

MIDFIELD

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology 1989-2018

Dylan Hall, Cathy Brawner, Nichole Ramirez

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About the University

The School of Mines is a small, public engineering university. In many recent years, it has been praised for its return on investment. The school is located in Rapid City, South Dakota, and has the best engineering program in the state. In 2012, the university reportedly passed Harvard in starting salaries for graduates. The school's athletics are represented by the Hardrockers, with Grubby the Miner as the mascot.

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Overview

This policy summary does not detail the policies for the years: 1993-1994, 1994-1995, and all years in between, and including, 1997-1998 and 2001-2002. This is not noted elsewhere in the paper, so be aware that if a policy is stated to have existed from 1989-1997, there are two years missing in which it must be assumed that the policy did not change. Policy changes are explained chronologically, starting from the oldest policy. If a start year is not mentioned, assume the start year to be 1989 or earlier. If no years are mentioned, assume the policy applies to all years. Also note that this is meant to be a summary, and does not include all and every specific detail on the policies discussed.

Term type

- The academic year consists of the fall and spring terms, which both last 15 weeks. The summer term is only specified from 2003-2018, although is mentioned for all years. In the years specified, the term lasts from the day after spring semester ends to the day before fall semester begins.

Admissions, Engineering, 1st Year

Automatic Admission

- Becoming a Regents Scholar is the longest standing and, from 1992-2006, the only, way to be automatically admitted. To date, the requirements to become a Regents Scholar are:
 - Graduate from a South Dakota high school
 - Completed the required high school units (outlined below)
 - Receive no grade less than a C in all high school coursework
 - Maintain an unweighted CGPA of 3.0 in all high school coursework

4 units of English:

Courses with major emphasis upon grammar, composition, or literary analysis; one year of debate instruction may be included to meet this requirement.

4 units of algebra or higher mathematics:

Algebra, geometry, trigonometry or other advanced mathematics including accelerated or honors mathematics (algebra) provided at the 8th grade level; not included are arithmetic, business, consumer or general mathematics or other similar courses.

4 units of science including 3 units of approved laboratory science:

Courses in biology, chemistry, or physics in which at least one (1) regular laboratory period is scheduled each week. Qualifying physical science or earth science courses (with lab) shall be decided on a case by case basis.

3 units of social studies:

History, economics, sociology, geography, government--including U.S. and South Dakota, American Problems, and similar courses.

2 units of a modern or classical language (includes American Sign Language):

The two units must be in the same language.

1 unit of fine arts:

Coursework in art, theatre or music. Such credit may be in appreciation, analysis, or performance.

1/2 unit of computer science:

Students will have basic keyboarding skills and have had experience in using computer word processing, database and spreadsheet packages, and in using the Internet or other wide-area networks.

- The following table outlines the other various ways students could be automatically admitted over the years:

Requirements for Automatic Admission

	1992-2006	2006-2014	2014-2017	2017-2018
<i>Option 1</i>	NA	ACT composite and math test scores of 25+	ACT composite and math test scores of 25+	ACT composite and math test scores of 25+
			Minimum 2.00 high school GPA	Minimum 2.75 high school GPA
<i>Option 2</i>	NA	Minimum 3.50 high school GPA	Minimum 3.50 high school GPA	NA
		Completion of four years of advanced high school math	Completion of four years of advanced high school math ACT math test score of 20+	
<i>Option 3</i>	Become a Regents Scholar (South Dakota residents only)			

- The school also has a special policy for older applicants. Applicants 24 years or older, who have graduated high school or obtained their GED, and have not attended any other higher learning institution, may be automatically admitted (2010-2017). Beginning in 2013, these applicants also needed to prove college algebra readiness.

Awareness of financial need

- For all years, it is stated that the school will do its best to meet the financial need of each student, but each student should be prepared to pay a portion of the costs.

Dual Enrollment as Freshmen

- Students who do dual enrollment, at any school, will be admitted as freshmen.

General Admissions Policies

- Until 1992-1993, students were required to submit their official ACT scores to the university; starting in '92, students could submit their SAT scores instead.
- From 1996-2017, the university set minimum standards for admissions:
 - Must complete all high school courses with a 2.0 GPA **or**
 - Demonstrate competency in areas where course requirements are not met **AND**
 - Rank in top 60% of high school class **or**
 - Obtain an ACT composite of 18 (SAT-I of 870) **or**
 - Obtain a high school GPA of 2.6
- The required high school units, starting with the 1989-1990 school year, are detailed below. Note that these units were a requirement for any student under 21 with less than 62 credit hours:

4 units of English:

Courses with major emphasis upon grammar, composition, or literary analysis.

