

Senior Handbook

A guide for students and parents



Timeline

Fall

- Start file of important papers
 - Keep photocopies of applications, essays, etc.
- Meet with recruiters- virtually/zoom
- Attend a college fairs- virtually
 - www.MN-ACAC.com
 - Sept. 28- Oct. 14
- Visit colleges
 - MEA DAYS
 - Follow individual college guidelines
- Start applying
 - Don't forget to request a transcript to be sent
 - IF you need letters of recommendations, ask early
- Research scholarships
- ACT- offered in October, registration information found online at www.actstudent.org
- FAFSA- form available Oct. 1
 - Fafsa.gov
- Individual mtgs. with counselors

Winter

- Check with your college about priority deadlines
- Scholarships
- Maintain contact with schools

- ACT is offered in December and February at multiple locations (additional information on www.actstudent.org)

Spring

- Stay active in school
- Inform every college of your acceptance or rejection by May 1
- Enjoy what's left of your senior year!

Virtual College Exploration

for all Minnesota students

September 28 - October 14

Live, virtual presentations about college admissions



**Hear from
Admission Officers**

What you need to
know about
applying to colleges



**Gain Important
College Knowledge**

Choose from 240
presentations and
information sessions



**200+ Colleges and
Universities**

Colleges from
around the country
and around the world

Check out the schedule and register:

www.MN-ACAC.org

Students, parents, and counselors are invited

Free!



Presented by the
Minnesota Association for
College Admission Counseling
and StriveScan



Scholarships and Financial Aid

FAFSA- forms are available on Oct. 1. You must fill this out to receive financial aid from any institution.

- Go to: www.fafsa.gov
Website for filling out your free application for financial aid which includes grants, scholarships, loans and work study

Sources to find scholarships:

- Parent or student memberships
Ex) Turkey Federation, Thrivent, Masons
- Employers
- Insurance companies (homeowners, life, medical)
- Websites
 - www.nls.k12.mn.us. go to Schools- High School- Counseling and Scholarships- Submit (scroll down)
 - Fast Web
 - www.Fastweb.com-- scholarship database. You will be asked to fill out a profile. They will send you an email when they find a scholarship with criteria that matches your profile.
- Information for local scholarships (presented in May at the Honors and Awards Program) will be presented to students in late February/early March
- Colleges- some colleges automatically send you scholarship information particular to their school, some colleges you will have to specifically inquire

Resources

- School Website- www.nls.k12.mn.us
 - Look under the high school for information on scholarships, senior and parent resources, testing and more
- Mncis.intocareers.org

MN Career Information System. This site has a wealth of information about careers and colleges.

 - Username: nls
 - Password: wildcats
 - You also have your own account. Use your Campus login information
- www.ohe.state.mn.us- MN Office of Higher Ed
 - Includes many different college related topics
- bigfuture.collegeboard.org
 - Includes lots of information about college planning, checklists, great ideas, includes video topics. College Board is also home to the SAT.
- www.actstudent.org
 - ACT's official site to sign up for tests, check your scores or request that your scores be sent to a college
 - If you took the ACT on the junior state testing day, you may use your ACT ID found on your test report to sign up online for an upcoming test. Using the ACT ID will populate numerous information fields.

ACT National Testing Dates and Deadlines

New London-Spicer will give the ACT on October 24. To find the nearest location on other test dates, look up test center locations during the registration process.

Our school code is 241 815.

We have ACT and SAT practice tests in the high school office. Students may check them out at any time.

