



# CAREER CENTER CONNECTION

NEWS FROM THE SIMLEY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER CENTER

MARCH 2018

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ACT

### SIMLEY JUNIORS TO TAKE ACT ON APRIL 3, 2018

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. Minnesota is officially an ACT testing state, so we prepare students to focus on taking that exam. All juniors will take the ACT with writing on April 3, 2018 (for free!) at Simley. No need to register or sign-up for the April 3rd exam- all juniors will be automatically included unless they opt-out of testing. A couple of other notes regarding the ACT:

- **Don't forget to bring a calculator, #2 pencil, and a photo ID on test day!**
- 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. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these spots.
- The ACT is now offered 7 times a year. Go to: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) for more info and to register.



## IMPORTANCE OF VISITING COLLEGES

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SPRING BREAK

One of the very best ways to figure out if a school is going to be a good fit for a student is to visit. Stepping foot on campus is powerful and can help to decipher exactly what it is a student is looking for in a college. There will be extensive information on this topic in the next issue of *Career Center Connection*; however, I wanted to reiterate how much value a visit can hold.

Many schools host open houses and special visit days in the spring. So, if you don't have spring break plans, take advantage of the time off and make a visit! Or, if you are going out of town or on vacation, go and visit the local college(s) and see what they have to offer! Check specific college websites, usually under the admissions tab, and they will direct you on next steps and how to set-up a visit!

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Is there a topic you would like to see in an upcoming issue of Career Center Connection? Is there something you feel would be beneficial for families and students to have more information about? Contact Career Center Coordinator, Megan Kimble, to put in a request! [kimblem@isd199.org](mailto:kimblem@isd199.org)

# SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

## WHERE TO FIND SCHOLARSHIP MONEY FOR COLLEGE

A reminder that now is the perfect time to be looking for scholarships for college and you don't need to be a senior to start looking! There is an abundance of money available, but there is also a lot of hard work that goes into applying for scholarships- it can practically be a part time job.

I put together a *Scholarship Bulletin* every month which includes any scholarship opportunities that have come to the attention of counselors, administration, or myself. Students can pick up the bulletin in the Student Center each month to see what scholarships might be applicable to them. I try to keep the scholarships included in the bulletin as local as possible, as the likelihood of receiving a scholarship typically increases. I highly encourage students to pick this up every month and check out the new opportunities available to them!

If your student will dedicate a significant amount of time on scholarships, it is recommended they create a separate email address specifically for scholarships. It will help with keeping track of scholarship opportunities and save frustration in having to search through their primary email.

A few reliable, legitimate national scholarship databases are listed below. Your student will simply set-up an account and then will be able to filter through with their specific information to find scholarships that might fit for them.

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

<http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>

<http://unigo.com>

<http://colleges.niche.com/scholarships/>

In addition, there is a great program called raise.me ([raise.me/join](http://raise.me/join)) that is absolutely worth checking out! Raise.me is a free microscholarship platform where students can earn money for doing well in classes, visiting colleges, participating in extra-curricular activities and more. Students can begin to earn money as early as 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Check out the website for more details and for specific schools that will accept raise.me scholarships!

Tips and Strategies for scholarship applications:

- ✓ Start your search EARLY
- ✓ Reuse your essays
- ✓ It's a numbers game- apply more to win more
- ✓ You cannot win if you don't apply
- ✓ Read and follow instructions carefully
- ✓ Look for near-miss matches
- ✓ Pay close attention to deadlines
- ✓ Don't throw out small scholarships- they add up
- ✓ Tailor your application to meet the sponsor's goals
- ✓ Create a resume/activity list so that you don't have to recreate it each time
- ✓ Use several scholarship search engines
- ✓ Don't ever pay for scholarships- don't pay to get money
- ✓ Pick-up the monthly scholarship bulletin from Ms. Kimble



## NEW TRI-DISTRICT COURSE OFFERINGS

### EXCITING NEW OFFERINGS FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR



**THE TRI-DISTRICT CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS INITIATIVE** is a unique partnership that has developed between the school districts of South St. Paul, Inver Grove Heights and West. St. Paul-Mendota Heights- Eagan. This partnership is a collaborative effort to guarantee that all students of South St. Paul Secondary School, Simley High School, and Henry Sibley High School graduate with a plan for his/her “next step” and has the skills, knowledge, attributes and attitudes to be successful, wherever that next step takes him/her. To support the goals of our Initiative, Tri-District Schools, in collaboration with community and business partners, have developed unique and immersive learning experiences for Tri-District juniors and seniors.

