

ACCELERATED MASTERS AGREEMENT

Towards the
Master of Science in Cyber Defense
with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization
Between
NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY (NSU)
and
DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY (DSU)

I. PARTIES

The parties to this agreement are Dakota State University (DSU), Madison, SD, and Northern State University (NSU), Aberdeen, SD.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to:

- A. have a signed agreement addressing the varying needs of students and the complementary nature of the institutions' programs;
- B. provide increased educational opportunities for students from the region;
- C. extend and clarify educational opportunities for students; and
- D. provide NSU students who have completed the required pre-requisite coursework an opportunity to pursue and earn a Master of Science (M.S.) in Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization from DSU, streamlining the process from the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Criminal Justice/Criminology and Criminal Justice¹ at NSU to the Master of Science (M.S.) in Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization at DSU by creating a 4 + 1 model.

III. ACADEMIC PROGRAM

- A. Upon successful completion of the required pre-requisite coursework and additional requirements specified herein, DSU will offer a guarantee of admission to the M.S. Cyber Defense program with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization in this agreement and accept coursework in the NSU B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice program in this agreement. Students must successfully complete all required courses within the B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice major with a "C" or higher at NSU prior to entry into the M.S. Cyber Defense program with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization at DSU for this agreement to apply. Students must meet all South Dakota Board of Regents policies and university graduation requirements to receive a degree.
- B. Up to the first 12 credits earned in the M.S. Cyber Defense program with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization at DSU will count as general electives toward the 120 credits required for the B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice degree at NSU. Up to 12 credits from the M.S. Cyber Defense program with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization will apply towards both programs, i.e., the B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice (to complete the degree) at NSU and the M.S. Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization (to start the degree) at DSU.

¹ NSU is requesting a name change for the degree program from B.A. Criminal Justice to B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice effective Fall 2026 pending BOR AAC approval.

- C. Students must complete all requirements of the B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice degree at NSU to earn the B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice degree from NSU. Students must complete all requirements of the M.S. Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization degree from DSU to earn the M.S. Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization degree from DSU. Requirements to be completed at NSU and at DSU to earn a B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice degree (NSU) and an M.S. Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization degree (DSU) are outlined below.
- D. Students must meet all NSU Graduation Requirements, including those set forth in [BOR Policy 2.6.1](#), to graduate with a B.A. in Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice degree from NSU. Specifically, students must complete 15 of the last 30 credits earned preceding completion of the baccalaureate degree in NSU institutional credit.
- E. Students must meet all Higher Learning Commission (HLC) residency requirements to graduate with a B.A. in Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice degree from NSU.² Specifically, students must complete a minimum of 30 of the 120 credits earned preceding completion of the baccalaureate degree in NSU institutional credit.
- F. Students must apply for and be accepted into the M.S. Cyber Defense program with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization at DSU to begin in the Fall semester. Acceptance requires a minimum 3.0 GPA. Eligible students who meet these criteria will be guaranteed admission and will transition directly to graduate student status upon completion of their undergraduate degree. These students will receive full access to graduate academic advising and course registration privileges with no application fee. Under this agreement, the DSU graduate dean gives approval to NSU B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice students to take up to 12 credits at the 600 and 700 level from the M.S. Cyber Defense program with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization at DSU, and the NSU provost gives approval to NSU B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice students to take up to 12 credits at the 600 and 700 level from the M.S. Cyber Defense program with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization at DSU and count these credits toward the NSU B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice degree.
- G. Students retain the right to transfer from NSU to DSU at any point, in accordance with SDBOR policies.