TEST DATES

United States, US Territories, and Puerto Rico



2020 | 2021

TEST DATE

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

	Regular Deadline	Late Fee Required	Photo Upload/Standby Deadline
September 12, 2020			
September 13, 2020 <i>(Sunday)</i>	August 31	No late fees	September 4
September 19, 2020			
October 10, 2020			
October 17, 2020	September 25	No late fees	October 2
October 24, 2020			
October 25, 2020 <i>(Sunday)</i>			
December 12, 2020	November 6	November 7-20	December 4
February 6, 2021	January 8	January 9-15	January 29
April 17, 2021	March 12	March 13-26	April 9
June 12, 2021	May 7	May 8-21	June 4
July 17, 2021*	June 18	June 19-25	July 9

College Visits

How to set up:

1. Understand that each college has individual guidelines for how they are handling college visits.
2. You may either call your college or sign up online through the college's website.
3. Be prepared to tell them a date and time that you would like to go.
4. A parent needs to call the attendance line (354-1417) to excuse this absence.

Things to keep in mind:

1. If you visit on a weekend or have visited during a time that the college is not in session, you may want to visit again. Colleges often have a different feel when students are present.
2. Use the included campus visit sheet to make the most of your visit.



Campus Visit Checklist

Visiting a college campus helps you get a sense of what a college — and life at that college — is like. This can help you decide whether the college is right for you.

GATHER INFORMATION

Find out what you need to do to apply, and see if the college's class and major offerings are what you want:

- Take part in a group information session at the admission office.
- Interview with an admission officer.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Sit in on a class that interests you. If classes aren't in session, just see what the classrooms are like.
- Meet a professor who teaches a subject that interests you.
- Talk to students about what they think of their classes and professors.
- Get the names and business cards of the people you meet so you can contact them later if you have questions.

EXPLORE THE CAMPUS

Get a feel for student life, and see if this college is a place where you will do well:

- Take a campus tour.
- Visit the dining hall, fitness center, library, career center, bookstore, and other campus facilities.
- Talk to current students about the college and life on campus.
- Check out the freshman dorms, and stay overnight with a student, if possible.
- Talk to the coaches of sports that you may want to play.
- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.

CHECK OUT CAMPUS MEDIA

Tune in to learn what's happening on campus and what's on students' minds:

- Listen to the college radio station.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what daily student life is like.
- Go to the career center and learn what services it offers.
- Browse the school's website and any campus blogs.
- Read other student publications, such as department newsletters, alternative newspapers, and literary reviews.



GET THE MOST OUT OF A CAMPUS VISIT IN **6 STEPS**

1 DECIDE WHERE AND HOW

See if your school arranges group trips to colleges or if you could get a group of friends together and visit the campus. A family trip is another option and allows you to involve your family in the process.

2 PREPARE FOR YOUR VISIT

Before you set out, get a map of the college campus and pick out places of interest. Call the college's admission office to schedule a guided tour of the campus.

3 TAKE YOUR OWN TOUR

Just wandering around the campus on your own or with friends can be the best way to get a feel for what a college is like.

4 EXPLORE THE FACILITIES

Find the spots on campus where students gather or ask a student where the best place to eat is to get a feel for the character of the college. Visit the library and check out the gym or theater. Ask an admission officer if you can tour a dorm and a classroom.

5 MAKE CONNECTIONS

Talk to current students. Ask the students at the next table or sitting nearby what they like best about the college.

6 TAKE NOTES

During your visit, write down some notes about your experience. What did you see that excited you? Are there aspects of the college that you don't like? If so, what are they?

Questions to Ask During Your Visit:

ASK TOUR GUIDES/STUDENTS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What's it like to go from high school to college?
- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do you wish you could change about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to live here?
- What does the college do to promote student involvement in campus groups, extracurricular activities, or volunteerism?

ASK PROFESSORS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- Can a student be mentored by professors, graduate students, or upperclassmen?
- How are professors rated by the college? Does the college think mentoring and meetings for project guidance are important?
- How does the college help students have access to professors outside class? Do professors join students for lunch, help with community service groups, or guide student organizations?
- How many students do research or other kinds of projects for a semester or more?

ASK THE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

- How much has your total college cost for each student risen in the past year?
- How much do your students usually end up owing when they graduate?
- What is the average income of graduates who had the same major that interests me?
- Will my costs go up when your tuition goes up, or can we use the same tuition rate I started with so I'll know the costs for four years?
- How many students usually graduate in the major that interests me? How long do these students usually take to get their degree? In what ways does the college help students graduate in four years?



