



Parent and Family Newsletter

JANUARY 2022

Dear parents and families,

Happy New Year! January is a time for new beginnings and many students find their groove in the spring semester. Gone are the many emotional twists and turns of being a new student, and now is the time to celebrate the first semester and to look towards registering for sophomore year. How many credits did your student complete? How does the number of credits completed translate over eight semesters? Can they graduate in four years or do they need to think about picking up a class this summer?

Speaking of summer, does your student have a job or an internship planned? If summer plans need to be made, please have them visit Career Services in the Academic Success Center, located in the lower level of the Gordon B. Olson Library. We are ready to help find employment or an internship that will enhance your student's resume. Summer is also a great time to test drive careers if your student is undecided about their major.

Full-day classes are scheduled to begin in-person on Tuesday, Jan. 11. As always, I'm available to answer any questions or concerns you may have as we begin a new semester at Minot State. I can be reached at kevin.harmon@MinotStateU.edu.

Respectfully,

Kevin Harmon,
Vice President for Student Affairs



IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY

- 10 – Spring 2022 classes begin after 4 P.M.
- 11 – Spring 2022 classes begin
- 17 – Martin Luther King Day, University closed
- 20 – Last day to add a 16-wk. class
- 20 – Last day to drop a 16-wk. class or withdraw from all classes and receive 100% refund

FEBRUARY

- 21 – President's Day, University closed
- 21 – Last day to withdraw from all 16-wk. classes and receive 75% refund

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

Be seen. Be heard. Be empowered.

Is it okay if my freshman is undecided?

By Shari Bender, CollegiateParent.com

My son came out of the womb destined for a career in hospitality.

Baby Joe was miserable at home. Any sort of travel adventure, even to the supermarket, filled him with stimulation and joy.

As he grew into toddlerhood, one of his favorite games of pretend was “waiter,” where I found myself the recipient of elaborate imaginary meals without adding to my waistline. The tip? A kiss on the cheek and a big squeeze.

As soon as Joe got his working papers, he applied for a job at our favorite local Indian restaurant. Joe immersed himself in tandoori and samosa and knew the spice levels of all the dishes. He made every effort to make the customers happy and was rewarded in the real world of monetary tips. In 10th grade, he joined DECA (future business leaders) and continued working at different restaurants. He learned to make pizza and to refill condiment stations, and he was fulfilled.

When the Hotel School at Cornell University took him off the waitlist, he was ready to pursue his destiny. Last summer during the height of the pandemic, Joe started working as a DoorDash driver, joining the ranks of restaurant deliverers. He also worked as a private waiter, catering to small backyard gatherings (including my own 30th anniversary celebration for two). This summer, as he finishes up his hybrid sophomore year, Joe has secured an internship at the JW Marriott in beautiful Marco Island. This kid is hospitality to its core!

My daughter, on the other hand...

My daughter dabbled in arts and science and music and sports all throughout elementary, middle, and high school. She chose a college with a strong

liberal arts background and tried her hand at magic and computer competitions. After numerous starts and stops and changing likes, dislikes, majors, and potential paths, she graduated with a degree in engineering.

She is currently working in data science and getting a master's degree. Her initial graduate degree path wasn't to her liking, so she changed to a different program, and she is loving it!



Many kids are unsure about their college path.

During my initial time as a Stanford admissions interviewer, I would ask the candidates, “do you know what you'd like to study at Stanford?” Those “sure” of their path would tout the engineering school or cite the lauded computer science program. For those unsure, this question often evoked a stressed response.

Soon thereafter I started to ask the applicants, “what topics get you excited?” The answers were never “engineering schools” or “computer programs.” Instead, this question probed students to share what they loved — building 3D models for the local animal shelter or designing a computer program to help senior citizens with their medication schedule.

Asking a teenager what they want to do for the rest of their life can be a very heavy question. Kids do better with exploratory questions. Taking different courses during their freshman and even sophomore year can help students find their passion and best-fit major. If your child needs additional guidance, encourage them to make an appointment with their college advisors — they often can play an important role in guiding and assisting students to find themselves.

You can help them think about what they love.

Addison, a family friend and particularly motivated and bright young lady, entered college determined to be a doctor. It was ingrained in her from a young age and she felt comfortable and happy on this path. Once at college, however, she realized she didn't actually love biology, despite a 5 on her AP exam in high school and her enjoyment of a summer bio research program.