2 units of advanced mathematics:

Algebra, geometry, trigonometry or other advanced mathematics including accelerated or honors mathematics (algebra) provided at the 8th grade level; not included are arithmetic, business, consumer, or general mathematics or other similar courses.

2 units of laboratory science:

Courses in biology, chemistry, or physics in which at least one (1) regular laboratory period is scheduled each week. Accelerated or honors science (biology, physics, or chemistry) provided in the 8th grade shall be accepted. Qualifying physical science or earth science courses (with lab) shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.

3 units of social studies:

History, economics, sociology, geography, government - including U.S. and South Dakota, American Problems, etc.

1/2 unit of computer science

1/2 unit of fine arts:

Art, theatre, or music (appreciation, analysis, or performance).

- **1990-1996:** Students needed a third year of either math or laboratory science
 - **1990-2009:** Units are required for students under 21 with less than 24 credits
 - **1996-2018:** Students were required three years of both math and laboratory science
 - **2002-2018:** South Dakota high school students would need one year of fine arts, while students from other states (that do not require fine arts for graduation) could submit documented evidence of noncredit fine arts activities
 - **2003-2014:** Students were expected (no longer required) to have some computer and keyboard skills, evident through high school classes or other means. Students found deficient would need to take specific computer skills courses.
 - **2009-2018:** Units required for students under 24 with less than 24 credits
- **From 1989 to 1996, students who met the requirements of high school units, but did not achieve a 2.0 GPA in those courses, must meet the following requirements for admission (Minnesota students not included in the years '89-'90).**
 - Starting in 1989, residents of SD and MN may rank in the top half of the graduating high school class, have a 21+ composite ACT score, or be selected as part of the exception group limited to 3% of the previous year's freshman class. Students in the exception group must have a minimum 18 ACT composite score. The next year, and effective all years after, the exception group students also needed to graduate in the upper two-thirds of their high school class and have demonstrated some talent (musical, athletic, etc.). For the 1991-1992 academic year, the minimum composite ACT score was a 22, and the exception group also needed a minimum score of 20 to be admitted. The last change, effective in the next year again, changed the minimum composite ACT score back to 21 and the exception group ACT score back to 18, as it was from 1989-1991.
 - Non-residents may rank in the top half of the graduating high school class or have an ACT composite score of 22+. After the 1990-1991 school year, the minimum ACT score was a 23.
 - If a student met the requirements of the two items above, but lacked the correct amount of high school units in only one subject, he/she could be provisionally admitted, and would be required to take the remedial course equivalent to the unit(s) in which he/she is lacking. This policy was in effect from 1989-1996.
 - In the case that a student did not obtain all the required high school units, the units could be fulfilled through ACT or AP scores for the given years:

Requirements to Replace High School Units						
	English	Math	Lab Science	Social Studies	Computer Science	Fine Arts

1996-1997	ACT English test score of 17+	ACT math test score of 17+	ACT science reasoning test score of 17+	ACT social studies/reading test score of 17+	NA	NA
	AP Lan. and Comp. or Lit. and Comp. score of 2+	AP Calculus AB or BC score of 2+	AP Biology, Chemistry, Physics B or C score of 2+	AP Micro – or – Macroeconomics, Comparative or U.S. Govt. and Policies, European or U.S. History, or Psychology score of 2+	AP Computer Science A or AB score of 2+	AP History of Art or Music Theory score of 2+, Studio Art drawing or general portfolio
2002-2018	ACT English test score of 18+	ACT math test score of 20+	ACT science reasoning test score of 17+	ACT social studies/reading test score of 17+	NA	NA
	AP Lan. and Comp. or Lit. and Comp. score of 3+	AP Calculus AB or BC score of 3+	AP Biology, Chemistry, Physics B or C score of 3+	AP Micro – or – Macroeconomics, Comparative or U.S. Govt. and Policies, European or U.S. History, or Psychology score of 3+	NA	AP History of Art or Music Theory score of 3+, Studio Art drawing or general portfolio

- The university also has detailed admission requirements for older, “non-traditional” students. Starting in 1989, students over the age of 21 (after 2009, the policy changed to students over the age of 24), who have not graduated high school nor attended any previous higher learning institutions, and who do not meet undergraduate requirements, may be admitted based on the following conditions.
 - In the years 1989-1996, the only option was to satisfactorily complete certain exams given by the university.
 - In 1996-1997, the above policy was changed to state that these students had to achieve a minimum 18 ACT composite score and 17 on all other tests for the ACT. The next year, the university kept the minimum composite score but wanted scores of at least 18 on the English test, 20 on the math test and 17 on both the social studies/reading and science reasoning tests. This policy stayed in effect until 2009, when the minimums were changed to a 21 ACT composite score and a 21 on each test of the ACT. After 2016, this policy was removed.
 - From 2002-2018, students, as opposed to taking the ACT, could meet GED performance standards instead.
 - From 2016-2018, these students could meet certain performance standards on the HiSET, TASC or, as already mentioned, GED exam for admission.

