-4		
General Elective			3		
		Total Credit Hours	15-16		

SECOND YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS 388	Research Methods	p. POLS 100	3	F	
POLS Elective			3		
SGR #4	Arts and Humanities	SGR#4 satisfied by coursework from 2 different disciplines or one Modern Language sequence	3-4		
SGR #5	Mathematics	p. Placement	3		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences		3-4		
		Total Credit Hours	15-16		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS Elective			3		
Minor/2nd Major Course			3		
Natural Sciences		See AHSS Natural Science list in the catalog	3		
SGR #4	Arts and Humanities	SGR#4 satisfied by coursework from 2 different disciplines or one Modern Language sequence	3-4		
General Elective		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements	3		
		Total Credit Hours	15-16		

THIRD YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS Elective			6		
Minor/2nd Major Course			3		
General Electives		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements	6		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

Information Subject to Change. This is not a contract.

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

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS Elective			6		
Minor/2nd Major Course			3		
General Electives		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements	6		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

FOURTH YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS Elective			6		
Minor/2nd Major Course			6		
General Elective		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements	3		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
POLS 489	Capstone	p. POLS 388	3	S	
Minor/2nd Major Course			3		
General Electives		Taken as needed to complete degree requirements	6-9		
		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 Political Science major, students in this program must complete:

- 18 upper division major elective credits, including at least 3 non-U.S credits.
- all major classes with a grade of C or higher

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

- a minimum of 33 upper division credits (300-400 level courses)
- a capstone course in their major
- a minor, second major, or teaching specialization
- 10 + credits in Natural Sciences including two lab science courses and courses in at least 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.