When her college advisor asked her what she loved most about the university, Addison cited the beautiful buildings, along with her freshman experience with set design for her dorm play. A more in-depth conversation revealed that Addy had always expressed a passion for architecture, starting when she was a young girl happily organizing the family pantry. When Addison was looking for colleges, she would comment whether or not the buildings had "good brick." Yes, studying architecture was her new destiny.

For those young people who have their future in focus from an early age, that's awesome. But maybe your high school senior, college freshman, or even sophomore doesn't have it all figured out. Your teenager may enter college with a plan in mind, only to change their major numerous times and announce a new career path at seemingly every turn, and that is okay. Life is full of moving parts and pieces with opportunities for change. Even for us grown-ups!

December campus highlights



The MSU Professional Communication Department hosted the 23rd annual KMSU Auction, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Prairie Grit Adaptive Sports.



The Student Social Work Organization organized a diaper and toy drive to benefit MSU students with young children.



Händel's "Messiah," one of Minot's longest standing December traditions, returned to the stage in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall.

Financial Aid Information

2022–23 Minot State Scholarship application is OPEN!

The Minot State General Scholarship Application for the 2022-23 school year is now open. The application deadline is Feb. 15, and all students planning to enroll for the 2022-23 school year are encouraged to submit their application online at [MinotStateU.academicworks.com](https://www.minotstateu.edu/academicworks). Encourage your student to apply today.



Financial aid satisfactory academic progress standards

Schools that participate in federal student aid programs are required to monitor all enrolled students for satisfactory academic progress (SAP). SAP standards apply to eligibility for all forms of federal student aid, some non-federal private education loans, and various scholarship programs.

At Minot State, SAP is evaluated at the end of each semester after grades are posted. It is important for students to be aware of these SAP standards — they must meet the minimum standards to continue being eligible for those forms of financial aid in future semesters.

To maintain eligibility for programs that fall under the SAP standards, Minot State students must meet or exceed the following criteria:

1. Minimum grade point average

Undergraduate students are required to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 at the conclusion of each semester based on all Minot State and transfer undergraduate credits.

2. Completion of attempted credits

Students must successfully complete a minimum of 66.667% of the cumulative attempted credits. Attempted credits include any credits students are enrolled in as of each semester's census date (the last day to drop a full semester course and receive a 100% refund; approximately the 10th calendar day of fall or spring term, or fifth calendar day of summer term) and any credits added after the census date. Credits dropped or withdrawn from after the census date and failed credits are considered attempted but not completed.

3. Maximum time frame

Students must successfully complete their degree within 150% of the published number of credits needed to complete their program of study. The maximum number of credits includes all prior credits attempted while attending Minot State University and any credits attempted at other colleges or universities whether or not federal financial aid was received while completing those credits.

The complete Minot State SAP policy is available at [MinotStateU.edu/finaid/policies.shtml](https://www.minotstateu.edu/finaid/policies.shtml). Students are encouraged to visit the financial aid office located on the second floor of the Administration Building or contact them at 701-858-3375 if they have any questions about SAP.

Financial Aid Information

Student employment at Minot State

Minot State on-campus student employment opportunities are a great way to help fund an education or allow students to earn spending money.

Student employment is flexible and convenient by fitting with a student's class and study schedule. Students do not work more than 20 hours per week to encourage them to keep college the top priority and are paid a minimum of \$9.25 per hour twice a month. Student employment provides experience for future resume and builds customer service skills. Most student jobs do not require any previous employment skills.

Federal work-study employment is a part-time employment opportunity for students with financial need, allowing students to earn money while enrolled on campus.

On the FAFSA, Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the applicant is asked if they are interested in work-study. Students that are eligible for federal work-study and marked they are interested may be offered work-study when financial aid is awarded for the academic year.

Eligible students that marked they were not interested in work-study or unsure may still be awarded federal work-study funds. Students not eligible for federal work-study can still be employed by Minot State in departments that have the funding to hire students.



All student employment begins on the Minot State human resources employment opportunities webpage, MinotStateU.edu/hr/jobs/ or scan the QR code for more information.



- Browse listed jobs under **Student Employment Openings at Minot State University**, located at the bottom of the page.
- For more information on each advertised position, click on **More Information**.
- To apply, click the blue **Apply for Job** button.
- **New user?** You must register if you have never applied for Minot State student employment.
 - Set up your username and password. This is different from your Campus Connection username and password. *HINT: You can set this up to be the same so it is easier to remember your account!*
- **Returning user?** Simply sign into your account.
- Once you apply, you will be notified after a supervisor reviews your application.

For more information, stop by the Minot State financial aid office, email tonya.critz@MinotStateU.edu, or call 701-858-4152.