



CAREER CENTER CONNECTION

NEWS FROM THE SIMLEY HIGH SCHOOL CAREER CENTER

JUNE, 2017

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF THE SUMMER MONTHS

Summer can serve as an excellent opportunity to mark things off of the college planning checklist. Below are both general and grade-specific lists with ideas on productive ways to use the summer and how to stay on track with postsecondary planning.



POST-SECONDARY PLANNING SUMMER TO-DO LIST FOR ALL STUDENTS:

- ✓ Evaluate your postsecondary options which include: an apprenticeship, technical college, community college, 4-year college or university, military, or working full time. Keep in mind the importance of having some kind of further skill set beyond high school so that you're more employable and have potential for higher earning.
- ✓ Consider your interests and what you might like to do in the future. From there, you will be able to figure out how to get there and what kind of education is required.
- ✓ Get hands-on experience in the real world. Summer work allows students to develop new skills and looks great on a college application. It shows dedication, ambition, and a goal-oriented person- one who is likely to succeed.
- ✓ Volunteer. Spending a summer pitching in at a local charity is a great way for students to learn about life and themselves. It can help them develop leadership skills that will last a lifetime. Students can volunteer and discover how to help others — while helping themselves.
- ✓ Get a taste of a future career. Students can experience the careers they hope to pursue by researching, job shadowing, interning, or volunteering. Professionals in any career often go out of their way to help a motivated student, so even if they're not hiring they may have suggestions.
- ✓ Enrichment activities- participate in a summer camp, course, pre-college program, or other extracurricular activity.
- ✓ Read! Read! Read! Whatever students decide to do this summer — work, volunteer, intern or study — encourage them to read. Reading opens students' minds and introduces them to other worlds while sharpening important skills such as comprehension and vocabulary.
- ✓ It is never too early to visit colleges. Although it is summer and campuses tend to be quieter than during the school year, it is still worthwhile to get on campus, take a tour, talk to admissions, and start to think about what you are looking for in a college and what kind of factors will best fit your needs. Even if your family is going on vacation somewhere, carve out a time to visit a nearby college. Questions to ask on your visit are included on the next page to help make the most of your visit!
 - Participate in the *Summer Road Trip: We're Going to College!* Through the Tri-district College and Career Readiness Initiative, Simley is offering students an opportunity to participate in 1, 2, 3, or all 4 days to visit a variety of colleges during the week of June 26th. Students are still welcome to apply on a space-available basis. Applications can be picked up in the Career Center or Counseling Office.
 - Participate in the *Meet Minnesota* event the week of June 19th- June 23rd. All 5 University of Minnesota campuses will be open for tours and informational sessions during this special summer visit week. To schedule your visit and learn more about each campus, go to www.campusfinder.umn.edu.
 - Check out the *Explore More Colleges* tours that are a part of MN Private Colleges Week- free! (June 26th – June 30th). Learn more and register at: <http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org/mpcw>.
 - Attend the 2017 *Colleges That Change Lives* program and college fair when it is in MN- free! (August 28th at the St. Paul River Center). Learn more at: www.ctcl.org.

GRADE SPECIFIC COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING LISTS:

INCOMING FRESHMEN:

Middle School has come to an end and it will soon be time for your student to start life at the high school! It can be an exciting time but also anxiety producing for some. Have no fear- LINK Crew is here! For the first time ever, incoming freshmen will have the school to themselves the first day of school to participate in LINK events, run through a shortened schedule, and ease into the transition to high school.

As they enjoy the summer months, students should also consider the following (in addition to the items listed on the previous page):

- ✓ What kind of clubs, activities, or athletics do you want to be involved in during freshman year?
- ✓ Freshmen year is the start of your official transcript that colleges will look at and consider for admission into their schools so it is important to do well academically from day one of ninth grade!

INCOMING SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS:

The middle years of high school are equally as important as the first and last. It is critical that students challenge themselves with increasingly rigorous courses during these years. In addition, students should be involved in their school and community. More competitive colleges and universities will look for quality over quantity in terms of involvement- holding a leadership position or putting in a significant amount of hours in one area is typically more impressive than barely being involved in a multitude of activities. In addition to the items listed on the previous page, students should do the following this summer:

- ✓ Gather college information.
 - Go to college fairs, attend college open houses, and speak with friends and family about what college they went to and what they majored in. The more a student explores, the more they will understand what they are looking for in a school.
 - Keep an open mind and learn about a wide variety of colleges and universities- you never know what might end up being the best fit school.
- ✓ If not yet started, students should be sure to start a resume. Even if it's not a formal resume, it will make life significantly less stressful later (when completing job, college, or scholarship applications) if everything you've done is already down on paper.
- ✓ If a student plans on continuing athletics in college, they should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center prior to the junior year (www.eligibilitycenter.org).