² See HLC Revised Assumed Practice B.b. in Policy CRRT.C.10.010 <https://www.hlcommission.org/accreditation/policies/assumed-practices/2025-assumed-practices/>

NSU Coursework (must be taken from NSU unless otherwise indicated):

NSU credits	108 - 110	TOTAL CREDITS 120 - 122
DSU credits toward NSU degree	12	

Northern State University B.A. Criminal Justice – current curriculum³			
First Year Fall (to comply with HLC Requirements, a minimum of 30 credits of the last 120 credits for the BA degree must be taken from NSU – see item III.E. above)		First Year Spring	
Course	Credits	Course	Credits
FYS 101, First Year Seminar	2	ENGL 201, Composition II (fulfills SGR #1)	3
ENGL 101, Composition I (fulfills SGR #1)	3	CMST 101, Foundations of Communication (fulfills SGR #2)	3
CJUS 201, Introduction to Criminal Justice (fulfills SGR #3 and B.A. program requirement)	3	SGR #4 (select from SGR#4 list of approved courses) *	4
SOC 100, Introduction to Sociology (fulfills SGR #3 and B.A. program requirement)	3	SGR #4 (select from SGR#4 list of approved courses) *	3
SGR #5 (select from SGR#5 list of approved courses) *	3-5	SGR #6 (select from SGR#6 list of approved courses) *	3
	14-16		16
Second Year Fall		Second Year Spring	
Course	Credits	Course	Credits
Arts and Humanities Course (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	4	Arts and Humanities Course (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	4
SGR #6 (select from SGR#6 list of approved courses)	4	CJUS 380, Research and Data Analysis in Criminal Justice	3
Human Values Course (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses)	3	CJUS/SOC 351, Criminology	3
B.A. program elective (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	3	B.A. program elective (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	3
Elective or minor course**	3	Elective or minor course**	3
	17		16
Third Year Fall⁴		Third Year Spring	
Course	Credits	Course	Credits
B.A. program elective (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	3	CJUS 485, Social Science Capstone	3
B.A. program elective (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	3	B.A. program elective (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	3
Elective or minor course**	3	B.A. program elective (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	3
Elective or minor course**	3	Elective or minor course**	3
Elective or minor course**	3	Elective or minor course**	3
	15		15
Fourth Year Fall (to comply with NSU Graduation Requirements, all 15 credits must be taken from NSU – see item III.D. above)		Fourth Year Spring (NSU); First Year Spring (DSU MSCD)⁵ (all courses must be taken from DSU)	
Course	Credits	Course	Credits
B.A. program elective (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	3	CSC 609, Operating Environments**	3
B.A. program elective (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	3	INFA 701, Principles of Information Assurance**	3
Elective or minor course*	3	INFA 735, Offensive Security**	3
Elective or minor course*	3	Choose one 700-800 level course from INFA, CSC, INFS or BADM prefix**	3
Elective or minor course*	3	** Course will also count towards NSU B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice degree.	12
	15		

DSU Coursework (must be taken from DSU unless otherwise indicated):

DSU credits	24	TOTAL CREDITS 36
DSU credits toward NSU degree	12	

Dakota State University M.S. Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization			
First Year Fall (DSU MSCD)		First Year Spring (DSU MSCD)	
Course	Credits	Course	Credits
INFA 702, Data Privacy	3	INFS 720, System Analysis and Design Using Case Tools	3
INFA 713, Managing Security Risks	3	INFA 722, Data Privacy Management	3
INFA 754, Network Security Monitoring and Intrusion	3	INFA 745, Compliance and Audit	3
INFA 742, Ethics and Information Technology	3	Choose one 700-800 level course from INFA, CSC, INFS or BADM prefix	3
	12		12

* Course could be taken during summer.

** See NSU catalog for a list of recommended minors, including a minor in Computer Science or a minor in Management Information Systems.

³ A more accelerated option is achievable if students enter the NSU program having completed concurrent enrollment credits, pathway credits, or transfer credits. In such cases, NSU will adjust this yearly plan accordingly for those students.

⁴ NSU B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice students wishing to pursue an M.S. in Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization (MSCD) must apply for the MSCD degree fall semester of junior year between September 1 and December 1. During spring semester of junior year, students meeting all requirements set forth herein will be formally accepted into the MSCD program at DSU and start courses through DSU their senior year.

⁵ NSU B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice students must apply for graduation from NSU spring semester of senior year. Students graduate in May with a B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice degree. Beginning fall semester, (second semester of MSCD coursework), students become DSU graduate students.

