



# CAREER CENTER CONNECTION

NEWS FROM THE SIMLEY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER CENTER

DECEMBER 2019

## SAVE THE DATE!

### SIMLEY JUNIORS TO TAKE ACT FEBRUARY 25, 2019

The American College Test (ACT) and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) are standardized entrance exams required by most 4-year colleges and universities. All colleges will accept either exam and do not prefer one over the other. **All juniors will take the ACT with writing on**

**February 25, 2020 at Simley, for no cost.** No need to register or sign-up for the February exam— all juniors will be automatically included unless they opt-out of testing. A letter will be sent home to families in January with more information. A couple of other notes regarding the ACT:

- ✓ Remember that even if a student plans to attend a technical or community college their ACT score can be used for placement to make sure the student is college-ready, so students should always take the test seriously and do the best they are able to do!
- ✓ Students are offered four free spots where they can add colleges to have their scores sent automatically. Using these free spots ensures that the colleges will have your official test score and then you won't need to pay to have your score sent later.
- ✓ Most students looking to attend a 4-year school will take the ACT 2-3 times. Every college will always take your highest score.
- ✓ The ACT is now offered 7 times a year. Go to: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) for more info and to register.

Additionally, students are highly encouraged to start practicing for the ACT early. There are many methods to prepare for the ACT. Most importantly is just that students are preparing. A few highlighted ways to practice for the exam are highlighted below:

- ✓ All juniors will receive a full-length, practice ACT booklet during their January Ramp-Up to Readiness lesson in their English class. A great way to use this is for students to time themselves section by section and see how they do with the timing and a paper/pencil exam, as it will be on test day.
- ✓ ACT now offers a FREE online test prep program called ACT Academy. ACT Academy provides students with a personalized study plan based on previous ACT test scores and in-platform diagnostics. The program is delivered using a variety of interactive and engaging videos, games, and content. It can be accessed anytime and anywhere that there is an internet connection and is available at no cost to students. The platform also includes full-length ACT practice tests as well as individual test sections. To access ACT Academy, go to: <https://academy.act.org/>.
- ✓ There is a great ACT prep course offered through our own Community Education called Advantage Test Prep. This class provides an introduction to the ACT format, strategies for answering questions and instruction for the specific subject areas tested. Focal points of the program include diagnostic testing, vocabulary development, intensive mathematical review, reading comprehension improvement, and anxiety and time management. Students who complete a course may repeat it as often as they wish in future offerings – *free of charge*. All class materials are included in the tuition fee. For more information and to register for the course, go to: <https://tridistrict.ce.eleyo.com/course/4735/igh-youth-2019-20/act-prep-course>.



## PSAT SCORE HANDBACK

Scores will soon be released for students who took the PSAT in October. There will be a score interpretation session offered to students on *Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>*. The session will take place in the *Student Center at 11:00 AM*. Students will receive their PSAT score report and have the option of picking up their test booklet as well. We will go over how to read the report, what the scores mean, and next steps. If your student is unable to attend the session, they should see Ms. Kimble in the Student Center after the 13<sup>th</sup> to receive their score report.

## TUTORING AT SIMLEY

### MATH TUTORING LAB AND PEER TUTORING

Did you know that Simley has excellent options to receive extra support and tutoring? We do! Tutoring is available to any and all students, grades 9-12, all hours of the day and takes place within the Student Center. These tutoring services are a fantastic resource that all Simley students are highly encouraged to take advantage of to improve their academics!



There is an amazing math tutoring lab run by Simley's own math teachers. All hours (with the exception of hour 4) are covered by a math teacher. Students just need to talk to their math teacher to get a pass into the math tutoring lab for their study hall hour. Teachers are there to answer questions, explain concepts, supervise missed exams, and provide general math support.

