

College Readiness

Albany High School



Albany Area Schools

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 745

Welcome & Purpose

Purpose: Support students through senior year → graduation & post secondary plans

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Topics

Today we will review:

- College Options
- College planning timelines for 11th and 12th graders
- How to begin applying for college
- MCIS, our student college and career learning plan platform
- Testing, financial aid and scholarships

Postsecondary options

- Workforce & apprenticeships
- 2 year community & technical colleges
- 4 year colleges/universities
- Military

College in the Schools (CIS) options

High School Class	College Course Name	College providing credits	Credits 
College Weight Training	Weight Training 1522	Central Lakes College (Brainerd)	2
College English	ENGL 1101- College Writing I	Minnesota State Community & Technical College- (FF Campus)	3
College English	ENGL 1205- Writing About Literature	Minnesota State Community & Technical College- (FF Campus)	3
College English	ENGL 2235- Intro to Lit. World Drama	Minnesota State Community & Technical College- (FF Campus)	3
College Algebra	MATH 1114	Minnesota State Community & Technical College- (FF Campus)	4
College Functions/Trig	MATH 1115	Minnesota State Community & Technical College- (FF Campus)	4
College Calculus	MATH 1134	Minnesota State Community & Technical College- (FF Campus)	5
College Government	Political Science 1001	U of M Crookston	4
College World Geo	Geography 1104	U of M Crookston	3
College LifeSpan	Developmental Psychology 1093	U of M Crookston	3
College Animal Science	ANSC 1101	U of M Twin Cities	4
College Economics	APEC- Principles of Microeconomics	U of M Twin Cities	4

Junior College Planning Timeline

- Begin to research college and universities that fit your personal, academic and career goals.
- Explore campuses, majors and programs at minnstate.edu
- Log into your MCIS account and retake the career surveys to find some careers that would be a good match for your strengths and interests. Counselors will be going into classrooms to help students explore deeper into MCIS and come up with potential career paths.
- Sign up to visit with college representatives at Albany High School from colleges that you are interested in. Students can sign up through email or the announcements.
- Plan out your 12th grade schedule to match your interests and career goals. This may include college coursework in the high school, internships and/or work study.
- Attend meeting in the spring to set up Parchment account. This is how you send your high school transcript to colleges.
- Plan to visit colleges that you are interested in during the summer before senior year.
- ACT- Optional, offered at Albany in the spring.

Minnesota Career Info Systems (MCIS)

All students at Albany High School create a profile in MCIS during their 9th grade during career class.

This profile includes:

- Career Assessments: results from tools like the Career Cluster Inventory, Skills, or Interest Profiler.
- Career Plans: saved occupations, programs of study, and career clusters of interest.
- Education Plans: saved high school plans, postsecondary options, and college searches.
- Employment Tools: résumés, cover letters, job application info.
- Personal Learning Plan (PLP)/Portfolio: saved goals, activities, experiences, and reflections.
- Test Prep & Financial Aid: ACT/SAT practice, scholarship searches, FAFSA planning.

It's meant to be a one-stop career and education portfolio that students can build on throughout high school.

FALL COLLEGE VISIT SCHEDULE



Please take the opportunity to visit these colleges when they are here at Albany High School. Sign up links are in the announcements!

COLLEGE	DATE
St. Cloud Technical & Community College	October 1 st – 10:00am
Alexandria Technical & Community	October 3 rd – 1:00pm
Minnesota State– Moorhead	October 9 th – 12:30pm
Southwest MN State University	October 13 th – 2:00pm
University Of Minnesota– Duluth	October 20 th – 2:00pm
St. Cloud State University	October 20 th – 1:30pm
North Dakota State University	October 21 st – 12:00pm
College of St. Johns/St. Ben's University	October 27 th – 9:00am
Minnesota State– Wadena	October 28 th – 2:00pm

Senior College Planning Timeline- Fall

- Meet with your School Counselor for your senior meeting
- Make a list of schools that align with your personal, academic & career goals.
- Visit [MinnState.edu](https://www.minnstate.edu) to explore college, majors, and campus settings
- Schedule campus visits on each college's website.
- Fill out and submit applications for college. Ask for letters of recommendation from teachers or trusted adults ahead of time if needed.
- Early action decision applications need to be in by November 1st.
- If applying for a specific program, be sure to pay attention to specific deadlines.
- Send high school transcripts through Parchment to colleges you applied to.
- Fill out FAFSA beginning on October 1st.

Senior College Planning Timeline- Winter/Spring

- Complete and submit all regular decision applications.
- Make sure you add all the schools applied to to your FAFSA.
- Review acceptance letters and compare financial aid offers.
- Choose a college by May 1st, submit deposit and attend admitted events.
- Apply for scholarships. Ceremony will be in May.
- Send your college transcripts and final high school transcripts to chosen college.