INCOMING SENIORS:

One year left of high school for your student! There is plenty to do to fill this very important summer. In addition to the items listed on the previous page, student should consider the following:

- ✓ Make your college list. Narrow down your list to schools you plan to actually apply to in the fall. Be sure to have a safety, match, and reach school. On average, students apply to 3-5 schools.
- ✓ Students planning to apply to any school under early admission plans should visit the school(s) again and be sure that these are schools they are absolutely committed to (especially if applying under early decision, as it is a binding agreement).
- ✓ Organize a testing plan. If a student is planning on attending a 4-year school and needs to retake the ACT they should plan on taking the September 9th exam (registration deadline is August 7th) or the October 22nd exam (registration deadline is September 16th). Go to: www.actstudent.org to register online.
 - If a student is planning to attend a technical or community college they will need to take the Accuplacer exam which can be taken any time during senior year.
 - If a student is planning to enlist in the military they will need to take the ASVAB which can be taken at the recruitment location or at Simley on Thursday, September 28th. No need to sign-up until the fall.
- ✓ Students should start working on essays, if needed. Having at least rough drafts completed before returning to school will save students plenty of time and stress as they continue through applications in the fall.
- ✓ Get a master calendar prepped and ready to go before coming back to school. Include every kind of deadline- admissions, scholarships, housing, testing, etc. so that your student doesn't miss a thing! This will help immensely as they begin a busy senior year!



PARENTS OF SENIORS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2017!

Your student (and you!) made it through to high school graduation- congratulations! Whether it is your first kid to graduate or your last, it has to be hard to fathom that they are already old enough to be leaving the nest.

I have an almost 2 year old little man at home and I cannot believe how quickly the time has gone. I know that in a blink of an eye I will be in your shoes- steaming the gown, packing the Kleenex, and buying a shower caddy- all in preparation to support this next chapter in life. What a bitter sweet time graduation is.

There is so much to celebrate and look forward to but I find it hard to believe that anyone can look at their graduate and not see their sweet little baby that they brought home from the hospital so long ago.

Before I start crying right here at my desk, I just wanted to reach out and say congratulations and a job well-done! The kudos to the parents often get missed during this hectic time but I really believe it is equally important for you to be thanked and congratulated as well!

I read an article a few years back by Rob Lowe, where he shares a piece of his story and thoughts as his son is getting ready to leave for college. Below is the link to the article- a short and worthwhile read.

And with that- stand proud, clap loud, and let the moment also be yours when your kiddo walks across that stage on Friday night.

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/family/2014/05/rob_lowe_on_sending_his_son_off_to_college_an_excerpt_from_love_life.html



QUESTIONS TO ASK ON COLLEGE VISITS

IF VISITING COLLEGES THIS SUMMER, HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

General

- ✓ Where do most of your students come from?
- ✓ What percentage of students graduate?
- ✓ How would you describe the average student?
- ✓ What sets your institution apart from other schools?
- ✓ What was your favorite part of attending this school? (If alumni)

Admissions

- ✓ What are the admission requirements?
- ✓ What is something that will make me stand out in my application?
- ✓ What is the average ACT/GPA for admitted students?
- ✓ What percentage of students are admitted?

Academics

- ✓ Are the classes similar to high school classes?
- ✓ How would you describe academic pressure and workload?
- ✓ What are your largest programs?

Services

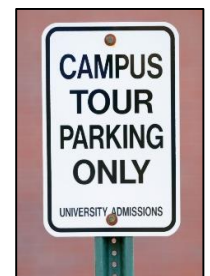
- ✓ Is there job placement assistance when I graduate?
- ✓ Are there internship opportunities?
- ✓ Do you offer tutoring services if I need them?

Campus life/Housing

- ✓ What is security like on campus?
- ✓ What are housing options for freshmen?
- ✓ What kind of student groups and organizations does the college have?
- ✓ Are fraternities and sororities a part of campus life?
- ✓ What is your favorite part of campus?

Financial Aid

- ✓ What kind of financial aid is available?
- ✓ What is the average financial aid package?
- ✓ Are students automatically considered for merit scholarships or is it a separate application?
- ✓ How difficult is it to receive scholarships?



TRENDING CAREERS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS



What Elementary School Teachers Do

Elementary school teachers prepare younger students for future schooling by teaching them basic subjects such as reading, English, and math. They create lesson plans, teach students how to study and communicate with others, and work with students individually to help them overcome specific learning challenges. In addition, teachers grade students' assignments, monitor their progress, and observe students to evaluate their abilities, strengths, and weaknesses.

How to Become an Elementary School Teacher

Elementary school teachers must have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. In addition, programs typically include fieldwork, such as student teaching. To teach in

a public school teachers are required to hold a state awarded license. Elementary school teachers are typically certified to teach elementary school grades, which are usually first through sixth grades or first through eighth grades.