#### FIRST SEMESTER - CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

Tri-District students report each afternoon (12:30-3:00/Hours 5-7) to the host business partner site for the first semester. Transportation is provided to students who need it. Students work with Tri-District staff and business partners from the host business and across the industry. Students will have expansive experiences and exposure to career opportunities within the career field of the course while learning the professional skills required in the current, dynamic, business environments. Required credits are earned by designing curriculum that meets MN state standards for the course in the context of the career field, and the demands it has of its employees to be successful.

#### SECOND SEMESTER- INDIVIDUAL INTERNSHIP

Students will serve as an intern, working directly with area businesses and mentors to continue to develop and apply professional skills while collaborating on authentic projects and tasks. Students will continue to meet weekly with Tri-District staff to refine professional skills and continue to meet elective and core requirements.

**TRIDISTRICT HEALTHCARE CAREERS & MEDICINE** fully immerses students with our partner, Twin Cities Orthopedics, at their new site in Eagan. This opportunity provides students with a broad view of careers opportunities in healthcare and related fields, including athletic performance. Students have access to real-world experiences and environments, and engage with healthcare partners and mentors in authentic projects and scenarios to broaden exposure and deepen interest and understanding. Completion of this program will earn students 6 elective credits and 3 English credits for the year.



#### TRIDISTRICT CAREERS IN TRANSPORTATION AND BUSINESS

**TECHNOLOGIES** is an excellent fit for students interested in exploring all aspects of the diverse and dynamic fields within the transportation industry. Students will learn the business, technical, logistics and human resources sides of multiple sectors within the industry. Hosted onsite by partner North American Trailer, this course takes advantage of the SE Metro’s role as a business and transportation hub for the Twin Cities and beyond.



#### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Students interested in one of the new Tri-District courses should be a junior or senior in the 2018-2019 school year and on track to graduate. Good attendance and behavior record will also be considered. **More information and the application to apply can be found at: [www.careercollegeready.org](http://www.careercollegeready.org). Applications are due March 23, 2018.**

# TRENDING CAREERS

## ACTUARY



### What Actuary's Do

Actuaries use math and statistics to calculate the odds that an event will happen. They design insurance programs and pension plans.

### Work Environment and Activities

- Calculate how much insurance should cost. Determine how much people should pay into their pension plans.
- Study statistics and calculate the odds of fires or other natural disasters occurring. They do the same thing for predicting unemployment.
- Advise companies on pension plans, insurance plans, and other complex technical matters.
- Calculate death and accident rates. They also estimate rates of such things as disability and retirement.
- Set insurance rates according to cost and competitors' rates.
- Determine rates for paying out profits on investments.
- Price corporate stock offerings.
- Provide advice to clients if working as a consultant.
- Work with programmers, underwriters, accounts, claims experts, and managers when developing new insurance or financial products.

### How to Become an Actuary

You need at least a bachelor's degree to work as an actuary. Many actuaries have a master's degree or higher. College majors that are best for this work are math, actuarial science, and statistics. Some actuaries major in economics, finance, or accounting. About 100 colleges and universities offer an actuarial science program. Most colleges and universities offer degrees in math or statistics. *See below for local schools offering a degree in Actuarial Science.*

### Pay

Median yearly salary in Minnesota is: **\$99,870**

### Job Outlook

Demand for this occupation will be strong. It is growing at a rate of 16.7% in Minnesota- faster than the national average.

