



CAREER CENTER CONNECTION

NEWS FROM THE SIMLEY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER CENTER

OCTOBER, 2019

FAFSA COMPLETION NIGHT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019

The FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) is required for any student seeking federal and state financial aid- including grants and loans- to attend any college in the country.

The FAFSA Completion Night event will start with a brief financial aid presentation followed by time to work on and potentially complete the FAFSA. Financial aid officers from local colleges will be on-site to help college-bound seniors and their families complete the FAFSA. There will also be translators at the event to support Spanish speaking families.

Take advantage of this excellent opportunity and get your FAFSA done early and accurately! Feel free to bring your own computer; chromebooks will be available for use at the event. Here is a list of what you will need to bring with you to the event:

- ✓ Social Security Number
- ✓ Driver's license number, if you have one
- ✓ Prior-prior year's tax information or tax returns for you and your parents (2018 taxes)
- ✓ Information on savings, investments, and business and farm assets for you and your parents
- ✓ Records of untaxed income

This event will take place during fall conferences on **Tuesday, October 15th from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm in the Spartan Center**. Please note that the FAFSA typically takes around an hour to complete. For more information about the go to www.fafsa.gov.



IMPORTANT FIRST STEPS FOR THE FAFSA



Students planning to attend college during the 2018-2019 school year can apply for financial aid using the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) starting on the first of October. The first step to completing the FAFSA is to set up a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID). This is required for both student and parent (only one parent needs an account) and will serve as your electronic signature. A separate email address is required for both student and parent to create the account.

A few tips and reminders when creating your FSA ID:

- ✓ Parent and student should each set up their own ID (Parent should NOT set up account for student).
- ✓ Use accurate social security number and triple check that your date of birth is correct.
- ✓ Do not use an email attached to school. Use a personal email because you will use this ID for the entirety of your college career and while you are paying off any loans you take out.
- ✓ You'll create 5 challenge questions: 2 from a list of questions, 2 created by the user, 1 with important date (can't be birthdate)
- ✓ Be sure to write your ID down! It's a long, painful process to reset/retrieve the information.

Once you've created your FAFSA ID, you can start your application. Remember, you do not have to complete the application in one sitting, so feel free to come back to it later, if needed.

OCTOBER IS COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE MONTH!

College Knowledge Month is a Minnesota statewide initiative, piloted in 2011, which encourages students to explore, plan and apply for college. College is any type of post-secondary training beyond high school. From the Minnesota Department of Education:



The goal of College Knowledge Month is to provide every graduating high school senior with the preparation, opportunity, and support needed to apply to college. Minnesota College Knowledge Month is a statewide effort which encourages students to take a significant step toward college by providing assistance and building excitement for the application process.

2019 College Knowledge Month at Simley High School will include:

- ✓ Over 15 college representative and military visits during the month (see page 7)
- ✓ Get in the spirit and wear your college gear on Wednesdays for College Wear Wednesdays!
- ✓ College knowledge trivia and fun facts on the announcements.
- ✓ FAFSA Completion Workshop for families on October 15th (5:30-7:30) during conferences.
- ✓ Encouragement to apply to colleges during College Knowledge Month as a majority of colleges in MN waive their application fees during the week of October 28th!
- ✓ #iappplied College Application Completion event on Tuesday, October 29th from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM
 - Open time for seniors to complete applications with assistance in the Career Center. Prizes, drawings, and snacks included!

PSAT ON WEDNESDAY, October 30, 2019

When: Wednesday, October 30, 2019 @ 8:30 AM
****please note that this is a date change from what was previously advertised. We will be offering the exam on the alternate national test date, 10/30/19.*

Where: Simley- North Gym

Cost: \$21.00

Registration: Registration for the PSAT will take place online through a secure site called Total Registration. Students will register and pay the \$21.00 exam fee all online. After you register for the exam online you will need to stop by the Counseling Office to pick-up the Official Student Guide. The link to register is:

<https://user.totalregistration.net/PSAT/242408>

What: The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) measures critical reading, math problem-solving, and writing skills developed over many years, both in and out of school. You won't have to recall facts from literature, history, or science, or complete math formulas, as this test measures your reasoning and critical thinking skills.

