



# Parent and Family Newsletter

## JANUARY 2023 Issue 1

Jan. 6, 2023

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 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 the Career Center in the Student 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. 10. As always, I'm available to answer any questions or concerns you may have as we begin a new semester at Minot State.

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Respectfully,

Kevin Harmon,  
Vice President for Student Affairs

Be seen. Be heard. Be empowered.

# Second semester fresh start

By Vicki Nelson, [CollegiateParent.com](https://www.collegiateparent.com)

Your student completed the first semester of college. Congratulations!

Second semester is an opportunity for a fresh start. Your student can build on their successes from last fall, but they may also need to re-evaluate and readjust based upon lessons learned.

## What can I expect as my student heads toward a new semester?

Returning to school after winter break is a very different experience from going to college for the first time. Students bring their newly-acquired wisdom and their mistakes along. There may be less anxiety, since they know what to expect, or anxiety may be high...since they know what to expect!



## Be prepared for mixed feelings.

There is less build up and excitement than there was in the fall, so returning to school may seem a bit of a letdown. Some of the novelty has worn off. Your student understands the realities of college life so the road ahead may look longer and harder than it did in the fall. This is a more thoughtful return to college.

## Your student may be worried about their ability to succeed.

If the first semester was less than hoped for, your student may be concerned about how to make this next semester better. They may or may not be able to express these worries.

## Your student may have confidence that wasn't there in the fall.

They have confidence in their ability to make friends, to navigate the college community, to get to class, to talk to professors, and to do what needs to be done.

## Your student may be optimistic about this new beginning.

Just as we are all encouraged by the possibilities of a new year in January, your student may be energized at the prospect of a fresh start.

## Start a conversation

It can be difficult as a parent to know how to help. If you're too involved, it feels as though you are not respecting your student's growth and allowing them to experiment with newfound independence. But stepping back entirely may make you feel as though you're not doing your part to guide your student.

The second semester is a perfect opportunity for some conversations. Plant a few seeds, offer food for thought, and gently remind your student of your trust and support.

- **Reinforce the opportunities that a fresh start brings:** new classes, new professors, perhaps new friends, and new activities. Encourage your student to take advantage of a new perspective.
- **Remind your student of how much they know now that they didn't in the fall — both about college life and about themselves.** Help them find areas of strength and build upon confidence gained.
- **Ask about your student's goals for this semester.** What do they hope the next four months will bring? What will be required to accomplish those goals? Putting goals into words makes them more tangible. Thinking about what will be required to reach those goals will provide your student with a plan of action.

### What concrete things can my student do to prepare for a great second semester?

Getting a few tasks out of the way during what's left of winter break will give your student a running start on spring semester.

1. **Attend to any unfinished business from fall semester.** Is your student carrying over any incomplete grades? Is their spring schedule complete? Are there outstanding financial issues?
2. **Create a budget for spring semester.** Your student now has a better idea of their day-to-day living expenses. A budget provides a sense of control; they'll spend less time worrying about finances.
3. **Decide if they will work.** Having completed a budget, your student can assess whether or not they need to work. If they intend to get (or continue) a part-time job, you can help them consider how many hours of work a week will be manageable given their other responsibilities as a college student.
4. **Order textbooks now.** It's a busy season for textbook companies; ordering online early ensures your student has books at the start of classes, not a week or more into the semester.

5. **Check to see if professors have assigned pre-semester work.** If there are any assignments, get them done. Read the first chapter or two in the textbook to get a jump on the class.
6. **Commit to time management.** Time management is one of the most important life skills for student success. Take some time now to set up a system (using a print calendar or planner or an app) and start plugging in dates in order to be ready to go on day one.
7. **List specific changes for the new semester.** Whether or not fall semester was a good one, some changes can enhance the new term. Make sure that goals are attached to action plans. Will your student try out some new activities — or drop one or two? Will they spend more time studying or sleeping? What's the plan to make that happen?

No matter what year your college student is, the new term is a chance for a fresh start, and you can guide them in setting realistic expectations and goals. They'll be one step closer to maturity and independence. You will be more comfortable taking a step back and watching them grow.



## IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

### JANUARY

- 9 – Classes begin after 4 p.m.
- 10 – First full day of spring classes
- 16 – Martin Luther King Day, University closed
- 19 – Last day to add classes
- 19 – Last day to drop a 16-wk. class or withdraw from all classes and receive a 100% refund

### FEBRUARY

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

View more dates, deadlines, and events at [MinotStateU.edu/calendar](https://www.minotstate.edu/calendar).

# Financial Aid Information

## 2023–24 Minot State Scholarship application is OPEN!

The Minot State General Scholarship Application for the 2023-234 school year is now open. The application deadline is Feb. 15, and all students planning to enroll for the 2023-24 school year are encouraged to submit their application online at [MinotStateU.academicworks.com](https://MinotStateU.academicworks.com). 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 MSU 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-and-Consumer-Information.shtml](https://MinotStateU.edu/finaid/Policies-and-Consumer-Information.shtml). Students are encouraged to contact the financial aid office, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, or call 701-858-3375 if they have any questions about SAP.



# 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 \$10 per hour twice a month. Student employment provides experience for future resumes 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/](https://MinotStateU.edu/hr/jobs/). Scan the QR code for more information.**



Your student can 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 for the job, click the blue Apply for Job button.

New user? Your student must register if they have never applied for Minot State student employment before. They will set up a username and password — this is different from their Campus Connection username and password. HINT: They can set them up to be the same so it is easier to remember the account!

Returning user? Your student needs to simply log into their account to apply.

Once your student applies, they will be notified after a supervisor reviews their application. For more information, encourage your student to stop by the Minot State financial aid office, email [tonya.critz@MinotStateU.edu](mailto:tonya.critz@MinotStateU.edu), or call 701-858-4152.