### Helpful High School Courses

- Rigorous Mathematics
- Computer Applications
- Introduction to Business
- Probability and Statistics

### Local Schools Offering a Degree in Actuarial Science

- Minnesota State Moorhead- Bachelor Degree
- St. Cloud State University- Certificate
- St. Mary's University of Minnesota- Bachelor Degree
- University of St. Thomas- Bachelor Degree
- University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire- Bachelor Degree
- University of Wisconsin- La Crosse- Bachelor Degree
- University of Wisconsin- Madison- Bachelor Degree
- University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee- Bachelor Degree



## COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

### SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

WHERE YOU BELONG.

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



Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) is a four-year, public institution located in Marshall, MN. We offer a high-quality education in the liberal arts and professions to prepare you for a life that is successful both personally and professionally. Students and faculty alike come here to engage in the rich "Southwest Experience," which starts with strong academics, fulfilling social opportunities and support from fellow Mustangs.

#### Student demographics:

2,300 undergraduate students	17:1 student: faculty
20% ethnic/racial diversity	13% socioeconomic diversity
Graduation rate: 41% (about average)	Retention rate: 68% (about average)

**Tuition (2017-2018):** \$7,496 (tuition) + \$1,114 (fees) + \$7,810 (room and board) = \$16,420 (total cost of attendance)

**Degrees Offered:** Associate, Bachelors, Masters

**Room & Board:** SMSU offers students 20 traditional residence halls, Sweetland Hall, and the Foundation Residence Apartments which each house an average of 30-45 students. In addition, there are a variety of Living & Learning Communities that are co-ed or residential communities that share either an academic or special interest with the residents of their hall.

**Admissions:** Any applicant who is in the top half of their graduating class OR has a 21+ on the ACT will be automatically admitted to SMSU. Students are reviewed on a rolling basis and to be considered a complete application file, students must submit: an application, \$20 application fee, official HS transcript, and ACT test scores.

**Financial Aid and Scholarships:** 79% of undergraduates receive some form of financial aid. Of those receiving financial aid last year, the average award was \$10,780. There is a priority deadline of March 1 to submit the FAFSA and that application opens on October 1. SMSU offers banded tuition. This tuition allows students to take between 12 and 18 credits per term and pay for only 12 credits.

There are a wide variety of scholarship opportunities for students. Notably, students are automatically considered for merit-based scholarships when they apply to SMSU.

**Academic Programs:** SMSU offers more than 55 majors, 12 pre-professional programs, and 5 graduate degrees. The most popular undergraduate programs are: business, management, and marketing, education, parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness studies, psychology, and public administration and social service professions.

**Campus Life:** SMSU has 16 NCAA Division II athletic teams. These include: Men's baseball, basketball, cross country, football, track and field, and wrestling. Women's teams include: basketball, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. In addition, the Mustangs have Co-ed cheerleading and wheelchair basketball.

In addition to varsity athletics, all students are welcome to participate in any of the 10 intramural sports leagues offered on campus. SMSU also offers over 100 clubs, organizations, and leadership activities.

**Visiting Campus:** Daily campus visits are held Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Visits are approximately 2 hours long. Junior Visit Day is also coming up on March 24, 2018. To schedule a visit to meet with admissions, current students, professors, or a coach go to: [www.smsu.edu/go/visit](http://www.smsu.edu/go/visit).



## IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

- **March 5:** B.E.S.T. Foundation scholarship application deadline (3:00 PM)
- **April 3:** Juniors take the ACT at Simley
- **April 19:** ASVAB offered at Simley

### Upcoming College Representative Visits:

- University of Wisconsin- Steven's Point: 3/13 @ 9:30 AM
- Normandale Community College: 4/10 @ 10:25 AM
- St. Paul College: 4/18 @ 10:30 AM
- St. Cloud State University: 4/24 @ 1:30 PM

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### FUN FACT:

Students who meet one-on-one with a high school counselor to discuss admission and financial aid are **three times more likely to enroll in college.**

-National Association for College Admission Counseling's 2015 State of College Admission Report