- Students who don't meet any of the aforementioned requirements may still be admitted based on life experience (2002-2018). Starting in 2013, it was stressed that non-traditional students, who met any of the above requirements or who were being considered based on life experience, needed to demonstrate college algebra readiness to be admitted. From 2002-2015, students admitted based on life experience will be placed on one semester of probation.
- Students who meet the same age requirements as above, and who have not attended any other post-secondary learning institutions, but who *have* graduated from high school, may still be admitted based on life experience from 2002-2018. These students were also placed on probation for one semester, until 2016.
- From 1989-2009, the university could admit students who did not meet university requirements. From 1989-1997, students admitted in this way were placed on one semester probation. From 2003-2009, students admitted this way, now limited to 3% of the previous freshmen class, were not placed on probation but admitted as regular students.

Preferred admissions

- Effective Fall 2006, the school will consider for acceptance students who have:
 - Obtained an ACT composite score of at least 21 (or SAT equivalent)
 - Obtained an ACT math test score of at least 21 (or SAT math equivalent)
 - Achieved a high school CGPA of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
 - Beginning 2013-2014, the ACT composite and math score minimums were changed to 20.

Admissions, Engineering, Transfer

Automatic Admissions

- Starting 2010-2011, transfers with 24 or more credits and a GPA of at least 2.75 are automatically accepted. From 2013-2018, transfers also needed to prove college algebra readiness.

Awareness of financial need

- For all years, it is stated that the school will do its best to meet the financial need of each student, but each student should be prepared to pay a portion of the costs.

College level hours to be considered a transfer

- Stated from 1989-2016, but implied for all years, taking any credits at any post-secondary learning institution after high school classifies the student as a transfer.

Articulation Agreements

- None specifically stated in catalogs

Preferred Admissions

- From 1989-2010, applicants were expected to have a B average in previous coursework. From 2010-2018, applicants with 24 or more credits were expected to have a 2.75 GPA to be admitted at the discretion of the university.

Requirements to transfer

- All transfer applicants must have a 2.0 GPA or higher to be admitted
- From 2002-2010, applicants with 24 or more credits and a GPA of at least 2.0 will be admitted at the discretion of the university. After 2010, the applicants no longer were *required* to meet a certain GPA but simply expected.
- Only for the year 1989-1990, students younger than 21 with less than 62 credits needed to complete the appropriate high school units for admission. The policy was reworded and changed that year, and beginning 1991, stated that all students under 21 with less than 24 credits were required to meet the same standards as first-year applicants. This policy was in effect until the 2010-2011 school year, when the age requirement became 24 (and stayed in effect for the remaining years).
- Until 2003, a student who has interrupted attendance at the university for a semester or more must apply for readmission and will be considered a transfer student if he/she attended another university during that time. From 2003 to date, the only change to this policy is that it now applies if the absence is two semesters or more.
- A student transferring from a school under the South Dakota Board of Regents who was suspended must first be reinstated for admission to the university; if suspended indefinitely, one semester must pass from the last day of attendance at the school. A transfer under disciplinary suspension must first obtain clearance from suspension and a statement of reason.

Admissions, International

Requirements

- All international students, with the exception of those from a country where English is the native language, must prove English proficiency:

Test	1989-1997	2002-2006	2006-2007	2007-2013	2017-2018	
	Required Score	Required Score	Required Score	Required Score	Minimum Score	Maximum Score
TOEFL – iBT (internet based test)	NA	NA	NA	71	68	83
TOEFL – CBT (computer based test)	NA	200	200	197	190	220
TOEFL – PBT (paper based test)	530	530	530	530	520	560
IELTS	NA	NA	Considered on individual basis	Considered on individual basis	5.5	6.5
Pearson Test of English – Academic (PTE)	NA	NA	NA	NA	47	56

- ♦ The minimum score represents the score the student needs to prove proficiency, and with this score, the student will be further tested at the university.
 - ♦ The maximum score is the score the student needs for no additional testing at the university to prove proficiency.
 - ♦ Applicants who have a degree from a college or university in the U.S. are exempt from this requirement.
 - ♦ The 2017-2018 catalog does not state whether the all minimum scores are required, or if achieving the minimum score on one test satisfies the minimum score requirement. Likewise, it does not state whether only one maximum score must be achieved, or if all of them need to be achieved. The 2012-2013 catalog makes it clear, however, that only one of the required scores is needed.
- From 1989-2010, applicants were required to have a 3.0 GPA and submit their ACT/SAT scores. After 2010, applicants were required to have a 2.75 GPA and submit acceptable ACT/SAT scores, with emphasis on the math portion, which the university defined as a math test score of at least 25 on the ACT. Alternatives to the ACT/SAT were possibly considered.