Additionally, Simley also has highly underutilized peer tutors! Students can access a peer tutor most hours of the day and they are available for all subjects. Maybe a student needs help getting organized, or could use help studying for a test, or would benefit from meeting with a peer tutor on a regular, weekly basis. Regardless of the situation, peer tutors are available to provide academic support to any student who thinks they could benefit. To get setup with a peer tutor, students should see their school counselor or talk to Ms. Kimble.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENT AID REPORT

Families applying for financial aid for college must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as a first step in the financial aid process. Within 2-4 weeks after you submit your FAFSA online, you will receive a Student Aid Report or SAR. (If you chose to receive this by email it should arrive within a few days of completing the FAFSA online.) The colleges that you identify on the FAFSA will also receive a copy of this report.



If your FAFSA was incomplete, log onto your FAFSA account and click on Make FAFSA Corrections. Enter your FSA ID and add and submit needed corrections. If your FAFSA application is complete, an Expected Family Contribution (the EFC) is displayed on the top right of page 1 of the SAR. If there is an asterisk next to the EFC, it means your form has been flagged for verification. Verification requires your family to submit additional documentation to qualify for federal financial aid. The EFC is the number that your colleges use to determine your eligibility for federal grants, loans, and work-study programs.

The EFC is not the amount your family will have to pay for college, nor is it the amount of federal aid you will receive. Each of your colleges will use the EFC, however, in structuring your financial aid package. The college financial aid office will subtract your EFC from their total cost of attendance to determine your need. In today's economic climate, relatively few colleges can guarantee to meet 100% of demonstrated need. Those that do will make up the difference between cost and EFC with a package that consists of grants, work-study, and, often, student loans. Colleges that do not have the financial resources to meet 100% of need will do their best to make their college affordable, but will award the best packages to their most desirable applicants.

When you first completed your FAFSA, you were able to send your SAR to up to ten colleges. Once you have your SAR, you can remove colleges that received the report and add additional colleges as necessary. Just log in with your FSA ID, click on Make FAFSA Corrections, and then on add/remove colleges. You are also able to make changes directly on the SAR and resubmit it. Have questions? Contact the U.S. Department of Education Help Desk at: 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) as well as your college's (or prospective college's) financial aid office.

# TRENDING CAREERS

## THE 5 COLLEGE MAJORS AMERICAN STUDENTS MOST REGRET PICKING

Jessica Dickler

As tuition costs soar, more students and their families are asking themselves if college is still worth it.

Some experts say the value of a bachelor’s degree is fading. Starting salaries for new college graduates have grown less than 1% over the past two years, remaining at around \$50,000.

Worse yet: A decade after leaving school, more than 1 in 5 graduates are working in a job that doesn’t even require a degree. However, obtaining a diploma is almost always worthwhile, according to “The College Payoff,” a report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

Bachelor’s degree holders generally earn 84% more than those with just a high school diploma, the report said — and the higher the level of educational attainment, the larger the payoff.

When broken down by areas of study, however, the difference is striking. Students who pursue a major specifically in science, technology, engineering and math — collectively known as STEM disciplines — are projected to earn the most overall. In addition to STEM, health and business majors are among the highest paying, leading to average annual wages that are higher at the entry level and significantly greater over the course of a career compared to liberal arts and humanities majors, the Georgetown Center found.

The most-regretted college majors		
Major	Percent who regret their choice	Leading reasons for regret
English & Foreign Languages	42%	Impractical, limited job opportunities
Biological & Physical Sciences	35%	Hard to find a job without advanced degrees or licenses
Education	31%	Low pay and job satisfaction, limited job opportunities
Social Sciences & Law	29%	Too general, impractical, hard to find a job without further studies
Communications	27%	Too general

Source: ZipRecruiter

All in, the top-paying college majors earn \$3.4 million more than the lowest-paying majors over a lifetime.

Of course, income isn’t the only consideration. After adding in satisfaction, stress level and job opportunities, among other factors, job site ZipRecruiter found that the top five majors college students most regretted taking spanned the arts and sciences.

English, communications, biological sciences and law all made the list, according to ZipRecruiter’s survey of more than 5,000 college graduates who were looking for a job.

“This generation, more than any other generation that came before it, is looking for work with purpose and meaning,” said ZipRecruiter CEO Ian Siegel.

