SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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

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

Advisor _____ **Minimum GPA** _____ **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 Education	*Must be taken prior to admission to Teacher Education	3		
EHS 119	EHS Seminar		2		
HIST 151 or HIST 152 or POLS 100	US History I or US History II or American Government	SGR #3 – Civics Requirement	3		
PSYC 101	General Psychology	SGR #3	3		
SGR #1	Written Communication	p. Placement, SGR #1 Recommend ENGL 101	3		
		Total Credit Hours	14		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
GEOG 131/L or GEOG 132/L	Physical Geography: Weather and Climate and Lab or Physical Geography: Natural Landscapes	SGR #6	4		
SGR #2	Oral Communication	SGR #2 Recommend CMST 101 or CMST 215	3		
SGR #4	Arts and Humanities	SGR #4	3		
SGR #5	Mathematics	SGR #5 Recommend MATH 103 or MATH 114	3		
SPED 100	Introduction to Persons with Exceptionalities		3		
		Total Credit Hours	16		

SECOND YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
AIS 211	South Dakota American Indian Culture and Education		3		
BIOL 101/L	Biology Survey I and Lab	SGR#6	3		
ECE 241	Child Development II: 3-8 Years		3		
EDFN 351	Teaching and Learning I		1		
ENGL 240	Juvenile Literature	SGR #4	3		
SGR #1	Written Communication	SGR #1 Recommend ENGL 201 (p. ENGL 101) or ENGL 283 (p. ENGL 101 or UHON 110)	3		
		Total Credit Hours	16		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
	Elective: Student-selected		2		
EDFN 340	Adolescent Development in Education Contexts		3		
EHS 319	Life, Love, and Money		2		
ELED 320	K-8 Science Methods		3		
ELED 360	K-8 Social Science Methods		3		
PE 352	Adapted Physical Education		2		
	Application to program - Completion of EDFN 351, Praxis Core, Cumulative 2.5 GPA				
		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 *Admission to program required

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
ECE/ELED 471	Foundations of Reading		3		
ELED 310	K-8 Methods of Music, Art and Drama		2		
ELED 330	K-8 Mathematics Methods		3		
ELED 440	K-8 Language Arts Methods		3		
SPED 330	Language Development and Assistive Technology		3		
SPED 380	Neurodiversity		3		
		Total Credit Hours	17		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
SEED 450	Reading and Content Literacy		3		
SPED 413	Serving Students with Severe Disabilities		3		
SPED 420	K-12 Curriculum and Instructional Strategies		3		
SPED 431	Identification and Assessment in Special Education		3		
SPED 485	Special Education Law		3		
SPED 495	Practicum		2		
		Total Credit Hours	17		

FOURTH YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
EDFN 453/L	Teaching and Learning III and Lab		7		
SPED 410	Behavior Management of Exceptional Children		3		
SPED 460	Family Systems and Professional Collaborations		3		
		Total Credit Hours	13		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
EDFN 454	Teaching and Learning IV: Student Teaching		11		
EDFN 456	Capstone/Action Research		1		
		Total Credit Hours	12		

COMMENTS/NOTES

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

Academic Requirements

- A grade of "C" or better is required in education coursework (classes with AIS, EDFN, ECE, ELED, ECE, PE, SEED, or SPED prefixes).
- An overall GPA of 2.5 is required.
- A GPA of 2.7 is required in both major and education courses.

Teacher Education Program Progression Requirements

Acceptance into Teacher Education

- A grade of "C" or better is required in education coursework (classes with AIS, EDFN, ECE, ELED, ECE, PE, SEED, or SPED 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, ECE, ELED, ECE, PE, SEED, or SPED 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, ECE, ELED, ECE, PE, SEED, or SPED 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.