- For all years, applicants must also have graduated in the upper half of their high school class and submit two letters of recommendation from different instructors or professors.

Engineering Matriculation Model

Direct to Department—anyone admitted may declare

- Students are accepted directly into their declared major and begin taking major courses their freshman year.

Readmission for Students in Good Academic Standing

- During the years 1989-2003, students who have left the university, regardless of their activities while gone, must apply for readmission after one semester. Then, from 2003-2016, a student was allowed two semesters absence before having to apply for readmission. From 2016-2018, a student that did not attend any other institutions during their absence was allowed three semesters absence before applying for readmission. A student that did attend another institution while gone would need to apply for readmission following two semesters. And, starting in the 2006-2007 academic year, a student who did not attend any other institutions while away would still need to apply for readmission but would be automatically readmitted.

Grading Policies

Audit

- Any student could petition to audit a course at time of registration until 2003, when the student could petition any time during the free add/drop period; the policy has not been changed since.

Course Repeat policy

- From 1989-1997, freshmen and sophomores could retake any course and only the second grade would be applied to their GPA. If they took the course a third time, then that grade would be included in the GPA calculation, but only the last attempt of a course will count for credit towards graduation. All students, including transfers, are allowed a maximum of three attempts of a course (a grade of W counts as an attempt).
- Starting in 2002, for all undergraduates, a student may attempt a class up to three times, and only the last attempt will count for both credit and grading

purposes. A student may petition for a fourth attempt. Some courses allow unlimited takes, such as independent study, and do not abide by the course repeat policy. Each attempt for those courses will be applied towards GPA calculations and graduation. To date, this policy is still in effect.

- Beginning 2005, courses taken prior to Fall 2003 will not be counted as attempted.

Credit without grades

- Advanced Placement (AP) exams may be accepted, depending on the student's score.
 - From 1989-2003, while AP exams were still accepted, students with exceptional high school academic performance could be chosen to be placed in advanced standing classes.
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP) subject examinations may be accepted
 - Up until 2004, only one attempt of an exam was allowed. Between 2004 and 2008, no mention is made of how many times an exam may be taken, and beginning 2009 through 2017, an exam may be retaken unlimited times, but not within six months of the initial testing. In 2017-2018, the time after the initial testing shortened to three months.
 - From 1989-2004, and again from 2006-2009, a student may not take the exam if they have prior college credit for the course, if they have failed the course, or if they have attempted and completed the course. In the '17-'18 academic year, a student could take the course if he/she failed it previously.
 - From 1989-2003, the exam may not be taken if a student withdrew from the course after more than six weeks. Not mentioned until 2007, when the policy changed to state that the exam may not be taken if the course was dropped after the time when a grade of W would appear on the transcript. This only lasted until 2009, after which there was no further mention of this policy.
 - For the 2007-2008 year only, the exam may not be taken for a lower level course if a higher level course in the same subject is being, or has successfully been, taken.
- International Baccalaureate (IB) exams are accepted for higher level courses, where a student must earn a 5 or better.

- University Examinations may also be taken, but are not available if the student has already taken the course for credit.
 - For all years, an advisor and head of the department in which the course is offered will conduct a preliminary test of the student's knowledge in the course area to determine if the student should take an exam and what should be on it.
 - If an exam is warranted, and the student passes, they will receive a grade of "Credit by Examination" (1989-2003), or EX (2003-2018). If the exam is failed, no grade is recorded.
 - The option is not available if the student failed an equivalent course or withdrew from the course after six weeks (1989-1997, 2006-2009). It is also not available if the student has previously failed the examination, stated in the years 1990-1997 and 2006-2009.
 - No more than 20% of all credits earned at the university were allowed through this method from 1989-1992; and from 1992-1997, no more than 20 credits were allowed through this method.
- Credit through any/all of the above methods is not allowed to exceed:
 - 2002-2003: 36 hours
 - 2003-2017: 32 hours
 - 2017-2018: 30 hours
- Only stated from 2003-2009, credit earned through methods other than nationally recognized exams is limited to 32 hours and military credit is limited to an additional 32 hours

Drop and Withdrawal

- Students have until the end of the free add/drop period to drop a course. The add/drop period is defined as the first ten days of the semester, from 1989-1997, and 10% of the term, for all other years. In calculation of the percentage of a term, breaks of five or more days are not included but weekdays, weekends, and holidays are.
- During the free add/drop period, a student will be fully refunded for any courses dropped.
- Withdrawal from a class after the free add/drop period and until the tenth week of class, with approval of the advisor, earns the student a grade of W. Students with a passing grade may not drop a course after the tenth week and any student who does not have a passing grade that drops a course after the

tenth week will automatically be assigned a grade of F, unless the final grade has already been given (1989-2003). Withdrawal from a course after 70% of the meeting days earns the student a grade of F (2003-2018).