Helpful high school courses include: Child Development, Computer Applications, Cultural/Ethnic Studies, English Composition, Geography, Health Education, History, Political Science, Public Speaking, Psychology, Safety and First Aid, Sociology, World Languages

Work Environment

Elementary school teachers work in public and private schools. They work school hours when students are present and most elementary school teachers do not work during the summer.

Local Colleges Offering a Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education

Augsburg College
Bemidji State University
Bethany Lutheran College
Bethel University
College of St. Benedict & St. John's University
Concordia College, Moorhead
Concordia University, St. Paul
Crown College
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University
Metropolitan State University
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Minnesota State University, Moorhead

North Central University
Southwest Minnesota State University
St. Catherine University
St. Cloud State University
St. Mary's University of Minnesota
The College of St. Scholastica
University of Minnesota, Crookston
University of Minnesota, Duluth
University of Minnesota, Morris
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Northwestern, St. Paul
University of St. Thomas
Winona State University

Pay

The median average salary for an Elementary School Teacher was \$55,800 in 2016.

Job Outlook

Employment of Elementary School Teachers is projected to grow at a steady rate of 6% from 2014-2024.



Career Wise, MNSCU, Kindergarten and Elementary School Teachers, on the Internet. <https://www.careerwise.mnscu.edu/careers/careerDetail?oc=292034> (visited June 3, 2017).

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition, Kindergarten and Elementary School Teachers, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/child-care-nursery-kindergarten-and-elementary-school-teachers.htm> (visited June 05, 2017).

COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA- TWIN CITIES

Driven to Discover.

www.umn.edu

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities is the state's land-grant university and one of the most prestigious public research universities in the nation.



Student demographics:

50,678 students (30,511 undergraduate students with 5,771 freshmen)
Students come from 50 states and 136 countries
18.8% students of color

Tuition

(2016-2017) \$14,224 (tuition) + \$9,058 (room and board) = \$23,282 (total)

Free credits after 13 each semester, every credit after 13 is free of charge, keeping costs down for families and helping students graduate in four years. (Students typically take 15-16 credits each semester, or 120 credits over four years.)

Degrees Offered: Certificate, Bachelor's degree, Post baccalaureate certificate, Master's degree, Doctor's degree - research/scholarship, Doctor's degree - professional practice

Room & Board: Over 88% of incoming freshmen live on-campus in one of 9 residence halls. There are also 7 on-campus apartment options. A meal plan is required for those living in the residence halls but optional for those living in apartment housing.

Admissions: (from the U of M admissions view book): The U of M does not participate in early action or early decision but does have a priority deadline of November 1st. Applicants who meet this priority deadline are guaranteed a decision by January 31st. The regular deadline is December 15th and applicant who apply by this date will have a decision by March 31st. Students are considered for admission, Honors, and scholarships

At the University of Minnesota we conduct a holistic review of each student's application. Automatic criteria, formulas, or cut-offs are not used. In our holistic review we assess each application based on primary and secondary factors as listed on our website at <http://z.umn.edu/admission>.

Minimum high school course requirements include: 4 years of English, 4 years of mathematics, 3 years of science, 3 years of social studies, 2 years of a single foreign language, and 1 year of visual and/or performing arts. *Please note:* admission to the U of M is highly competitive, and most admitted students exceed these requirements.

The academic profile varies between each of the 7 freshmen-admitting colleges, however, the middle 50 percentile of fall 2016 admitted freshmen ACT composite score was 27-32 and the high school rank was between 82 and 97.

Academic Programs: U of M Twin Cities offers 140+ undergraduate majors, 180+ graduate majors, and 38 professional programs. 80% of U of M classes have fewer than 50 students and 38% of classes have fewer than 20 students. The U of M's graduation rate is 65.2%- ranking 5th among BIG 10 institutions.

Campus Life: U of M has over 900 student organizations, including 200+ student cultural groups. They are a BIG 10 school with 23 Division I teams as well as intramural sports.



IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE



- ✓ **June 9:** Graduation @ 7 p.m.
- ✓ **June 19:** Summer school starts
- ✓ **June 19-June 23:** Meet Minnesota (University of MN Campus'- www.campusfinder.umn.edu)
- ✓ **June 26-June 29:** Summer Road Trip- We're Going to College!
- ✓ **June 26- June 30:** MN Private College Week (www.mnprivatecolleges.org/mpcw)
- ✓ **August 28:** Colleges That Change Lives college fair and program (St. Paul River Center- www.ctcl.org)
- ✓ **September 27 & 28:** National College Fair (Mpls. Convention Center- www.nacacfairs.org)

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FACT:

Nearly 60% of all college students are female.
The only state with more males than females in
college is Utah.