Free Application Opportunities at Minnesota Colleges and Universities (2020-2021)

As Minnesota high school students think about applying to college, application fees should not be a barrier. There are many opportunities for students to apply to Minnesota institutions for free.

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
Ridgewater College
Riverland Community College
Rochester Community & Technical College
Saint Paul College
South Central College

* Macalester College: Online applications only. Fee waiver is granted when either Macalester's Part 1 or the Common Application is submitted prior to November 15.

FREE APPLICATIONS DURING COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE MONTH

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
Hennepin Technical College
Hibbing Community College
Itasca Community College
Lake Superior College
Mesabi Range College
Minneapolis College [CKM2020]
Minnesota State College Southeast
Minnesota State Community & Technical College [CKM2020]
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Minnesota State University Moorhead
Minnesota West Community & Technical College
Normandale Community College
North Hennepin Community College
Northwest Technical College
Rainy River Community College [CKM2020]
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 25 to 31:

MINNESOTA STATE

Century College
Dakota County Technical College
Inver Hills 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. Eligibility information and the fee waiver form are available at <http://www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/feewaiver>

College Courses Offered at NL-S

***NLS High School cannot send your college transcript. They belong to the college. As a student you must request and pay for your college transcript to be sent to you college(s) of choice.**

Southwest MN State University

English 151 – Academic Writing - 4 credits

Literature 120 – Introduction to Literature – 3 credits

Mathematics 110 – College Algebra – 3 credits

Mathematics 125 – Special Functions and Trigonometry– 3 credits

Communications 110 – Essentials of Speaking and Listening – 3 credits

Spanish 201- Intermediate Spanish- 4 credits

University of MN- Twin Cities

Physics 1101W Introductory College Physics I- 4 Credits

BIOL 1015- Human Physiology, Technology, and Medical Devices- 4 credits

Ridgewater

HIST 1020 World History 1500-Present- 3 credits

Itasca

All CIS Infinity classes

Requesting Transcripts

Important for requesting credit recognition: 1) Save the syllabus, all written course work, and, if possible, exams and 2) Photocopy and save the textbook's table of contents.

For Southwest classes: <https://www.smsu.edu/campuslife/registrationrecords/index.html>. Click on the box labelled Transcripts.

For U of MN classes: go to <https://onestop.umn.edu/academics/transcripts> and follow the directions.

For Ridgewater: go to <https://www.ridgewater.edu/student-services-activities/transcript-requests/> and follow the directions.

For Itasca: go to <https://www.itascacc.edu/transcript> and follow the directions.

****Many colleges are requesting college transcripts as a part of the application process. This means if you took classes for college credit as a junior, you will send a transcript this fall when applying and at the end of the year when you graduate.**

Letter of Recommendation – Information

Name: _____

Date Required: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Rank/GPA: _____

Scholarship or school applying to: _____

State any honors, AP or enriched classes taken: _____

A. Post high school plans (include school, career options, work): _____

B. Your strengths, aptitudes, and/or skills: _____

C. Special interests, hobbies, talents, etc.: _____

D. Activities:

Years of Participation

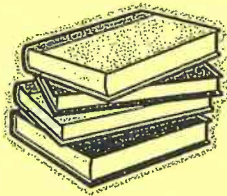
Awards/Honors – School

9 10 11 12

E. Community

F. Work Experience

New London-Spicer High School



TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM

Student Name: _____
(include maiden name)

Date: _____ Class of: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone: _____ We Mail: _____ or Student will pick-up: _____

This transcript may be sent to:

1. _____
(name of college)

(address) (city, state, zip)

2. _____
(name of college)

(address) (city, state, zip)

3. _____
(name of college)

(address) (city, state, zip)

4. _____
(name of college)

(address) (city, state, zip)

I give my permission to release the transcript for the student listed below:

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____
(if student is under 18)

Date Sent: _____