NSU Coursework (must be taken from NSU unless otherwise indicated):

NSU credits	108 - 110	TOTAL CREDITS 120 - 122
DSU credits toward NSU degree	12	

Northern State University B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice ⁶ – proposed degree program name change and new curriculum effective Fall 2026, pending BOR AAC approval		
First Year Fall (to comply with HLC Requirements, a minimum of 30 credits of the last 120 credits for the BA degree must be taken from NSU – see item III.E. above)		
Course	Credits	
FYS 101, First Year Seminar	2	
ENGL 101, Composition I (fulfills SGR #1)	3	
CJUS 201, Introduction to Criminal Justice (fulfills SGR #3 and B.A. program requirement)	3	
SOC 100, Introduction to Sociology (fulfills SGR #3 and B.A. program requirement)	3	
SGR #5 (select from SGR#5 list of approved courses) *	3-5	
	14-16	
Second Year Fall		
Course	Credits	
SGR #4 (select from SGR#4 list of approved courses) *	3	
SGR #6 (select from SGR#6 list of approved courses)	4	
CJUS 203, Policing in a Free Society	3	
Human Values Course (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses)	3	
Elective or minor course**	3	
	16	
Third Year Fall⁷		
Course	Credits	
CJUS 204, Introduction to Corrections	3	
SOC 209, Statistical Reasoning	3	
B.A. program elective (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	3	
B.A. program elective (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	3	
Elective or minor course**	3	
	15	
Fourth Year Fall (to comply with NSU Graduation Requirements, all 15 credits must be taken from NSU – see item III.D. above)		
Course	Credits	
B.A. program elective (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	3	
Elective or minor course**	3	
Elective or minor course**	3	
Elective or minor course**	3	
Elective or minor course**	3	
	15	
First Year Spring		
Course	Credits	
ENGL 201, Composition II (fulfills SGR #1)	3	
CMST 101, Foundations of Communication (fulfills SGR #2)	3	
SGR #4 (select from SGR#4 list of approved courses) *	4	
Arts and Humanities Course (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	4	
SGR #6 (select from SGR#6 list of approved courses)	3	
	17	
Second Year Spring		
Course	Credits	
Arts and Humanities Course (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	4	
CJUS 312, Criminal Case Processing	3	
CJUS 380, Research and Data Analysis in Criminal Justice	3	
CJUS/SOC 351, Criminology	3	
Elective or minor course**	3	
	16	
Third Year Spring		
Course	Credits	
CJUS 485, Social Science Capstone	3	
B.A. program elective (see NSU catalog for approved list of courses) *	3	
Elective or minor course**	3	
Elective or minor course**	3	
Elective or minor course**	3	
	15	
Fourth Year Spring (NSU); First Year Spring (DSU MSCD)⁸ (all courses must be taken from DSU)		
Course	Credits	
CSC 609, Operating Environments**	3	
INFA 701, Principles of Information Assurance**	3	
INFA 735, Offensive Security**	3	
Choose one 700-800 level course from INFA, CSC, INFS or BADM prefix**	3	
** Course will also count towards NSU B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice degree.		12

DSU Coursework (must be taken from DSU unless otherwise indicated):

DSU credits	24	TOTAL CREDITS 36
DSU credits toward NSU degree	12	

Dakota State University M.S. Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization		
First Year Fall (DSU MSCD)		
Course	Credits	
INFA 702, Data Privacy	3	
INFA 713, Managing Security Risks	3	
INFA 754, Network Security Monitoring and Intrusion	3	
INFA 742, Ethics and Information Technology	3	
	12	
First Year Spring (DSU MSCD)		
Course	Credits	
INFS 720, System Analysis and Design Using Case Tools	3	
INFA 722, Data Privacy Management	3	
INFA 745, Compliance and Audit	3	
Choose one 700-800 level course from INFA, CSC, INFS or BADM prefix	3	
	12	

* Course could be taken during summer.

** See NSU catalog for a list of recommended minors, including a minor in Computer Science or a minor in Management Information Systems.

