

# **Campus Life**

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## **RESIDENCE LIFE**

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Living in a residence hall places students near all academic resources and activities, which enables them to be an active part of the University of Sioux Falls. Because of this interaction, essential “people skills” are developed, as well as personal relationships that become lifelong friendships. Research indicates that traditional students residing on campus more often complete their college program than those living off campus.

The University of Sioux Falls has six residence halls which provide the opportunity to live, interact and share with a variety of people who have differing backgrounds, interests and values.

A resident director and student resident assistants provide leadership in programming, government and counseling in each residence hall. Student leaders assist in government and programming in the halls. As members of the residential community, students participate in the social, educational, spiritual and informational activities in the residence hall.

Before accepting a room assignment at the University of Sioux Falls, it is important to understand and accept the basic policies of the University as listed in the Student Handbook published on the USF web site at [www.usiouxfalls.edu](http://www.usiouxfalls.edu). To promote community and enhance the living environment for all, important policies apply to residence hall life. Possession, use or distribution of alcohol and other drugs is prohibited. Also, the program of intervisitation (room visitation by members of the opposite sex during established hours) is followed in residence halls to ensure privacy for residents. Students are responsible for information contained in the University of Sioux Falls Student Handbook published on the USF web site at [www.usiouxfalls.edu](http://www.usiouxfalls.edu).

All unmarried, full-time students are required to live on campus in residence halls as long as space is available. Exceptions include those students who either live with their parents, have completed four semesters of full-time coursework (summer sessions excluded) or are at least age 21 at the beginning of the semester for which off-campus housing is desired. Exceptions to the requirements of on-campus residence hall living must be secured from the Student Development Office.

All students below age 21 must complete a Residence Hall Application or an Off-Campus Request Form. Verification of off-campus living arrangements is sought from parents when applicable. If students provide false information to the University regarding their place of residence in an attempt to qualify to live off campus, they will be in violation of policy and will be charged for room costs until compliance occurs.

If a person is not required to live in the residence halls but wishes to do so, that person must be an admitted student taking a minimum of six semester credit hours of coursework. (Should the number of requests to live on campus exceed available space, full-time students will be given priority for room assignments.)

Students living in residence halls, or freshmen and sophomores living in campus apartments, are required to purchase the appropriate meal plan for eating on campus. Meals are served in the Salsbury Student Center.

Students contract to occupy rooms only during the times that classes are in session. Residence halls are closed during Christmas and spring vacations. However, an attempt will be made to make arrangements for students needing housing during those vacations.

Students planning to live on campus must complete the Application for Residence Hall/Meal Program and return it to the Student Development Office at the University.

## **CAMPUS MINISTRIES**

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Spiritual activities at the University of Sioux Falls are a unique quality of campus life. While many students come to USF seeking spiritual growth as a central goal, participation in programming is a matter of personal choice.

Campus ministry activities take many forms. There are small group meetings, chapel services, mission projects, Bible studies, retreats and service opportunities in the community and around the world.

Mission trips have included travels to Mexico, Amsterdam, the inner city of Chicago, Kansas City, Milwaukee, New Orleans and Native American reservations. Summer internships in ministry organizations are often available.

Weekly chapels offer worship in many creative forms. Each chapel is different in style but similar in purpose. All students are invited to participate in this significant time on a voluntary basis.

Small groups are led by students or faculty/staff members. The purpose is to facilitate the growth and development of students in their spiritual walk. These groups serve as a continuing means for training and equipping students to discover their own individual ministry.

Sioux Falls offers a strong church community. More than 100 churches in the city offer worship, fellowship and ministry opportunities for students of many denominations. A Sioux Falls youth ministry network, works directly with USF to provide students with internship opportunities and youth ministry training in the area.

Outreach and mission opportunities are an ongoing emphasis. Students serve the Sioux Falls community and beyond in such contexts as Habitat for Humanity, the Union Gospel Mission, the state penitentiary, and a local shelter for the homeless. At USF, service is considered an essential component in each person’s spiritual growth.

Students are always encouraged to initiate and lead campus programs of ministry and service on campus and in the community at large. The vision of USF is to empower students to make an impact on the world in the name of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever possible.

For those students who take advantage of the opportunities listed above, the University of Sioux Falls will be a place for deepening their own personal walk with Jesus Christ.

## **STUDENT LIFE**

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The full benefit of an academic program at the University of Sioux Falls is received only when the student becomes actively involved in the life of the campus community. The organized activities of campus life are designed to supplement and support academic achievement and maturing of the total person. Competition and cooperation are effectively balanced in the context of a community that rejoices in both individual and corporate achievement.

But more than this, all members of the USF community are expected to exhibit mutual concern in everyday living. While the administration will not hesitate to enforce the minimal social

standards required to maintain a constructive Christian community, the true quality of the community depends primarily upon students accepting responsibility to live far beyond such a minimum in interpersonal relations. Basic to such a lifestyle are respect for other persons, understanding of other views and honest sharing of criticisms in the spirit of love. Students are encouraged to seek and to give forgiveness readily when wrongs occur. When discipline is required, it is administered judiciously and redemptively in the hope that it will be received in a spirit of openness and responsibility.

The USF community seeks to support each individual in fully exercising the freedom found in a life committed to God. This includes fostering community standards of excellence, as well as defining limits of responsibility, in the conviction that community standards and individual ambitions are fully compatible when they share the primary goal of glorifying God.