Who: Any student grade 9-11 is able to take the exam. The PSAT is normed for juniors and recommended for rising juniors. The test is optional and if you or your student is not sure if the test is right for them please feel free to reach out to either me or one of the other counselors and we can help figure it out.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MEA BREAK

MEA Break is an excellent time for students to go on college visits. Most schools in MN and many in Wisconsin hold special open houses and host special events on these days specifically for junior and senior students to visit their campus. Students do not have school on Wednesday (10/16), Thursday (10/17), and Friday (10/18) so take advantage of these days to make a few college visits! Check individual school websites for more information on special MEA events and if you need to register. Stepping foot on campus, taking a tour, and talking to admission representatives is the best way to find out if a college will be a good fit for your student!



FREE APPLICATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2019-2020

MN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WAIVING APPLICATION FEES IN OCTOBER

FREE APPLICATIONS

Institutions below do not charge application fees throughout the year, unless specified.

PRIVATE COLLEGES

Augsburg University
Bethany Lutheran College
Bethel University
Carleton College
College of Saint Benedict
Concordia College, Moorhead
Concordia University, St. Paul
The College of St. Scholastica
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University
Macalester College [*]
Saint John's University
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
St. Catherine University

St. Olaf College
University of St. Thomas

MINNESOTA STATE

Anoka Technical College
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Central Lakes College
Metropolitan State University
Northland Community & Technical College
Pine Technical & Community College
Riverland Community College
Rochester Community & Technical College
Saint Paul College
South Central College

*Macalester College: Online applications only. Waiver granted when Macalester's Part 1 or the Common App. is submitted prior to 11/15.

FREE APPLICATIONS DURING COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE MONTH

***Institutions below do not charge application fees during College Knowledge Month (October).
Some institutions use promo codes, noted by [] below.***

FREE FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF OCTOBER:

PRIVATE COLLEGES

Minneapolis College of Art and Design [MCW2020]

MINNESOTA STATE

Alexandria Technical & Community College
Bemidji State University
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College [CKM2019]
Hennepin Technical College
Hibbing Community College
Itasca Community College
Lake Superior College
Mesabi Range College
Minnesota State College Southeast
Minnesota State Community & Technical College [CKM2019]
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Minnesota West Community & Technical College

North Hennepin Community College
Northwest Technical College
Rainy River Community College [CKM2019]
Ridgewater College
St. Cloud State University
St. Cloud Technical and Community College
Southwest Minnesota State University
Vermilion Community College
Winona State University

FREE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT 28 TO NOV 1:

MINNESOTA STATE

Century College
Dakota County Technical College
Inver Hills Community College
Minneapolis College [CKM2019]
Normandale Community College

FREE APPLICATIONS FOR LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

Application fees will be waived throughout the year for low-income students at any institutions or campuses that are part of the University of Minnesota, Minnesota State or the Minnesota Private College Council. This applies to all the institutions listed above, with the addition of the University of Minnesota campuses in the Twin Cities, Crookston, Duluth, Morris, and Rochester. High school counselors and college admission staff can help a student make these arrangements.

ANATOMY OF THE COLLEGE APPLICATION

ALL OF THE PIECES THAT MAKE UP THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

Seniors received a packet of information when I was in their English class last month. One page of that packet went over all of the different pieces that make up the complete college application. Colleges will not review an application until all required pieces have been submitted. Please note that this is a general overview of what might be encountered as a part of the application; check individual college websites for specific requirements.

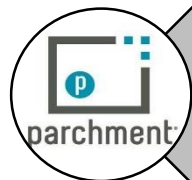
APPLICATION



NEARLY ALL COLLEGE APPLICATIONS ARE ONLINE. YOU WILL CREATE AN ACCOUNT ON EACH INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE WEBSITE SO THAT YOU CAN START AN APPLICATION. BE SURE TO WRITE DOWN YOUR LOGIN INFORMATION!

THERE ARE ALSO SERVICES SUCH AS THE COMMON APPLICATION AND COALITION APPLICATION THAT ALLOW STUDENTS TO COMPLETE ONE APPLICATION TO APPLY TO MULTIPLE SCHOOLS.

