



CAREER CENTER CONNECTION

NEWS FROM THE SIMLEY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER CENTER

MARCH 2019

GET A JUMP START ON COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS JUNIORS TO TAKE THE ACT ON APRIL 2, 2019

Minnesota is officially an American College Test (ACT) testing state, so we prepare students to focus on taking that exam. **All juniors will take the ACT with writing on April 2, 2019 (for free!) at Simley.** No need to register or sign-up for the April 2nd exam- all juniors will be automatically included unless they opt-out of testing. A couple of other notes regarding the ACT:

- **On test day, students should bring #2 pencils, a calculator, and a photo ID.** A snack will be provided but students are welcome to bring their own snack to be eaten during the designated time.
- Students should study for the exam! An excellent (and free) study tool for students is the ACT Academy, which can be found right on the ACT site (www.actstudent.org).
- 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!
- During pre-bubbling, prior to the exam, 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.
- Most students planning on attending a 4-year college or university will take the ACT 2 or 3 times. Every college will always take your highest score.
- The ACT is now offered 7 times a year. Go to: www.actstudent.org for more info and to register for additional exams.

****Please note that the February issue of Career Center Connection incorrectly listed the ACT date of April 3, 2019. The correct date for this year is **April 2, 2019.**

SENIORS CAN TAKE THE ACCUPLACER ON APRIL 2, 2019

While the juniors are taking the ACT on April 2nd, seniors will have the opportunity to take the Accuplacer, if needed. **Students who plan to attend any technical or community college next year will likely be required to take the Accuplacer exam.** The Accuplacer is an untimed placement exam that is used to place students into the appropriate college-level courses.

Inver Hills Community College representatives will be on-site on April 2nd to offer the exam. If a student has already applied to Inver Hills they just need to sign-up to take the test with Ms. Kimble. If a student is planning to go to Dakota County Technical College, St. Paul College, Normandale Community College, or any other technical or community college within the MN State System, they need to contact their school's testing center to get a voucher number to take the exam at Simley with Inver Hills on April 2nd. **All students planning to test must sign-up with Ms. Kimble by March 22nd.**

Students should study and prepare for the Accuplacer. A low score can potentially place a student into pre-college level or remedial courses. Students pay for these courses but they do not count towards their degree, so preparing for the exam is important. A great (and free) study tool can be found at: <https://accuplacerpractice.collegeboard.org/login>. Be sure to study for the Next Generation Accuplacer NOT the Classic version. Please see Ms. Kimble with any questions or concerns.

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REMINDERS AND RESOURCES

NEED A JOB?

There is a *Who's Hiring* job bulletin available on a monthly basis starting this month (March). Many local businesses are starting to look for summer employees and are actively hiring for part-time and full-time positions. It is around this time of the year, in particular, that employers and organizations reach out to Simley High School to share job and volunteer opportunities. We list the opportunities as a resource for students.



Please note that Simley does not endorse one business or organization over another and students seeking employment or experience should do so on their own free will. Simley does not accept responsibility beyond the sharing of information in the *Who's Hiring* job bulletin. With that, the job bulletin is meant to be a helpful resource for students seeking employment. A copy can be picked up in the College and Career Center or from the bulletin board outside of the nurse's office. Ms. Kimble is available to help students with applications, answer questions, and prepare for interviews.

NEED A SCHOLARSHIP?



A reminder to senior students that there is a monthly scholarship bulletin available to pick up with a variety of scholarship opportunities. I try to keep scholarships in the bulletin as local to Simley as possible, as the chances of winning an award then increase; however, any opportunity that comes directly to Simley is posted in the bulletin. The bulletin can be picked-up in the College and Career Center or from the bulletin board outside of the nurse's office and can also be found on the Simley College and Career website. Please note that there are limited scholarship opportunities also available to underclassmen so it is worth it to have a look and see if any fit.

NEED SOMETHING TO DO THIS SUMMER?