- No refund is provided from 1989-2005 if a course is dropped outside the free add/drop period. After this, this policy is not stated but assumed to be upheld.
- From 1989-1996, complete withdrawal from the university between the tenth day of the semester and the tenth week of the semester will result in grades of W for all courses, unless a final grade has already been assigned. If withdrawal occurs after the tenth week, a grade of F will be applied to all courses. The student may appeal to have a grade of F changed to W. From 1996-2003, complete withdrawal between the *day after registration* and the tenth week earned grades of W in all courses. After 2003, the student had from the day after registration until 70% of the term to withdraw with grades of W; after 70% of the term, all grades would be changed to F unless already assigned. Starting 2015, if a student withdrew from the university, they would receive a grade of WW for all courses instead of W.
- From 1989-1992, any student who withdrew from the university within the first five weeks was eligible for at least a partial refund; from 1992-1997, refund eligibility came with the first four weeks of the semester. After 1997, students were refunded through 60% of the enrollment period. After 60% of the term, no refunds will be awarded. For all years, students who withdraw during the free add/drop period are eligible for a full refund.
- Effective Fall 2015, students are only allowed six withdrawals (dropping a course outside the free add/drop period). Each one of those withdrawals is given a grade of WD instead of W. After six withdrawals, courses withdrawn from will be assigned a grade of WFL, which is the equivalent of an F.

Grade Weights and Grading Scale

	1989-1997	2002-2003	2003-2005	2005-2015	2015-2018	
A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4.00
A-	✓	✓				3.66
B+	✓	✓				3.33
B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3.00
B-	✓	✓				2.66
C+	✓	✓				2.33
C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2.00
C-	✓	✓				1.67

D+	✓	✓				1.33
D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1.00
F	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0.00
S (Satisfactory)	✓*	✓*	✓	✓	✓	Neutral, pass/fail grade
U (Unsatisfactory)	✓*	✓*	✓	✓	✓	Neutral, pass/fail grade
P (Pass)	✓	✓				Neutral, pass/fail grade
RI (Remedial Incomplete)			✓	✓	✓	Neutral
RS (Remedial Satisfactory)			✓	✓	✓	Neutral
RU (Remedial Unsatisfactory)			✓	✓	✓	Neutral
W (Withdrawal)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Neutral
WD					✓	Neutral, includes first six dropped courses
WW					✓	Neutral, full university withdrawal
WFL					✓	0.00, courses individually dropped after the six- course drop limit
AU (Audit)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Neutral
I (Incomplete)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Neutral
IP (In Progress)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Neutral
EX (Credit by Exam)			✓	✓	✓	Neutral
CR (Credit)			✓	✓	✓	Neutral
SE (Student Exchange Tracking)			✓			Neutral, no credit given, used to track exchange students
LR		✓	✓	✓	✓	Zero credit

(Lab grade linked to recitation)						course
NC (No credit)		✓				Work not completed, no credit given
NR (Grade not Reported by Instructor)			✓	✓	✓	Neutral
NG (No grade)				✓	✓	Zero credit course
TR (Transcribed)		✓	✓	✓	✓	Neutral

*Only applied toward graduate level classes for these years

Incompletes

- There is no impact on GPA when an incomplete is assigned; however, the student must be earning a passing grade at the time of incomplete. Until 2003, the student was given one semester, or, if the student was not in attendance at the university in the next semester, one year, to complete the remaining work. From 2003-2018, the student was given only one semester, and after 2004, could request an extension to complete the work. If the work was completed on time, the student could earn any grade, including F. If the work was not completed on time, the student would earn a grade of F, until 2004. Beginning in 2004, the student could earn a grade of F, U or RU.

Independent study

- Not discussed for any years

Miscellaneous other grade

- IP – May be assigned when the requirements for the course extend beyond the term. The extension period must be defined before the class begins, the instructor must have approval to assign grades of IP, and a definite date of completion must be established. From 1989-2003, a grade of IP converts to F if the student is not enrolled at the university for 12 consecutive months.
- CR – Only granted for credit that does not come from courses, examinations (such as AP tests), or transfer grades.
- EX – Assigned for non-course credit that is validated (University Examinations)
- NG – Used for classes designated Tracking/Program Sustaining

- F – May be awarded as a final grade at any time in the semester, which prohibits attendance (1989-1990). From '90- '93, the professor could only award F as a final grade after the 10th day of class, and from '93- '94, after the free add/drop period.