TRANSCRIPT



SEND YOUR OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT TO COLLEGES ONLINE THROUGH PARCHMENT. GO TO: **WWW.PARCHMENT.COM** TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT AND SEND YOUR TRANSCRIPT. THERE IS A SMALL FEE ATTACHED. IF YOU HAVE TAKEN PSEO COURSES YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO SUBMIT YOUR COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS AS A PART OF YOU APPLICATION.

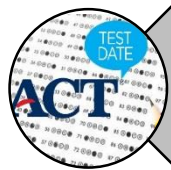
APPLICATION FEES



MOST APPLICATIONS WILL CHARGE SOME KIND OF FEE ALONG WITH THEIR APPLICATION. FEES TYPICALLY RANGE FROM \$20 - \$50 AND BECAUSE IT IS A PART OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS. AN APPLICATION WON'T BE REVIEWED IF THIS FEE IS MISSING. TYPICALLY, YOU WILL PAY THE FEE AFTER YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION AND FEES CAN BE PAID ONLINE VIA CREDIT CARD.

FEES SHOULD NOT BE A STRESSOR! IF YOU ARE ON A FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR 4 APPLICATION FEE WAIVERS. *SEE MS. KIMBLE OR YOUR COUNSELOR IF YOU NEED ANY FEE WAIVERS!*

TEST SCORES



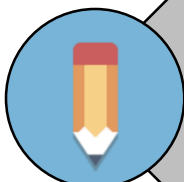
MOST COLLEGES REQUIRE THAT YOU SEND A SCORE FROM A COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM (ACT/SAT). SOME COLLEGES WILL ONLY ACCEPT OFFICIAL SCORES DIRECTLY FROM THE TESTING COMPANY. CHECK WITH INDIVIDUAL COLLEGES TO BE SURE YOU ARE SUBMITTING THEM ACCORDING TO THEIR POLICY.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



MANY OF THE MORE COMPETITIVE COLLEGES REQUIRE 1-2 LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION. ASK TEACHERS WHO KNOW YOU WELL ACADEMICALLY AND PERSONALLY. ASK YOUR REFERENCES IN PERSON WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE DEADLINE (2 WEEKS MINIMUM) AND BE SURE THEY KNOW HOW THEY SHOULD GET THE LETTER TO THE SCHOOL. FOLLOW-UP WITH A THANK YOU LETTER.

ESSAYS



MANY COLLEGE WILL REQUIRE AN ESSAY AS A PART OF THE APPLICATION. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE! ADMISSION OFFICERS WANT TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT MAKES YOU A GOOD FIT FOR THEIR CAMPUS. YOUR ESSAY SHOULD BE DRAFTED EARLY AND EDITED BY AT LEAST TWO OTHER PEOPLE FOR GRAMMAR AND CONTENT. CHECK OUT: **WWW.COLLEGEESAYGUY.COM** AS A HELPFUL RESOURCE.

TRENDING CAREERS

HIGH DEMAND TRADES AND APPRENTICESHIPS

For many years, high school students were highly encouraged, and even pressured, to go to a 4-year college or university. The economic trends were telling us that it was becoming more of a necessity to have a bachelor's degree to be employable. While this is true and it is continuing to be more difficult to be gainfully employed with only a high school diploma, specifically in a career with job satisfaction and opportunities for advancement, our focus on other pathways became blurred.

There is an increasingly wide gap in the skilled worker labor market. The severe need for quality, trained workers with credentials from short term training or educational institutions is higher than ever and we need to start educating students that there are more post-secondary pathways available than only heading to a 4-year college or university after high school. Don't get me wrong, the demand remains strong in jobs requiring a bachelor degree or more.

However, this path is not the right one for all students. The importance of finding the right fit for each individual student is critical in producing well-rounded, employable, and productive human beings to go out and thrive in society. Career and Technical Education is an area that deserves a spotlight and is often pushed-off or even discouraged to students. I look at it as just the opposite; we need to make sure students are aware of their options and where these different pathways will lead them in the future. For a student who maybe doesn't excel in the traditional classroom setting but is brilliant when it comes to working with their hands and has a solid set of soft skills, we need to make sure they know about technical colleges and apprenticeships.