The Student Handbook, published on the USF web site at [www.usiouxfalls.edu](http://www.usiouxfalls.edu), provides specific information regarding University policies as they affect student life at USF. The University reserves the right to dismiss, at any time, students whose conduct or academic progress is regarded as unacceptable.

## **Academic Advising**

All new students receive academic advising during a new student registration day before school begins. Once a student officially declares a major, he or she will be assigned a faculty member in that area as an advisor. All majors are declared or changed through the Director of Retention and Academic Advising.

Students are expected to assume the primary responsibility for defining their academic program and arranging their class schedule. However, the academic advisor fills an important role in providing assistance to each student.

## **Career Services**

The University offers a Career Services Center for students and alumni. The Center assists students who need assistance selecting an academic major, finding an internship and/or part-time/summer job. The Center also assists student seeking permanent employment following graduation. Staff help students with personal job searches including resumés, writing letters and interviewing skills. Credential services are available for graduates as they seek future employment.

Students are encouraged to start using the services of the Career Center once they enroll at USF. It is recommended that students stop by or schedule an appointment to learn more about the services of the Career Center.

Students and alumni interested in graduate school education are also served by the Center. Information on graduate schools and various entrance exams are available through the Center.

The Center sponsors various job fairs to be of service to students and alumni seeking employment. Check the Career Services web site for updated information. [www.usiouxfalls.edu/offices/career/](http://www.usiouxfalls.edu/offices/career/).

## **INTEREST GROUPS**

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### **Athletics**

The University of Sioux Falls is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and the Great Plains Athletic Conference. Men's intercollegiate competition is provided in baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, tennis, track and wrestling. Women's intercollegiate competition is provided in basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, track and volleyball. All full-time students are eligible provided they meet the academic eligibility requirements of the respective governing bodies.

### **Intramurals**

Intramurals provide an opportunity for students to participate in a variety of recreational sports and activities. These activities vary each year according to the interest shown by students.

### **Publications**

The Student Association has traditionally authorized and sponsored one major publication, a student newspaper entitled *The Vessel*. The *Vessel* contains news and features of interest to the campus community and beyond. The newspaper editor is selected by the USF Publications Board and is salaried by the Student Senate. The Publications Board, comprised of students, faculty and administration, selects the newspaper editor. The editor then recruits volunteers to produce the paper.

### **Music**

Instrumental and vocal groups contribute to the social and cultural life of the campus community. The Jeschke Fine Arts Center houses the William Lee Bright Hall of Music.

The Concert Chorale, acclaimed for its outstanding performances of sacred and secular choral music, is open by audition to all members of the student body. In addition to local concerts, the group takes an extended tour each year.

Chosen from members of the Concert Chorale, the Singing Camerata is a select ensemble. At the annual Madrigal Dinners, the Singing Camerata performs in sixteenth-century costumes. The group also tours.

The Men's and Women's Choirs have been established as independent choral groups. The main performance responsibilities of these ensembles are chapel services and other campus events.

The Wind Ensemble presents local concerts as well as touring. The Jazz Ensemble provides an opportunity for students interested in performing all styles of jazz.

Other ensembles are organized as needed to showcase talent. These groups are directed by full-time and adjunct faculty.

## **Radio & Television**

The University of Sioux Falls Telecommunication Center in the Jeschke Fine Arts Center is home to two radio stations and a television production center. One of those radio stations, KCSD, is part of the South Dakota Public Radio network. The National Public Radio-affiliated station brings programming from the state network to Sioux Falls, as well as cultural and public affairs programming originating from Sioux Falls to the entire state. Qualified students may apply for employment at the public radio station.

KCFS, the Media Studies lab radio station, is operated entirely by students with a faculty advisor. Its citywide signal features a format combining contemporary hit music during the day with contemporary Christian music at night. Weekends are devoted to rhythm and blues, classical and jazz. During sports seasons, students broadcast play-by-play descriptions of most Cougar games.

The Media Studies TV Lab also produces public affairs and sports programs regularly for broadcast on citywide cable TV. It also has produced instructional materials for other University of Sioux Falls academic programs. Students may work as producers, directors, program hosts, camera operators, technical directors and in many other capacities.

Students may receive work credit, academic credit or a combination of both for their involvement with any of the activities of the Telecommunication Center.

## **Theatre**

Theatre productions at the University of Sioux Falls are an important part of the cultural life of the campus and the city of Sioux Falls.

Several plays are produced each year in the Jeschke Fine Arts Center, home of the Meredith Auditorium main stage proscenium theatre and the Bernice Stier Jones Studio Theatre. Theatre seasons typically include a balance of comedies, dramas, children's theatre, classics, contemporary scripts and musicals. In addition to mainstage and studio productions, student-directed plays are presented each year.

Each Interim a special theatre project is introduced, such as a major musical, specialty theatre, and communication classes, or theatre trips to regional or national centers such as the Kennedy American College Theatre Festival, New York City, or London, England. Further, the Communication Studies & Theatre program prides itself on creating opportunities with local venues including the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Sciences and hosting guest artists and lecturers who conduct master classes. The Los Angeles Film Studies Center in Los Angeles, a Christ-centered educational program, offers a unique opportunity for our students to examine Hollywood behind the scenes with full semester credit.

All students are encouraged to audition for performing roles or to participate on technical crews (set construction, costuming, lighting and business management). Students may receive academic credit for their work on University and community theatre productions.