⁶ A more accelerated option is achievable if students enter the NSU program having completed concurrent enrollment credits, pathway credits, or transfer credits. In such cases, NSU will adjust this yearly plan accordingly for those students.

⁷ NSU B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice students wishing to pursue an M.S. in Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization (MSCD) must apply for the MSCD degree fall semester of junior year between September 1 and December 1. During spring semester of junior year, students meeting all requirements set forth herein will be formally accepted into the MSCD program at DSU and start courses through DSU their senior year.

⁸ NSU B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice students must apply for graduation from NSU spring semester of senior year. Students graduate in May with a B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice degree. Beginning fall semester, (second semester of MSCD coursework), students become DSU graduate students.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A. When starting the DSU M.S. Cyber Defense program with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization, students are expected to have a strong background in network security, information assurance or information technology. To meet this expectation, B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice students must complete the additional knowledge courses indicated in the DSU catalog (CSC 609-Operating Environments and INFA 701-Principles of Information Assurance) in addition to the required coursework for the M.S. Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization degree.
- B. NSU B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice students wishing to pursue the M.S. in Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization degree, must apply in the Fall semester of their junior year between September 1 and December 1. By the Spring semester of their junior year, students who meet all requirements will be formally accepted into the M.S. Cyber Defense program with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization at DSU and start courses their senior year. To be accepted into the M.S. Cyber Defense program with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization, students from NSU must have a 3.0 grade point average. Any course taken at NSU with a grade below a "C" must be retaken at DSU if required for the M.S. in Cyber Defense program with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization.
- C. There are one 600-level course (CSC 609-Operating Environments), two 700-level courses (INFA 701-Principles of Information Assurance and INFA 735-Offensive Security), and one 700-800 level course from INFA, CSC, INFS, or BADM that will count towards NSU's B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice degree as well as DSU's M.S. Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization degree.

IV. OBLIGATIONS

Both parties agree to confer with each other on a regular basis regarding changes in curricula involved in this agreement. Additionally:

- A. NSU will develop advising sheets and related materials delineating educational pathways for students to complete the DSU M.S. Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization degree starting their last semester at NSU;
- B. NSU will provide advising to students pursuing the B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice degree going into the M.S. in Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization program at DSU while enrolled as NSU students;
- C. NSU will market this educational pathway in cooperation with DSU; all marketing materials must be approved by both NSU and DSU;
- D. DSU will support the development of the repertoire of online courses for the M.S. Cyber Defense with a Security Management and Compliance Specialization degree to allow students at NSU to complete these courses in their final semester of the NSU B.A. Criminal Justice/B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice program.

V. MODIFICATIONS

This agreement may be modified from time to time by the South Dakota Board of Regents. Modifications may not diminish the entitlements enjoyed by students who have already attended classes delivered under the terms of earlier versions of the agreement, except in rare instances in which retroactive implementation of modifications may be required to comply with accreditation standards or to conform to professional licensure requirements.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE OF AGREEMENT

This agreement will go into effect at the start of the Fall 2026 semester at NSU and DSU.

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF AGREEMENT

NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Signed by:

Alan LaFave

3/11/2026

Alan LaFave, D.M.A.
President
Northern State University

DocuSigned by:

Erin Foubert

3/10/2026

Erin Foubert, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and VPAA
Northern State University

DocuSigned by:

Alyssa Kiesow

3/10/2026

Alyssa Kiesow, Ph.D.
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
Northern State University

DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Signed by:

Jose-Marie Griffiths

3/5/2026

Jose-Marie Griffiths, Ph.D.
President
Dakota State University

DocuSigned by:

Rebecca Proey

3/3/2026

Rebecca Proey, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior VP for Student and Academic Affairs
Dakota State University

DocuSigned by:

Stacey Berry

1/15/2026

Stacey Berry, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Dakota State University

Signed by:

Mary Bell

1/12/2026

Mary Bell, Ph.D.
Dean, Beacom College of Computer and Cyber Sciences
Dakota State University