As our skilled workforce ages and retires, we are quickly going to run out of qualified workers to fill these crucial positions in our country. The Georgetown University Center on Education and Workforce found that the United States will face a shortage of 5 million workers with the necessary technical certificates and credentials by the year 2020. Jobs are becoming readily available with too few skilled workers to fill them. Shifts are slowly gaining traction in getting the word out about "Earn While You Learn" models of education, specifically in Minnesota. Summing up what an apprenticeship is and the opportunities it can bring to the table for a student can best be done by referring to Minnesota's own Construction Careers Pathways Alliance. On their site, www.constructioncareers.org, they tell us what we need to know about apprenticeships; they are a plan, a partnership, and lead to a career. The site is packed with information and definitely worth having a look at. Additionally, they break down similarities and differences in the construction careers pathways, seen below.

CONSTRUCTION CAREER PATHWAYS

COMMON TO ALL TRADES



18 YEARS OLD



DRIVERS LICENSE
(preferred by most)



LEGAL TO WORK IN THE U.S.



HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED



PHYSICALLY FIT



MATH & READING PROFICIENCY

LICENSED TRADES

- Trade school can be helpful yet not always necessary
- Exams and assessments are given specific to each of the licensed trades
- Applications are taken on an as needed basis (see individual trade websites)
- Panel interview with apprenticeship committee prior to acceptance
- Typically union halls place apprentices with employers
- Apprenticeships are 4-5 years (8,000 - 8,750 hours requires formal training at JATC)

PLUMBER	SPRINKLER FITTER
HVAC INSTALLER-TECHNICIAN	PIPEFITTER / STEAMFITTER
CONSTRUCTION ELECTRICIAN	ELECTRICIAN LINE WORKER

UNLICENSED TRADES

- Applications are always being taken
- Hired by company first
- Apprenticeships are 3-4 years (6,000-8,000 hours / many require formal training at JATC)

CARPENTER	BRICKLAYER	FLOOR COVERER
SIGN & DISPLAY	TAPER & FINISHER	TERRAZZO
LABORER & TENDER	LATHER	MILLWRIGHT
PAINTER	PLASTERER	TILE SETTER & TILE FINISHER
ROOFER & WATERPROOFER	GLAZIER / GLASSWORKER	CEMENT MASON / CONCRETE FINISHER
LOW VOLTAGE / LIMITED ENERGY INSTALLER-TECHNICIAN <small>(A Power Limited Technicians license is required to become a Technician)</small>		

SPECIALTY TRADES

- Applications are taken on an as needed basis (see individual trade websites)
- All jobs are through the union hall (except operating engineer - may apply with contractors)
- Exams and assessments are given specific to each trade
- Apprenticeship is 2-4 years (4,000-8,000 hours requires formal training at JATC)

BOILERMAKER	ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTOR
IRONWORKER	OPERATING ENGINEER
PILE DRIVER	SHEET METAL WORKER
HEAT & FROST INSULATOR	

START A REWARDING CAREER TODAY AT: CONSTRUCTIONCAREERS.ORG

COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN- EAU CLAIRE

The Power of AND.

www.uwec.edu

What will your AND be? At UW-Eau Claire, you'll get the personalized attention found at private colleges, and the resources and opportunities of a large, public university. We'll challenge and support you to explore multiple passions and academic pursuits- to go after your wildest dreams and achieve your down-to-earth goals.



Student demographics: 10,022 undergrad students * 22:1 student-to-faculty * 82% retention rate * 97% placement rate

Tuition (2018-2019): MN Resident \$8,900 (tuition/fees) + \$4,700 (room) + \$2,900 (meals) = \$16,500/year

Financial Aid and Scholarships: UWEC has the lowest student debt than the average for all public and private schools in MN and WI. The average financial aid package is \$9,480. Students must complete the FAFSA no later than March 1 to be considered for financial aid. There are also academic scholarships available- awarded automatically through the admission process. UWEC students participate in a textbook rental program, which saves a significant amount each semester.

Admissions: Applicants can submit applications starting September 1 for fall semester. Priority consideration is given to those who have all application materials (UW System Application, \$50 application fee, official high school transcript, and official ACT or SAT score report) submitted by December 1. Applications received after Feb. 1 will be considered on a space-available basis.