Although based on the weather summer seems light years away, it will be here before we know it (fortunately)! Now is the time to start looking for summer opportunities. Many students will take advantage of the time to work and earn money, which is great. Summer is also an excellent time to participate in a summer camp, pre-college program or volunteer around the community. These particular activities can be an excellent use of time as they can support your college application and resume, provide great networking opportunities, and can help provide direction and insight on prospective careers. There are plethora of these types of opportunities available to students across the nation that vary in both cost and time commitment. Honestly, just taking advantage of something over the summer months is a wise choice.

Any program that is sent to Simley to advertise for students is posted on the bulletin board outside of Ms. Bates' room, across from the Dean's Office. A few local opportunities that former students have had a positive experiences with and are worth highlighting are below.

- ✓ **MINNESOTA BUSINESS VENTURE 2019** (sponsored by Best Prep)
 - Minnesota Business Venture (MBV) is a fun, week-long residential camp designed to introduce high school students (grades 9-12) to a variety of careers. You'll live on a college campus (St. Thomas or St. John's), meet business leaders, and listen to knowledgeable speakers from top MN companies. MBV shows you how to apply of marketing, entrepreneurship, investing, leadership skills and much more to your life, school and future careers.
 - For more information, a short video, and the MBC application, go to: www.bestprep.org/mbvapp
- ✓ **FIRST STEP SUMMER INSTITUTE** (sponsored by St. Catherine University)
 - The institute is open to all current sophomore and junior women of color enrolled in high school with a 2.75 GPA or higher, who are interested in attending college. First Step programming, lodging, and food are FREE for you for the week long program. Join a tight-knit community of 25 rising junior and senior women of color and improve your confidence about gaining admission to college. Meet college professors, admission officers, career counselors, and successful female mentors from St. Kate's and the Twin Citie's professional community.
 - Application website: www.stkate.edu/first-step (Application deadline: April 12, 2019)
- ✓ **SCRUBS CAMP** (sponsored by Health Force Minnesota)
 - Scrubs Camp is a residential experience that offers an opportunity to explore health science professions through engaging, hands-on activities, including: surgery, microbiology, nursing, dissections, holistic medicine, athletic training, mental health, and veterinary. Meet Health Care Professionals, Technicians, and Practitioners in a wide variety of medical careers, practices, and fields. Attend workshops, get hands-on experience in real medical simulation labs, and experience living on a college campus for an entire week while networking with medical professionals. Scholarships are available for those in financial need.
 - Registration and more information can be found at: www.mnstate.edu/outreach

UNDERSTANDING COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID AWARDS

Once you have completed the FAFSA and added the colleges you have or will apply to, the next thing to watch for are your financial aid award letters that will come directly from the college or university. It is extremely important to compare award letters and have an understanding of what your net cost (out-of-pocket-cost) will be. The following article does a nice job of outlining what to look for, how to understand what you are actually looking at in the award letter, and also includes some helpful tools to use along the way.

HOW TO COMPARE YOUR COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID AWARDS

By Emily Lemiska
College Xpress Freelance Writer



College A offers you \$45,000 in financial aid. University B only offers \$20,000. College A is the best choice. Right?

Not necessarily. Maybe College A's award is made up mostly of loans, and perhaps the school itself is very expensive. University B's financial aid package, on the other hand, could be entirely scholarships, and the overall cost of attending could be lower. In this case, University B would be the best choice.

In order to accurately compare college financial aid packages, you need to understand the full cost of the school and the type of financial help it is providing. And that's not as easy as it sounds. Colleges all represent their price tags differently; some might include room and board in the equation, some might not, and so on. Meanwhile, financial aid packages are made up of any number of grants, loans, and work-study opportunities, each with an ambiguous name and a novella of fine print.

That's why financial aid awards often confuse students and their families, and why it's so important to make sure you understand what each one of your financial aid packages *really* entails. Because even a small mistake can cost you—literally.

To correctly interpret and compare college financial aid offers, you need to start by calculating the “net price” of attending each school. This is very different from the advertised price and *much* more important.

