

Oct. 18, 2022

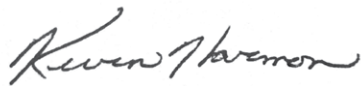
Dear parents and families,

Parent and Family Weekend was a success! I enjoyed meeting and visiting with many of you and your family members. Every year, more and more families are participating in PFW and the fun and excitement offered on Minot State's campus. We enjoy hosting every single one of you!

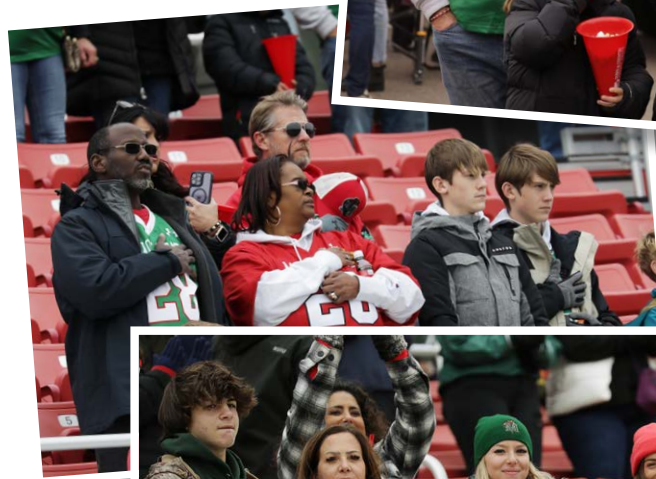
Be sure to read the included feature article written by Libby Claerbout, director of international programs, as she highlights a future study abroad opportunity for your student in Europe later this spring.

Enjoy the remaining weeks of October, and I look forward to seeing you again on campus as we host several more events this fall. Please know that you may contact me at any time at 701-858-3140 or kevin.harmon@MinotStateU.edu if you have questions or concerns.

Respectfully,



Kevin Harmon,
Vice President for Student Affairs



Be seen. Be heard. Be empowered.

Music, History, and Culture in Central Europe: Encourage your student to explore the world!

By Libby Claerbout, director of international programs



Minot State University offers a variety of study abroad opportunities that are affordable, exciting, and rewarding. By exploring a new country and experiencing a new culture, your student will grow intellectually, professionally, and personally.

Faculty-led programs are one of the many study abroad options available at Minot State. These programs are a great way for students to experience the world while enjoying the safety and security of familiar faces. Your student will travel with an enthusiastic Minot State instructor as learning objectives of the class are connected to the local host culture, customs, and history. Faculty-led programs are typically one to two weeks in length and allow students to earn course credit.

This year, we are excited to announce an upcoming program taking place in May 2023 to Prague, Vienna, Strasburg, and Bavaria, Germany! Students from all majors, alumni, and community members are welcome to join.

Led by Erik Anderson, Division of Performing Arts chair, and Jessica Smestad, honors program director, this study tour will be rich in renaissance history, music, and culture and will allow your student to

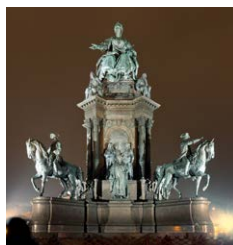
explore some of Europe's most beautiful cities and breathtaking natural scenery.

The customized itinerary has been tailored specifically for the Minot State community. While in these iconic locations, travelers will learn about the region's musical traditions and will visit famous performance venues, large and small. The schedule also includes museums dedicated to history and culture, important architectural and heritage sites, and breath-taking natural scenery.

The application deadline is Jan. 20, 2023. We encourage students to submit their application as soon as possible to secure their spot.

You can learn more about the program's itinerary, highlights, cost, and deadline on the Minot State website: [MinotStateU.edu/international](https://www.minotstateu.edu/international) → Study Abroad → Program Options.

Study abroad will provide your student with profound, high-impact learning that will significantly enhance their university experience. Your encouragement can go a long way in helping your student decide to join this amazing opportunity!



Financial Aid Information

2023–24 FAFSA available soon

The 2023–24 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) becomes available at fafsa.gov on Oct. 1. The 2023-24 FAFSA covers the Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024 semesters.