Pass fail

- Any undergraduate with a 2.0 CGPA or higher is eligible to elect one class to be graded on a pass/fail basis each semester. The class must be an elective and cannot be used to satisfy the 16 credit hour requirement of humanities/social science courses.
- The student must notify the Office of the Registrar and Academic Services of the request to be graded on a pass/fail basis; only the student's advisor and the office will be notified of the student's intentions.
- The instructor will record the student's grade as usual, and the student will earn a grade of P or S (depending on the year; see grading chart) if his/her grade is a D or higher; if his/her grade is an F, he/she will earn a grade of F or U.
- A grade of P or S will count for credit but not be used in GPA calculation. A student's grade also cannot be switched from pass/fail to traditional grading, or vice versa, after the grade has been recorded. The only time a student may switch from pass/fail to traditional is during the first four weeks of the semester (1989-2003), or during the free add/drop period (2003-2018).
- Pass/fail is only allowed for a student's first attempt in a course.

Academic Progress – Engineering

Academic Good Standing

- From 1989-1996, students with less than thirty-five hours attempted were required to maintain at least a 1.80 GPA, while students with thirty-five hours or more were required to maintain a 2.00.
- In 2002-2003, freshmen needed a 1.8, sophomores needed a 1.9 and juniors and seniors need a 2.0.
- From 2003-2018, all students were required to maintain a 2.0 GPA.

Consequences of not meeting required performance

- Probation
 - From 1989-1996, a student with less than thirty-five hours attempted will be put on probation for earning a CGPA less than 1.80. A student with

thirty-five hours or more will be placed on probation for a 2.00 CGPA or worse. In both cases, the student must raise his/her CGPA to a 2.00 in the two semesters that the student is on probation, and, the student must raise his/her GPA each semester on probation. Once the CGPA is raised to a 2.00, the student will be removed from probation, but must do so in the two semesters allotted. The summer term may count as one of the two semesters. Students on probation cannot take more than 12 credits in a semester.

- The probation policy during the 1996-1997 year was being revised and was not yet established by the time the catalog was published, so it is unclear what the policy was at this time.
- In 2002-2003 only, freshmen were required a CGPA of 1.8 or higher to avoid probation, sophomores were required a CGPA of 1.9 or higher and juniors and seniors needed a 2.0 (see Classification of Students). The only difference in the probationary requirements was that students needed to earn a term GPA above the standard set for their class ranking instead of earning a higher GPA each semester.
- From 2003-2018, all students had to have a 2.0 CGPA to remain in good academic standing. Furthermore, the probation period was indefinite; the student was required to earn a system term GPA of at least 2.0 for each semester on probation, until the student achieved a 2.0 CGPA (in which case the student was removed from probation).
- Suspension
 - From 1989-1996, a student could be placed on suspension for one semester if: the student did not raise his/her CGPA to a 2.00 in the two semesters allotted on probation; the student's CGPA did not improve both semesters on probation; the student dropped or withdrew from 50% or more of the classes registered for; the student has more than twenty credit hours and earns a CGPA of less than 1.5, or has twenty hours or less and earns a CGPA of less than 1.0. During this time, if a student was suspended, no classes could be taken for one semester, and the student would have to apply for readmission after the suspension period.
 - From 2002-2003, a student could be placed on suspension for not returning to a good academic standing GPA (see Academic Good Standing subheading) in the two semesters allotted on probation, or if while on probation, the student does not earn a term GPA above the good academic

standing GPA. If suspended, the student could not take any classes at the university, nor apply for readmission, until two semesters had passed.

- During 2003-2018, a student was suspended if he/she failed to maintain a system term GPA of at least 2.0 while on probation. Students who are on suspension status will not be allowed to register for any classes, at any Regental university in South Dakota, for a minimum of two semesters. A student may appeal to have the suspension status removed.
- **Expulsion**
 - For the years 1989-2003, a student who has been suspended more than once was not allowed to be readmitted unless he/she successfully petitioned the Student Enrollment Appeals Committee for readmission.

