



Parent and Family Newsletter

APRIL 2020

Dear parents and families,

In 30 years of working in schools and universities, the past 14 days have been exceptional to say the least! One of the most striking observations I've made is the need to emphasize the humanity of this experience. I've met many of you, and I've had the opportunity to get to know you at Orientation, Welcome Weekend, and at our Parent & Family Weekend held last fall. I also have a daughter attending Minot State, so I like to think that I'm one of you. With that said, I can assure you our University is working diligently to meet the needs of your student as we embarked upon this virtual experience for thousands of students with only a week's notice.

We have about 30 students who will remain on campus because they cannot go home due to COVID-19. If you are the parent of one of these students, please know that the residence halls are open, and the dining center is available seven days a week from now until this situation is resolved. We are working with these students to make sure they have the necessary items needed to stay healthy and continue their education online.

For families who still have belongings in their student's rooms, don't worry about that right now. We have taken much criticism for publishing the move-out date of March 30, and that responsibility falls on my shoulders. Please know that no student is being forced out into the streets. I've attached a link to our move-out processes letter; please use the contact email if you will be picking up belongings at a later date.

As I eluded earlier in my message, we are constantly meeting to address issues like refunds for housing and dining, grading policies, emergency funding, and the extension of deadlines to help ease the burdens that have been placed upon our students and you during this time of uncertainty. I've included links on page 2 about the Student Emergency Fund, our most recent letter to students concerning academic and student issues, and our COVID-19 webpage. More information will be forthcoming as we publish our refund policies and other news pertinent to this situation.

As always, please direct your questions to me via email a kevin.harmon@MinotStateU.edu.

Respectfully,

Kevin Harmon
Vice President for Student Affairs

Be seen. Be heard. Be inspired.

▲ Minot State support and information links

Student Emergency Fund:

MinotStateU.edu/finaid/pages/student-emergency-fund.shtml

Support and information for MSU students during remote classes:

MinotStateU.edu/health/_documents/covid-19/support_information_for_MSU_students_3-23-20.pdf

Residence Life letter:

MinotStateU.edu/health/_documents/covid-19/update_campus_move_out_process.pdf

Minot State's COVID-19 webpage:

MinotStateU.edu/health/covid-19



IMPORTANT DATES

April

- 3 – Summer and Fall semester graduation applications due to Registrar's Office
- 7 – 9 – Summer and Fall registration for currently enrolled students
- 9 – Last day to drop a 16-week course
- 10 – 13 – Easter Break (University closed Friday only)

May

- 11 – 15 – Final exams
- 25 – Official grades available

View more dates, deadlines, and events at MinotStateU.edu/calendar.

Financial Aid Information

Plans for Summer

Summer and Fall class registration will begin on April 7! If your student is planning to enroll in summer classes, encourage them to complete the short Summer Financial Aid Application online MinotStateU.edu/finaid/eligibility/summer-financial-aid-info.shtml. The Summer Financial Aid Application allows students to easily communicate their summer plans to the Financial Aid Office so that we can determine their eligibility for summer and send a new award notice specifically for the summer term.

Getting Ready for 2020-21

If your student hasn't already submitted the 2020-21 FAFSA to apply for federal student aid, now is the time to submit the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. We encourage students to submit the 2020-21 FAFSA by April 8 to meet the Minot State priority funding deadline of April 15. Applying by the priority deadline helps students maximize their eligibility for federal and state aid programs, allows additional time to provide verification materials if needed and helps students avoid delays in disbursement of funds in the fall.

If your student has already submitted the FAFSA, remind them to watch for emails or items on their "To Do" list in Campus Connection related to financial aid documents.

Returning students who have completed the FAFSA will be notified by email when their federal aid eligibility is posted in Campus Connection for the 2020-21 school year shortly after the end of the spring 2020 semester. They will be able to accept or decline financial aid in Campus Connection at that time.

If you or your student determine that you need to consider additional resources to assist with paying for the 2020-21 school year, some options to consider might be:

1. Minot State Tuition Payment Plan

The payment plan allows students to spread out payments over three months but students must make the first payment and be enrolled by the semester fee payment deadline. The fee payment date for Fall 2020 is September 9.

2. Federal PLUS Loans

The Federal Direct PLUS Loan is available to parents of dependent students who file the FAFSA. Parents can apply for the PLUS Loan online at studentloans.gov.

3. Alternative Loans

Alternative loans are non-federal loans available from a variety of lenders. Students are the borrowers on these loans but will typically need a co-signer with good credit. More information about alternative loan options can be found at our website at MinotStateU.edu/finaid/loans/index.shtml.

Feel free to contact the Financial Aid Office at 701-858-3375 if you have any questions.