Step-by-Step Application Process

- **Start at the College's Website:** Go to the individual [Minnesota State college or university website](#) you want to attend and find the "Admissions" or "Apply Now" section.
- **Create a [Star ID](#):** On the application page, you'll create a Star ID, which is a unique username and password to access ANY Minnesota State college application. It's important to make sure students save this for future access.
- **Complete the Online Application:** Fill out the application with your personal, academic, and demographic information (takes 15-20 minutes). Once you do this for one application, your information will be saved for future applications.
- **Submit transcript:** Request your high school transcript through your Parchment account
- **Pay the Application Fee:** There is an application fee, which can range from free to \$30, but it is sometimes waived.

APPLY FOR FREE

to any of your **26 state colleges** and
7 state universities during

Minnesota State Month
October 2025



26 state colleges · 7 state universities · 54 campuses

Visit MinnState.edu to:

- » Access the Minnesota State universal online application
- » Use the online search tool to explore programs or get career information
- » Learn more about your 26 state colleges and 7 state universities
- » Explore the extraordinary education and exceptional value offered through Minnesota State
- » Visit MinnState.edu/guide or scan the QR code to order your **FREE** copy of the **2025-2026 Minnesota State Guidebook**



MinnState.edu

Stay connected [f](#) [in](#) [@](#) [v](#)

After you apply

- Watch for confirmation and next steps
- Apply for financial aid at studentaid.gov
- Schedule orientation/advising (the college will reach out to you)
- Explore scholarships available from the college you plan to attend
- Check local scholarship listings from the Counseling Office

Key Considerations

- Application Fee Waived: During Minnesota State Month (October), undergraduate application fees are waived for all Minnesota State colleges and universities.
- No Essay Required: Minnesota State does not require an application essay.
- Selective Admissions: Some specific programs have a special application process, so check the program's requirements on the campus website.
- Contact the College: If you have questions about the status of your application or need to send documents, contact the institution directly.

Financial Aid

The FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is an online form that students fill out to apply for federal financial aid to help pay for college or career school, including grants, work-study funds, and loans.

The FAFSA is available beginning on October 1st at studentaid.gov

Students and parents create a separate FAFSA ID prior to filling out the online form.

Albany will be having a short FAFSA presentation by local representatives from college financial aid offices followed by a time for questions and completion of FAFSA on **October 22nd, from 5:30-7:30** in the learning commons.

Scholarships

Area Scholarships- Available to all high school students in Central Minnesota area. Listed in the high school announcements and updated often.

National Scholarships- Students can research these via online platforms such as:

- Fast web
- Going Merry
- Niche
- Big Future by College Board

Local Scholarships- Available to only Albany High School seniors. These scholarships become available to students in the Spring and are given out at the awards banquet.

Scholarships can also come from the college and that is based on a student's GPA.

Websites

Colleges in MN: <https://www.minnstate.edu/campusesprograms/index.html>

University of MN colleges: <https://twin-cities.umn.edu/>

Private colleges in MN: <http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org/>

Colleges outside of MN: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

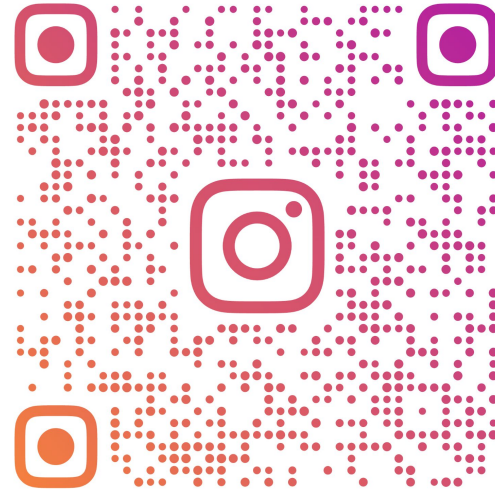
Information on how your college classes taken at Albany will transfer to various colleges: <https://www.transferology.com/>

Website that allows you to apply to multiple colleges through one college application (only covers certain colleges): <https://www.commonapp.org/explore/>

How Counselors can help

- Individual meetings with each senior
- Application assistance
- Providing letters of recommendation if needed
- MCIS (career exploration)
- Social/emotional support
- Communication through Google Classroom

Follow us on Instagram!



COUNSELING_AHS

Need help?

Albany High School Counseling Office

Emily Simon
320-845-5039

esimon@district745.org

Katie Rusch
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krusch@district745.org

We're here to support your postsecondary plans!