

Ya gotta getta plan

Whether you think you will continue your education after high school or pursue other career training options, you need a plan. Develop a written plan for each year in high school. Start with the required courses (see page 43.) South Dakota law requires that students must have a minimum of 22 units of credit to graduate.

What courses will you take for the remaining units of credit required for graduation? What additional courses will fit in your schedule?

Local school boards and other governing bodies sometimes have their own additional graduation requirements.

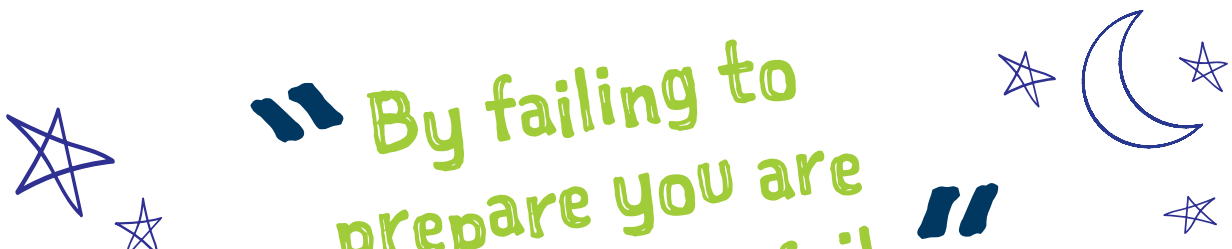
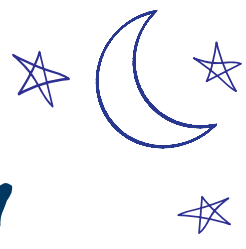
Think a technical college education might be in your future? Consider taking high school courses in the same technical career area. They will help you explore whether a field is for you — before you're paying tuition!

Pick classes you find interesting. High school courses can be a great opportunity to explore career fields of interest. If you're interested in classes your school doesn't offer, look into

opportunities for distance learning. Ask your teachers, school counselors or principal for more information. You may even want to look into taking college-level courses via distance learning while you're still in high school. In some cases, you can get both high school and college credit for courses.

You don't have to go it alone! Remember all the people available to help you develop your high school educational plan. Ask your school counselor, teachers or advisors and parents for help and guidance. A paper or electronic career portfolio, provided in many schools, is a great tool for developing your high school educational plan and tracking your progress.

Remember, for as much of your life as you will likely spend on the job, it is really important you enjoy the work as much as possible. Even if your career choice requires several more years of education after high school, that's a small investment of time to be able to do something you want the rest of your life. So, shoot for the moon! Good luck!

 "By failing to prepare you are preparing to fail."


— Benjamin Franklin

South Dakota High School Graduation Requirements

As approved by the South Dakota Board of Education, July 2018

A student's Personal Learning Plan must document a minimum of 22 credits that include the following:

4 units of Language Arts

Writing: 1 unit

Speech or Debate: .5 unit

Literature: 1 unit (must include .5 unit American Literature)

Language Arts electives: 1.5 units

3 units of Mathematics

Algebra 1: 1 unit

Mathematics electives: 2 units

3 units of Science

Biology: 1 unit

Science electives: 2 units

3 units of Social Studies

U.S. History: 1 unit

U.S. Government: .5 units

Social Studies electives: 1.5 units

1 unit of Any Combination

Approved Career & Technical Education

Capstone Experience
World Language

1 unit of Fine Arts

1/2 unit of Personal Finance or Economics

1/2 unit of Physical Education

1/2 unit of Health or Health Integration

5 1/2 electives



A state-approved advanced computer science course may be substituted for 1 unit of a science elective in the High School Diploma and Advanced Career Endorsement. It may not replace Biology. It may not count for the Advanced and Advanced Honors Endorsements. A list of approved courses is available at <https://doe.sd.gov/gradrequirements>.

Academic core content may be earned for an approved career and technical education course. Approval to offer credit must be obtained through a CTE for Core Content application with the Department of Education. Visit <https://doe.sd.gov/cte/corecontentcredit.aspx> for application details.