Clean Slate

- Effective from 1995-2018, the academic amnesty policy adopted certain criteria for students who wished to have their past grades wiped from their CGPAs:
 - To be eligible, a student must be an undergraduate at the time of application for academic amnesty, and have not been enrolled in a post-secondary institution for a specified length of time. From 1995-2003, a student had to have been removed from a post-secondary institution for five years; from 2003-2017, nine consecutive semesters, with exceptions rarely granted; and from 2017-2018, three consecutive semesters, with exceptions rarely granted.
 - Furthermore, the policy from 1995-2003 was that the student must have completed at least 12 credit hours at the university with a 2.0 GPA since re-enrollment. From 2003-2018, the student must have completed at least 24 credit hours at any Regental university in South Dakota and have earned at least a 2.0 GPA in the most recent 24 credit hours. During these years, the student was denied academic amnesty if he/she had already earned a bachelor's degree, or if he/she had been granted prior academic amnesty.
- If the student met the above criteria, and their formal petition for academic amnesty accepted by the university, then from 1995-2003, all transfer credit prior to re-enrollment at the university would be removed from the university transcript, and prior university work would remain on the transcript but not be used in the CGPA calculation or for credit towards graduation.

- From 2003-2018, the consequences of academic amnesty were overhauled. Academic amnesty now applied to either all previous post-secondary courses, or all previous courses at a specific institution, or a specified period not exceeding one academic year. The courses that were forgiven would remain on the student's transcript with asterisks by the grades, but would not be included in GPA calculation and could not be used for credit. Moreover, academic amnesty would be honored at all South Dakota Regental universities, and could not be rescinded.

Classification Hours

Classification	1990-1996	1996-2012	2012-2018
Freshman	0 – 31 credits	0 – 31.99	0 – 29.99
Sophomore	31.01 – 64	32 – 63.99	30 – 59.99
Junior	64.01 – 96	64 – 95.99	60 – 89.99
Senior	96.01+	96+	90+

→ In 1989-1990, the same classification hours were used from 1990-1996, except that in 1989-1990, 31.01, 64.01 and 96.01 were rounded up to 32, 65 and 97, respectively.

Engineering Degree Progression

Common Introduction to Engineering

- There are no common introduction engineering classes.

Engineering Co-Op

- Co-op is voluntary; from '89-'93, a student wanting to co-op must have completed at least 35 credits and have a CGPA of 2.5 or better. From '95-'97, the only requirement was that the student must have at least a 2.0 CGPA. After those years, it was stated that employers had their own requirements for students to co-op with them.

Progress in Engineering Major

- Graduation in Engineering
 - Must maintain a 2.0 GPA in SDSM&T courses
 - 1989-1992: 30 credits must be earned at the university, and unless the student has special approval, these must be obtained senior year.
 - 1992-1997: 32 credits must be earned at the university, and 12 of the last 16 needed to be earned at the university.

- 1997-2012: 32 credits must be earned at the university, and 16 of the last 32 needed to be earned at the university.
- 2012-2018: 30 total credits and the last 15 credits must be earned at the university
- 1989-2012: 136 credits required for graduation
- 2012-2018: 130 credits required for graduation
- From 2002-2018, 50% of all major/minor requirements must be earned at the university.
- From 2012-2018, students were assigned a catalog of graduation at time of enrollment that detailed each student's specific graduation requirements.
- Students had to take the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) exam to prove they met standards of the Board of Regents, effective 1998-2017.
 - All students must take the exam the semester after they have completed 48 hours of 100 level coursework or above.
 - Any student that does not attend the exam will not be allowed to register for courses at any South Dakota state university for two academic terms (fall, spring or summer) unless granted deferment
 - If a student is readmitted after not attending the exam, they must retake the exam next time it is offered and pass or they will be withdrawn from the university
 - Students who fail the exam may retake it up to two times in one year and continue enrollment; after failing twice, the student will be dismissed from the university
 - Students may be exempt if they have already earned a baccalaureate degree, and starting in 2015, may have testing waived in a number of different ways, including achievement of a 24 composite ACT score during high school
- From 1996-1998, the university ran a pilot test of the CAAP exam, and students who had 47-68 credits were required to take the test or denied registration.
- From 1999-2003, students also had to pass the Technology exam, administered with the CAAP.
- Required coursework varied by major, and the required performance was the same as remaining in academic good standing.

Financial Aid

Debt free for low income

- No mention of helping low income students become debt free.

Does/does not meet full demonstrated need

- For all years, the financial aid office states that it does its best to meet fully demonstrated need, but that the student/family should be prepared to pay for a portion of college.

Standards for retaining

- Students must maintain a GPA that keeps them in good academic standing and successfully complete at least 70% of attempted credits, for the 2002-2003 academic year. For all years after, students only needed to complete a minimum of 67% of attempted credits but also were not allowed to exceed 150% of the credits required to graduate. Note that this policy is only stated for the years 2002-2006 and 2018, and because the policy is the same in 2018 as it was in 2006, it is assumed that it did not change.