Applications are reviewed holistically, based on academic and nonacademic factors. Academic factors include: high school rank, GPA, trends in grades, senior year courses, test scores, and course rigor. Nonacademic factors include: leadership, community service, special achievements, diversity in personal background and experience. Profile of admitted first-year students shows average ACT composite of 24 and average GPA of 3.46.

Academic Programs: UW Eau Claire offers over 80 academic majors and minors. 84% of classes have fewer than 50 students and there are zero courses taught by a teaching assistant. 87% of students do at least two high-impact practices (internship, research, study abroad, service-learning) by the time they graduate. Additionally, UWEC has been ranked in the top 10 (currently #5) regional public universities in the Midwest for 23 years by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Campus Life: There are over 250 student organizations to become a part of at UWEC. They offer 22 NCAA DIII athletic teams as well as club and intramural sports. Additionally, UWEC has an extremely strong performing arts program as well as a full marching band. They pride themselves on providing students with a community of support- from academic success centers to three advisors for each student to equity and diversity inclusion- there really is support for every individual. The city of Eau Claire also provides students with free city bus rides, 70+ miles of bike trails, and a vibrant downtown within walking distance from campus.



Housing: UWEC offers 11 on-campus residence halls and 3 additional near-campus upperclassmen housing options. 94% of first-year students live on campus. There are 16 dining choices including gluten-free and other dietary options. There are a plethora of opportunities to get involved on campus through living in the residence halls. Check-out a video tour of each residence hall at: www.uwec.ly/halltour.

UPCOMING VISITS TO THE CAREER CENTER

Students, specifically juniors and seniors, are highly encouraged to attend these visits. Students must sign-up and get a pass from Ms. Kimble prior to visit. All visits held in the Career Center unless otherwise noted.

OCTOBER, 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
SEPTEMBER 30 Bemidji State University @ 1:35 PM	1 U.S. Marine Corps. @ lunch	2 National College Fair @ Convention Center (9 AM -12 PM) & (5 PM – 8PM)	3 National College Fair @ Convention Center (9 AM -12 PM) Army (active duty) @ lunch	4 Ramp-Up to Readiness lesson in 9 th & 11 th grade English classes	
7	8 Winona State University @ 11:15 AM	9 Luther College @ 9:25 AM St. Mary's University @ 2:30 PM	10 Dakota County Technical College @ 9:30 AM Careers in the U.S. Army @ 11:15 AM	11	
14	15 North Dakota College of Science @ 11:15 AM Paying for College: Presentation and FAFSA Completion Workshop 5:30 PM– 7:30 PM	16		17	18
NO SCHOOL: MEA Break! A great time to go visit college campuses!					
21 University of Iowa @ 10:20 AM MN State Moorhead University @ 10:20 AM	22 St. Olaf College @ 10:20 AM Rainy River Community College @ 2:30 PM	23	24 College of St. Scholastica @ 9:25 AM St. Cloud State University @ 11:00 AM Army (reserves) @ lunch	25 College of St. Ben's/ St. John's University @ 10:20 AM	
28 Concordia University @ 1:35 PM	29 #i applied College Application Completion Event for seniors (9 AM -12 PM in the student center) University of MN- Duluth @ 2:30 PM	30 PSAT @ 8:30 AM	31 Hamline University @ 10:20 AM	NOVEMBER 1 Simley College Fair (Grades 10-12) (8:30 – 10:00)	



***Additional visits have potentially been added since this publication. Please see Ms. Kimble for the most up-to-date calendar.

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

- ✓ **October** is *COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE* month as a part of the *MINNESOTA GOES TO COLLEGE* initiative!
- ✓ **Tuesday, October 15th at 5:30 PM:** Paying for College Presentation and FAFSA Completion Workshop will be held in the Spartan Center (during conferences) for senior families!
- ✓ **Saturday, October 26th:** ACT
- ✓ **Tuesday, October 29th:** #iapplied College Application Completion event for seniors! (9:00 AM- 12:00 PM in the Student Center)
- ✓ **Wednesday, October 30th:** PSAT offered at Simley (Deadline to register: 10/25)
- ✓ **Friday, November 1st:** Simley College Fair! (Grades 10-12 from 8:30 – 10:00)
- ✓ **Friday, November 8th:** Registration deadline for the December 14th ACT

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