South Dakota State University

Bachelor of Arts
Major: Communication Studies
2026-2027 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
MCOM 119	First-Year Seminar in Communication and Journalism		1	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 #2	Oral Communication	CMST 205 suggested	3	F	
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		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
General Elective			3		
ENGL 101	Composition I (SGR #1)	p. Placement	3		
Modern Foreign Language Course	Students must complete through the 202 level in an approved Modern Language (SGR #4)	p. 101	4		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences		3		
CMST 201	Interpersonal Communication (SGR #3)		3		
		Total Credit Hours	16		

SECOND YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
ENGL 201	Composition II (SGR #1)	p. ENGL 101	3		
Modern Foreign Language Course	Students must complete through the 202 level in an approved Modern Language	p. 102	3		
General Elective		Taken as needed to reach 120 credits	3		
SGR #6	Natural Sciences		3		
CMST 215 or CMST 222	Public Speaking (SGR #2) or Argumentation and Debate (SGR #2)		3	F/S	
		Total Credit Hours	15		

Spring

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. 201	3		
CMST Elective	Select from the following: CMST 215 or CMST 222; CMST 311; CMST 281; CMST 320; CMST 401; CMST 415; CMST 416 or CMST 422; CMST 440; CMST 441; CMST 491; CMST 492; CMST 494; CMST 498		6		
CMST 410	Organizational Communication		3	S/SU	
Minor/2nd Major Course			3		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

THIRD YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
CMST 305	Communication Research		3	F	
CMST 416 or 422	Rhetorical Criticism or Persuasion		3	F	

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
CMST Elective	Select from the following: CMST 215 or CMST 222, CMST 311; CMST 281; CMST 320; CMST 401; CMST 415; CMST 416 or CMST 422; CMST 440; CMST 441; CMST 491; CMST 492; CMST 494; CMST 498		3		
Minor/2nd Major Course			3		
General Elective		Taken as needed to reach 120 credits	3		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
CMST 434	Small Group Communication		3	S	
CMST 405	Theories of Communication		3	S	
Minor/2nd Major Course			6		
General Elective		Taken as needed to reach 120 credits	3		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

FOURTH YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
CMST 470	Intercultural Communication		3	F	
Minor/2nd Major Course			3		
CMST Elective	Select from the following: CMST 215 or CMST 222, CMST 311; CMST 281; CMST 320; CMST 401; CMST 415; CMST 416 or CMST 422; CMST 440; CMST 441; CMST 491; CMST 492; CMST 494; CMST 498		3		
General Electives		Taken as needed to reach 120 credits	3-6		
		Total Credit Hours	15		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
CMST 465	Capstone in Communication Studies	Capstone	3	S	
Minor/2nd Major Course			3-6		
General Electives		Taken as needed to reach 120 credits	3-6		
MCOM 319	Seminar with Industry Leaders	Junior or senior standing	1		
		Total Credit Hours	13-16		

COMMENTS/NOTES

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

A grade of "C" or above is required in all courses in the major.

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.