“They are more aware of what their peers are doing” he added, and “it creates a little bit of the ‘keeping up with the Joneses’ effect.”

On the upside, students who focused on computer science, business, engineering and health administration felt very good about their choices, ZipRecruiter found.

The least-regretted college majors		
Major	Percent who regret their choice	Leading reasons for regret
Computer Science & Mathematics	12.78%	Stressful
Business	15.50%	Too general
Engineering	15.91%	The best jobs require advanced degrees
Health Administration & Assisting	17.95%	Low job satisfaction
Health Sciences & Technologies	18.94%	Low job satisfaction

Source: ZipRecruiter

“The 5 college majors American students most regret picking”, Jessica Dickler, CNBC, November 12 2019. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/11/12/the-5-college-majors-american-students-most-regret-picking.html> (visited November 23, 2019).

# COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

## UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STOUT

**Ready. The path to your career begins here.**

[www.uwstout.edu](http://www.uwstout.edu)



### **Student demographics:**

8,748 undergrad students	19:1 student-to-faculty
18 average lab section	24 average lecture class

**Tuition (2019-2020):** MN Resident \$10,111 (tuition/fees) + \$6,924 (room + board) = \$17,035/year

**Financial Aid and Scholarships:** 82% of students receive financial aid at UW-Stout. New freshmen are eligible for any of the three Blue Devil Guarantee scholarships if they are admitted to the university by the first Monday in February for the fall semester. Additionally, UW-Stout participates in a micro-scholarship program called RaiseMe, which recognizes student's everyday achievements starting freshmen year in high school.

**Admissions:** To apply to UW-Stout, students should submit an application for admission using either the Common Application or the UW System Application. There is also an application fee of \$50. Students are then required to submit an official transcript as well as an ACT or SAT score (does not need to be sent directly from the testing company). Once all of these items are submitted, the application will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

A comprehensive review of each applicant is completed and students are likely to be admitted if they rank in the top 50% of their class or have earned a minimum ACT score of 22. The middle 50% of admitted students have between a 20 and 25 composite ACT score and between a 3.28 and 3.85 cumulative GPA.

**Academic Programs:** University of WI- Stout is one of only 125 polytechnic universities in the nation, which are career-focused undergraduate and graduate universities that combine applied learning with a liberal arts education. Stout offers over 50 undergraduate and 22 graduate programs as well as 3 advance degree programs. 20 programs are unique to only Stout within the UW system.

**Campus Life:** UW-Stout has over 150 clubs and organizations. There are 18 NCAA Division III athletic teams as well as club and intramural sports. A new undertaking of the university is becoming a designated varsity esports college. The university is currently developing a esports pilot program for Fall 2020. The program will offer students an opportunity to compete for Stout against more than 170 other colleges across the nation. Games represented in the pilot program tentatively include *League of Legends*, *Rocket League*, and *Overwatch*.

**Housing:** While it isn't required, living on campus in the residence halls is highly encouraged for incoming students. Living learning communities are offered in residence halls for students with shared interests.

### **5 Reasons to choose UW-Stout:**

1. *Gainful post-graduation employment.* Our majors are proven to lead to careers with noteworthy starting salaries and a 98% post-graduation employment rate.
2. *Applied learning like nowhere else.* We're all about hands-on experiences here with 3 times as many labs as classrooms. Gain the real-world skills that will set you apart.
3. *Unique majors.* Nearly half of our programs aren't offered anywhere else in the UW System. Beyond that, some are only offered at a few colleges nationwide!
4. *Earn while you learn.* Student employment opportunities on campus are plentiful, as are paid internships and co-ops with our industry partners.
5. *Added value.* We've got you covered. Your tuition and residence hall fees include things like textbooks, a laptop loaded with state-of-the-art software, and all of the essentials for your room.



## IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

- ✓ **February 25, 2020:** All juniors take the ACT at Simley for free!
- ✓ **February, 2020:** Registration for the 2020-2021 school year takes place.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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