While it might seem strange to already be thinking about completing the FAFSA for the 2023-24 school year, applying early helps students avoid delays in the future and helps them ensure consideration for as many types of financial aid as possible. It is important to submit the FAFSA every year to apply for federal and state financial aid programs, and Minot State also uses FAFSA results to determine student eligibility for need-based scholarships. Some private financial aid providers may also use FAFSA information to determine eligibility for their aid programs.

On the 2023-24 FAFSA, you and your student will report income information from your 2021 federal tax returns. Most students and parents will be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval option within the FAFSA to automatically retrieve and import 2021 tax information directly from the IRS into the FAFSA, making the FAFSA easier than ever to complete.

We encourage students planning on attending Minot State during the 2023-24 school year to submit the FAFSA by April 1, 2023 to meet the University's priority funding deadline. This helps ensure they are considered for all federal aid programs available. Returning students who have successfully completed the FAFSA and listed the Minot State school code can expect to receive an official award notice in early June 2023. For questions about completing the FAFSA, please contact the Minot State financial aid office at 701-858-3375.

Keeping track of student loans

Your student's federal student aid history, including their Federal Direct Loan and Pell Grant history is available at studentaid.gov. Students can log in with their FSA ID and password, used for filing the FAFSA, to keep track of their loan and grant history and view contact information for their loan servicer.

Encourage your student to be mindful of the amounts they are borrowing, as well as the total borrowing limits for federal loan programs, to avoid overborrowing or exhausting their eligibility before they complete their program. More info about federal loan limits is available at studentaid.gov.

Student loan interest

If your student borrowed an unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan or a private education loan, those loans typically will begin accruing interest as soon as they are disbursed. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 emergency, student loan interest for unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans for in-school borrowers has been on "pause." The U.S. Department of Education announced a final extension of the COVID-19 emergency relief measures will end on Dec. 31, 2022. That means interest will begin accruing again after Dec. 31. For more information, visit studentaid.gov/announcements-events/coronavirus.

Although students are not required to pay interest on unsubsidized or private loans while they are enrolled at half-time (six or more credits) or higher status, voluntary payments on interest while they are enrolled can help keep the overall debt amount down. Students can contact their loan servicer to make a payment at any time. Servicer contact information can be found by logging on at studentaid.gov.

Student debt relief plan

You may have heard recent announcements about plans for federal student loan debt forgiveness for borrowers who had disbursed federal student loans prior to June 30, 2022. We are waiting more details and final information about the plan, and we encourage borrowers to look at the Federal Student Aid website for updates and the most accurate information at studentaid.gov/debt-relief-announcement/. You can also sign up for notifications as updates are posted at the Department of Education's subscription page, ed.gov/subscriptions.

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 to 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!



UPCOMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

OCTOBER

- 17** – First day for second 8-wk. classes
 - Midterm grades due to registrar's office
- 20** – Last day to add second 8-wk. classes
 - Last day to drop or withdraw from second 8-wk. classes with 100% refund
- 24** – Final grades available for first 8-wk. classes
- 25 – 27** – Spring registration for currently enrolled students
- 30** – Last day to withdraw from all classes with 50% refund for 16-wk. classes

NOVEMBER

- 2** – Native American Cultural Celebration, 11 AM – 2 PM, Native American Cultural Center, Student Center 3rd floor
- 3** – Last day to withdraw from all classes and receive a 75% refund for second 8-wk. classes
 - International Cultural Celebration, 12:30 – 2:30 PM, Student Center 2nd floor. During this event students, faculty, and staff have the opportunity to share an aspect of their home country or native culture through colorful displays, photos, music, or other performances.
- 10** – Last day to drop a 16-wk. class
 - COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic, 11 AM – 3 PM, Conference Center, Student Center 3rd floor. The clinic will have Bivalent (Booster) Pfizer doses available and a limited amount of primary Pfizer doses available. Pre-registration is encouraged. There is no cost for the clinic. Appointments can be made [HERE](#).
- 11** – Veterans Day, University closed

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