Here's how to determine the net price:

- **Determine the cost of attendance (COA).** This is far more than just tuition and fees. It's tuition and fees plus the living expenses you will incur while going to a specific school, including room and board, books, activity fees, equipment, transportation, and so on. If a college doesn't tell you its complete COA outright on the financial aid award letter—and many don't—check the website. If it's not listed there or the information is vague, call the financial aid office directly.
- **Ensure the COA is accurate for you specifically.** Costs vary from student to student, and the COA provided by your schools may not take your individual needs into account. For example, maybe they estimate books to cost \$250 each semester. But you're in a highly specialized science major, and you know your books will set you back more along the lines of \$500. Another example is if you are looking at a college in New York City, but your family lives in Los Angeles and you plan to visit every holiday. That is a significant cost you need to factor in under transportation. If you make the numbers that calculate the COA as specific as possible, your estimate will be more accurate.
- **Carefully determine the total dollar amount of aid that is free.** *Free aid is the money you don't have to pay back—primarily scholarships and grants.* You need to differentiate these awards from any loans that might be baked into your financial aid package. Federal loans are often included in financial aid “awards”—but they're still loans. They have to be paid back and therefore don't actually lower your out-of-pocket cost. But some colleges tend to try to gloss over the reality of paying back thousands of dollars. Listing loans under the common phrase of “financial aid award” is a perfect example. Money isn't an award if you have to pay it back. In addition, some schools use confusing acronyms when listing out types of financial help. They might use only the letters “L” or “LN” to signify that something is a loan. So pay close attention to the details, and if you're even slightly unsure whether financial aid is a grant or loan, call the school.
- **Subtract the free aid from the figure you calculated for COA.** The remaining amount is your total out-of-pocket cost, also known as the net price. This number, the net price, is the **only** figure you should pay attention to when comparing the cost of schools.

Cost of attendance
–
Free aid
—————
Net price*

In summary:

Cost of attendance – Free aid = Net price, aka the number you should use to compare the cost of your colleges.

If you don't trust your math, there are several online calculators that can help you. Among the best are a tool by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

(<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/compare-financial-aid-and-college-cost/>) and two calculators from FinAid (<http://www.finaid.org/calculators/awardletter.phtml>),

which similarly allow for the comparison of net prices and characteristics for up to three

schools. (While the former is more user-friendly, the FinAid ones provide for more detailed calculations.)

Keep in mind, once you have the net prices of your top colleges, there are important financial aid considerations that can't necessarily be quantified. With scholarships, be sure to understand the requirements and time frame. If a scholarship requires you maintain a 3.9 GPA in order to receive the money, it may be difficult to keep. Also, make sure you know whether the award is for all four years or not, and whether it is likely to change after your first year. Schools will sometimes offer larger amounts of money to incoming freshmen in order to attract more students, but then reduce the amount of aid when they are upperclassmen. This is known as "frontloading."

When it comes to loans, one of the biggest distinctions to look out for is subsidized vs. unsubsidized. Subsidized loans are always preferable because they don't begin accruing interest until after you graduate. Understand, too, that any unsubsidized or private loans the college offers in your financial aid package are not need-based and are therefore available to anyone. That means you shouldn't give them much, if any, weight when comparing financial aid offers.

Finally, when comparing offers, remember that the value of the college may be as important as cost. It's not worth saving money by going to the cheapest school on your list if you're going to have a hard time finding a job afterward. Numbers to pay attention to when evaluating value include graduation rate (typically the percentage of students who graduate within six years); rate of employment after graduation (be aware that this may be graduates' overall employment rate, meaning they could be working in jobs that don't require a degree); average reported salary; and loan default rate. This data can usually be found on a college's website, but you can also find it in one place thanks to the *College Navigator* tool and the *College Scorecard* from the National Center for Education Statistics (<https://collegecost.ed.gov/>).

Article accessed from: <https://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/financial-aid/articles/financial-aid-admissions/how-compare-your-college-financial-aid-awards/> on March 5, 2019.

“SENIORITIS” – AVOID IT AT ALL COSTS

Like seasonal allergies, "senioritis" goes into attack mode around this time each year. Merriam-Webster <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/senioritis> defines senioritis as, "an ebbing of motivation and effort by high school seniors as evidenced by tardiness, absences, and lower grades." Roughly one-third of colleges revoke admissions each year, but most colleges are not likely to do so unless there is a dramatic decline.



