South Dakota State University

Bachelor of Science
Major: Early Childhood Education - Birth to Grade 3
2026-2027 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
BIOL 101/L	Biology Survey I and Lab	SGR #6	3		
EDFN 102	Introduction to Education		3		
EHS 119	EHS Seminar		2		
HDFS 210	Lifespan Development	SGR #3	3		
SGR #1	Written Communication	SGR #1	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 & Climate and Lab OR Physical Geography: Natural Landscapes	SGR #6	4		
SGR #2	Oral Communication	SGR #2	3		
SGR #3	Social Sciences	SGR #3 - Select from the designated list of courses to fulfill civics requirement	3		
SGR #5	Mathematics	SGR #5	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
ECE 196	Field Experience: Infants/Toddlers *	*Courses must be taken together	1	S	
ECE 240	Child Development I: Prenatal to 2*		3	S	
ECE 325	Inclusion and the Diverse Learner		3		
ENGL 240	Juvenile Literature OR SGR #4 Modern Langauge Elective	SGR #4	3		
SGR #1	Written Communication	SGR #1	3		
SGR #4	Arts and Humanities	SGR #4	3		
		Total Credit Hours	16		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
AIS 211	SD American Indian Culture and Education	Teacher certification requirement	3		
ECE 241	Child Development II: 3 to 8 Years*		3		
ECE 355	Administration & Supervision of Early Childhood Settings		3	S	
MATH 245	Mathematics for Primary Grades I	p. MATH 103 or higher	3	S	
PHYS 216/L	Physical Science for Early Childhood and Lab		3		
	ECE program application - Praxis Core, 2.5 GPA Required	**Total Credit Hours**	15		

THIRD YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
ECE 320/L	Pedagogy and Curriculum and Lab		4	F	
ECE 360/L	Play and Inquiry and Lab		4		
ECE 466	Literacy In ECE		3	F	
ECE 400	Science, Social Studies, and Math in ECE		3	F	
MATH 345	Math for Primary Grades II		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
		Total Credit Hours	17		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
ECE 321	Learner-Centered Assessment		3	S	
ECE 322	Arts, Health, and Technology in ECE		3	S	
ECE 471	Foundations of Reading		3		
EHS 319	Life, Love and Money		2	S/SU	
EDFN 461	Cultural &Psychological Perspectives English as a Second Language		3		
	Take Praxis ECE Content Exam	**Total Credit Hours**	14		

FOURTH YEAR

Fall

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
ECE 375	Guidance in ECE		3	F	
ECE 441	Professional Issues in ECE		2	F	
ECE 470	Inclusion Strategies		3		
ECE 488	Student Teaching (PreK)		6		
	Take Praxis PLT Exam	**Total Credit Hours**	14		

Spring

Prefix + Number	Course Title	Prerequisites/Comments	Credits	Semester	Grade
ECE 495	Practicum (Special Education)		1	S	
ECE 488	Student Teaching (K-3)		11		
		Total Credit Hours	12		

COMMENTS/NOTES

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

*Courses must be taken concurrently in the semester chosen.

Academic Requirements

- A grade of "C" or better is required in education coursework (classes with AIS, EDFN, ELED, ECE, EPSY, 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, ELED, ECE, EPSY, 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 Student Teaching I (PreK)

- A grade of "C" or better is required in education coursework (classes with AIS, EDFN, ELED, ECE, EPSY, 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 Student Teaching II (K-3)

- A grade of "C" or better is required in education coursework (classes with AIS, EDFN, ELED, ECE, EPSY, 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.
- Content methods instructor recommendation is required.