State merit scholarship program

- *South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship*
 - To qualify, applicants must:
 - Be a South Dakota resident at time of high school graduation
 - Have a 24 or higher composite ACT score (the sum of the SAT verbal and math scores must be at least 1090 before Jan. 2016 testing or at least 1180 after Mar. 2016)
 - Complete the required high school units with no final grade below C and a high school CGPA of 3.0. For students entering post-secondary education for the first time on or after August 2013, the aforementioned requirement does not apply if the student has at least a 28 ACT composite score and meets the ACT college readiness benchmarks for each subject test. The sum of the verbal and math scores for the SAT equivalent must be 1260 (before Jan. 2016) or 1320 (after Mar. 2016).
 - Attend this school or another accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and School in South Dakota.
 - Enter the program within five years of high school graduation or within one year of military release from active duty (provided that the release is within five years of high school graduation). Students who seek to

- transfer from a school outside of South Dakota may do so for a partial award.
- The following high school units apply (for students entering high school after July 2010):
 - 4 units of English (courses with major emphasis upon grammar, composition, or literary analysis may be included to meet this requirement).
 - 3 units of Social Studies (such as history, economics, sociology, geography, U.S. government, and similar courses).
 - 4 units of Algebra or Higher Mathematics (algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or other advanced mathematics, as well as accelerated or honors mathematics [algebra] at the 8th grade, shall be accepted). NOT INCLUDED are arithmetic, business, consumer, or general mathematics or similar courses.
 - 4 units of Science, including 3 units of approved laboratory science (courses in biology, chemistry, or physics in which at least one regular laboratory is scheduled each week). Qualifying physical science or earth science courses (with lab) shall be on a case-by-case basis.
 - 1 unit of Fine Arts (in art, theatre, or music, as well as approved extracurricular activity).
 - 2 units of either of the following or a combination of the two:
 - Approved Career and Technical Education Courses
 - Modern or Classical Language (Includes American Sign Language; all units must be in the same language)
 - 1/2 unit of Personal Finance or Economics
 - 1/2 unit of Physical Education
 - 1/2 unit of Health or Health Integration (Students entering high school after July 2013)
 - The scholarship awards \$1,300 for the first three years of attendance, and \$2,600 for the last year.
 - To remain eligible, recipients must maintain a 3.0 GPA and meet the credit hour thresholds (30 credits by the 3rd and 4th term funding, 60 credits by the 5th and 6th, and 90 credits by the 7th and 8th).
 - *Dakota Corps Scholarship*
 - To qualify, applicants must have graduated from a South Dakota high school with a 2.8 GPA or better (home-schooled students may submit

supplemental documentation), earned an ACT composite score of 27 or greater (or the SAT equivalent), apply for the scholarship within one year of high school graduation (or one year of release from active duty in the armed forces), be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national, and, most importantly, work in a critical need occupation. The applicant must agree in writing to stay in South Dakota and work in one of the following occupations (for 2018-2019) for as many years as the scholarship was received, plus one year:

- Teacher - High School Math
 - Teacher - High School Science
 - Teacher - Elementary or Secondary Special Education
 - Teacher - High School Career and Technical Education
 - Teacher - K-12 Foreign Language
 - Accountant / Auditor
 - Engineer (includes all fields EXCEPT mining)
 - Information Technology
 - Registered Nurse
- Applicants that qualify will be chosen based on GPA, test scores, activities, honors and community service.
 - Students are paid the cost of maximum tuition and fees for 16 credit hours per semester.
 - To maintain the scholarship, students must not obtain less than a 2.8 GPA, must be considered a full time student, must adhere to satisfactory academic progress and be certified as accepted into his/her program.

Policies for Students with Disabilities

- No stated policies for students with disabilities.

Miscellaneous

- From 1989-2016, transfer credit from another college or two-year institution may not exceed 50% of the credits required for graduation at the university.

NOTE:

To Whomever Works on SDSMT Next:

There are three years in the catalogs that are unreadable, and there is a gap between 1997-1998 and 2002-2003. The school has a lot of really weird admissions policies, and I excluded some because I either thought they were not well enough explained to make sense, or because they seemed unnecessary. Also, from 1989-1993ish, NVivo doesn't recognize the letters very well. You can code it just fine, but when you double click a node to read what you just coded, you'll see some funny letters and weird symbols. It makes using Ctrl+F a little harder.

There are two state scholarship programs, the SD Opportunity scholarship and the Dakota Corps scholarship. Neither are discussed in the catalogs.

I would recommend not trying to sift through the catalogs for information as much as possible. I tried to include all the relevant information on here, and I coded some extra things as well. I would suggest turning on all highlighting on any catalog you work with, and scroll until you see chunks of highlighting. Follow the highlighting, everything else is useless.

Some of the tables could probably be formatted to look nicer, but I never got to figuring that out.

Also, it's pretty long. You might have to cut a bunch.