WHAT SHOULD SENIORS BE DOING?

- Notify colleges of any schedule changes. If you've dropped or added a class, colleges need to know.
- Let colleges know if there are any disciplinary issues. You are better off being transparent than assuming they won't find out. Your high school guidance counselor may be required to inform all your colleges.
- If you've been accepted, review your admissions materials to see what you need to do as far as deposits, deadlines and future timelines.
- Check your email, and especially your junk email, because that is how colleges will be communicating with you.
- Reconfirm you have all the required courses to graduate.
- Complete the FAFSA if you haven't already done so and submit to colleges to see about need-based aid.

Thankfully this condition doesn't affect most students. Seth Allen, Vice President & Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Pomona College in Claremont, California said, "It seems to me that the students who worry most about senioritis are, ironically, the students who can afford to let up a little to enjoy their many accomplishments and hard work."

An excerpt from an article by Lee Bierer. Accessed from: <https://collegeadmissionsstrategies.com/senioritis-avoid-it-at-all-costs/> on March 3, 2019.

TRENDING CAREERS

SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

What Software Developers Do

Software Developers, also called Computer Engineers are the creative minds behind computer programs. Some develop the applications that allow people to do specific tasks on a computer or another device. Others develop the underlying systems that run the devices or that control networks. Developers usually work closely with computer programmers. However, in some companies, developers write code themselves instead of giving instructions to programmers.



Software developers typically do the following:

- ✓ Analyze users' needs and then design, test, and develop software to meet those needs
- ✓ Recommend software upgrades for customers' existing programs and systems
- ✓ Design each piece of an application or system and plan how the pieces will work together
- ✓ Create a variety of models and diagrams that show programmers the software code needed for an application
- ✓ Ensure that a program continues to function normally through software maintenance and testing
- ✓ Collaborate with other computer specialists to create optimum software

Work Environment

Many software developers work for firms that deal in computer systems design and related services, manufacturing, or for software publishers. Almost all developers work on a team of engineers.

How to Become a Software Developer

Software Developer's usually have a bachelor's degree in computer science. Computer Engineer's may hold a degree in math or science but both paths entail having strong computer programming skills. Helpful high school courses for this career include: math through Calculus, science through physics, computer applications, computer programming, computer science, and network technology.

Local Colleges Offering a Bachelor of Computer Science

- | | |
|---|--|
| → Augsburg University – BA, BS | → Saint John's University - BA |
| → Bemidji State University - BS | → Saint Mary's University of Minnesota - Winona – BS |
| → Bethel University - BA, BS, Minor | → St. Cloud State University – BS, MS |
| → Carleton College - BS | → St. Olaf College - BA |
| → College of Saint Benedict - BA, Minor | → Southwest MN State University - BS |
| → College of St. Scholastica – BA, BS | → University of Northwestern - St. Paul - BS |
| → Concordia University, St. Paul - BS | → University of St. Thomas - BA, BS, MS |
| → Gustavus Adolphus College – BA, BS, Minor | → University of Minnesota - Twin Cities - BA, BS MS, PhD |
| → Macalester College – BA, BS, Minor | → University of Minnesota, Duluth - BA, BS, MS |
| → Metropolitan State University – BS, MS | → University of Minnesota, Morris - BA |
| → MN State University, Moorhead - BS | → Winona State University – BS |

Pay

The median average salary for a Software Developer, applications was \$104,240 in May 2017.

Job Outlook

Employment of software developers is projected to grow 24 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. Software developers will be needed to respond to an increased demand for computer software.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, *Software Developers*, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/software-developers.htm> (visited February 06, 2019).

COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY

CHOOSE TO WONDER.

www.winona.edu

Public, 4-year institution

Student demographics:

Undergraduate students: 7,228

Ethnic/racial diversity: 16.4%

Graduation rate (6 year): 60.8%

First Generation Students: 39.6%

Student: faculty ratio: 19:1

Average class size: 27

Retention rate: 77%

Average ACT/GPA: 22.2/3.33



Tuition (2018-2019): \$7,377 (tuition) + \$2,048 (fees & digital learning program) + \$9,010 (housing & meals) + \$900 (books) + \$2,640 (transportation & personal expenses) = \$21,383 (total cost of attendance)

Admissions: 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 official ACT test scores. Students must have successfully completed the following courses:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of mathematics (2 years algebra; 1 year geometry)
- 3 years of science (1 year biological science; 1 year chemistry or physics; all should include labs)
- 3 years of social studies (including 1 year U.S. history)
- 2 years of same world language (American Sign Language accepted; no sampler/review courses)
- 1 year of specified electives (world cultures, computer science, arts, music)

In addition, prospective students must have the following:

- Composite ACT of 21 or higher with cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher
- Composite ACT of 18, 19, or 20 with cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher

Academic programs: WSU offers more than 80 academic and 10 pre-professional, certificate, and licensure programs. Winona State provides the in-depth knowledge base along with the critical thinking and communication skills you will need for your career or advanced study. Undergraduate and graduate programs are offered within five colleges. Pre-professional programs include: dentistry, engineering, law, medicine, mortuary science, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, veterinary medicine.

Largest programs: Nursing, Business Administration, Elementary Education/K-6, Biology, Exercise and Rehabilitative Science, Psychology, Social Work, Marketing.

Financial Aid and Scholarships: 94% of first-year, first-time undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid. Additionally, Winona State awards more than a half-million dollars in academic scholarships to highly qualified students each year, based on academic merit and potential. All Winona State applications are automatically considered for the academic achievement scholarships.

Campus life: Winona offers over 220 student clubs and organizations and 15 NCAA Division II athletic teams. Winona is widely known for their stunning natural setting with lakes, rivers, and bluffs. Winona students have full access to the city, which offers festivals, museums, coffee shops, restaurants, and plenty of outdoor recreation.

Housing: More than 2,500 students live on campus. WSU has six residence halls, including two suite-style halls for upperclassmen that opened in 2010. Three additional residence halls are connected by shuttle bus to the central Winona campus.

Visiting campus: Visits are available Monday – Friday at 9am or 1pm. Plan for three hours total. Your tour will include a Student Ambassador guided exploration of campus, followed with an Admissions counselor session and residence hall tour. Contact the Admissions office at 507.457.5100 or admissions@winona.edu to setup a visit.

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- ✓ **March 7, 2019:** Registration for 2019-2020 due
- ✓ **March 20, 2019:** Junior small group meetings completed by this date
- ✓ **April 2, 2019:** All juniors take the ACT at Simley
- ✓ **April 2, 2019:** Accuplacer testing offered for seniors at Simley (anyone planning to attend a technical or community college should see Ms. Kimble before this date to sign-up)
- ✓ **April 18, 2019:** ASVAB offered at Simley for any student grades 10-12 (military entrance exam but also open to anyone interested in further career exploration- see Ms. Kimble for more information and to sign-up)

Upcoming College Representative Visits:

Sign-up and get a pass from Ms. Kimble in the College and Career Center

- Luther College (Tuesday, March 19th @ 10:20 AM)
- Yale University (Tuesday, March 19th @ 1:30 PM)
- University of Wyoming (Wednesday, March 20th @ 2:00 PM)
- University of St. Thomas (Thursday, March 21st @ 12:45 PM)
- St. Cloud State University (Monday, April 29th @ 2:00 PM)

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COLLEGE TRIVIA:

What prestigious university awards an official “Pirate Certificate” to students who complete courses in archery, pistol shooting, sailing, and fencing?

- A. Cornell University
- B. Stanford University
- C. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- D. Yale University

Check out the answer in next month’s issue of Career Center Connection!

Last Month’s Answer:

At what Washington, D.C. University have all the diplomas been signed by the current U.S. President of the time?

A. Gallaudet University

In 1864 Gallaudet was established as the first school in the world for the deaf and hard of hearing. In 1869 Ulysses S. Grant started the tradition of signing every diploma for every graduate of the school.

IGH Community Schools Non-Discrimination Policy: <https://www.isd199.org/nondiscrimination>