A district may offer credit for extracurricular Fine Arts activities. Students may be granted up to one credit in Fine Arts for participation in extracurricular activities. A maximum .25 credit may be granted for each activity in each school year.

Students are required to take .5 unit of Health at any time during grades 6-12. A district may choose to integrate Health across the curriculum at the middle or high school level in lieu of a stand-alone course.

Double dipping is not allowed. Courses may not be counted more than once to fulfill high school graduation requirements. For example, Economics cannot meet both the Social Studies elective credit requirement and the Personal Finance or Economics credit requirement. It can only meet one of the requirements.

For more information visit www.doe.sd.gov

higher ed

South Dakota's
postsecondary
education
options



Postsecondary Colleges

Lake Area Technical College, Watertown, www.lakeareatech.edu
Mitchell Technical College, Mitchell, www.mitchelltech.edu
Southeast Technical College, Sioux Falls, www.southeasttech.edu
Western Dakota Technical College, Rapid City, www.wdt.edu

State Universities (*schools in the Board of Regents system*)

Black Hills State University, Spearfish, www.bhsu.edu
Dakota State University, Madison, www.dsu.edu
Northern State University, Aberdeen, www.northern.edu
SD School of Mines & Technology, Rapid City, www.sdsmt.edu
South Dakota State University, Brookings, www.sdstate.edu
University of South Dakota, Vermillion, www.usd.edu

Public Higher Education Centers

Capital City Campus, Pierre, www.capitalcitycampus.org
Black Hills State University-Rapid City, www.bhsu.edu/rapid-city
University Center, Sioux Falls, www.sduniversitycenter.org

Tribal Colleges and Universities

Oglala Lakota College, Kyle, www.olc.edu
Sinte Gleska University, Mission, www.sintegleska.edu
Affiliate of Sinte Gleska University - Lower Brule Community College,
Lower Brule, www.lowerbrulecc.org
Sisseton Wahpeton College, Agency Village, www.swcollege.edu

Private Colleges and Universities

Augustana University, Sioux Falls, www.augie.edu
Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, www.dwu.edu
Mount Marty University, Yankton & Watertown, www.mountmarty.edu
National American University, Ellsworth AFB, Rapid City, Sioux Falls &
Watertown, www.national.edu
Presentation College, Aberdeen, www.presentation.edu
Sioux Falls Seminary, Sioux Falls, www.sfseminary.edu
University of Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls, www.usiouxfalls.edu

South Dakota Board of Regents Minimum Admission Requirements for State Universities

For admission to baccalaureate degree programs, high school graduates must **either meet the Smarter Balanced or Curriculum requirements:**

Smarter Balance or Curriculum

Achieve a **Level 3 or higher on the English Language Arts & Mathematics.**

Meet the minimum course requirements with an **average grade of C** (2.0 on a 4.0 scale);

or

Demonstrate **appropriate competencies in discipline areas where course requirements have not been met;**

or

Have an **ACT composite or super score** of 18 or above (SAT of 970);

or

Have a **high school GPA** of at least 2.6 on a 4.0 scale.

&

Rank in the top 60% of their high school graduating class;



All baccalaureate or general studies students under twenty-four (24) years of age, including students transferring with fewer than twenty-four (24) credit hours, must meet the following minimum high school course requirements:

Four years of English

Three years of advanced mathematics

Three years of approved laboratory science

Three years of social sciences

One year of fine arts

Admission criteria are subject to change or amendment by the Board of Regents of South Dakota (BOR) and by the six state universities in the Board of Regents system. Alternate criteria for minimum course requirements (e.g. ACT subset scores and Advanced Placement scores) for students who do not successfully complete the requirements listed above can also be found on the [BOR website](http://www.sdbor.edu).

Visit the Board of Regents' website, www.sdbor.edu, for more information and updates. Also check with each university and college for additional admission requirements.