

May 15, 2023

Dear parents and families,

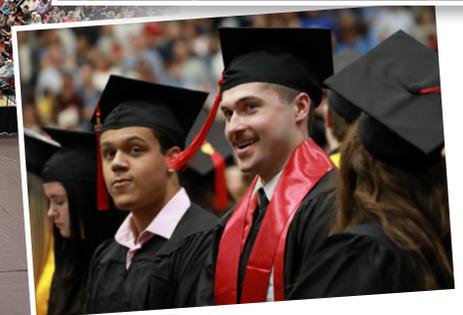
Last Friday, nearly 700 students were recognized for their graduation from Minot State University. It is the "Super Bowl" of our academic year and I would like to congratulate our graduates and families. It has been my honor to get to know many of you and I hope to see you on campus in the future. You will always be a part of the Minot State family. For our current and new families, I'm already planning our fall activities and am looking forward to getting to know you better. New Student Orientation is set for 9 A.M. on Monday, Aug. 21 in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions at kevin.harmon@MinotStateU.edu.

Respectfully,



Kevin Harmon,
Vice President for Student Affairs



MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY

SUMMER THEATRE

Season 58 starts in June 2023!

**Jimmy Buffet's
Escape to
Margaritaville!**
June 13 - 18

Doctor Dolittle
June 23 - 26 &
June 28 - July 1

Calendar Girls
July 10 - 14

Elf the Musical
July 24 - 28 &
July 30 - August 1

The Minot State University Amphitheater has been the home of the MSU Summer Theatre Company since 1971. This beautiful outdoor theater is set in a grass-lined hillside north of the campus. Recent renovations have created a new face to the same place where audiences have loved seeing Summer Theatre performances for over 50 years. The new driveway, seating, plaza, concessions stand, bathrooms, and all the other new additions provide a spacious, and beautiful outdoor space for everyone to enjoy. We are looking forward to an amazing season and hope to see you at a performance!



2023 ticket prices

\$16 Adults

\$11 Seniors, active military,
high school students,
MSU faculty/staff/summer term
students with current MSU ID

\$8 Kids 12 and under

\$25-35 ... Deluxe seating
*Includes access to the
Hook & Ladder Wine Bar*

**Tickets go on sale Thursday,
June 1 at 9 A.M. and can be
[purchased here.](#)**

MSUSummerTheatre.com

Taking College Classes in the Summer

By Vicki Nelson, CollegiateParent.com

Most college students are in the home stretch of the semester and looking forward to the end of classes, finishing finals, and heading into those lazy, hazy days of summer. It's been a long year for everyone.

Summer may mean relaxing at the beach, adventuring, vacationing, completing an internship, or working to earn money to pay for the next year of college. But for some students, summer may be the time to head back to the classroom.

College summer classes can offer students an opportunity to explore new areas, make up some credits, or get ahead.

What questions should your student consider?

If your student is thinking about a summer class, these five questions can provide a good starting point.

1. Should I take a class at my school or another?

The answer to this question may depend on whether you plan to take a class online or in person. Obviously, if you want an in-person class and attend school far from home, you will need to factor in housing, but many schools offer their summer programs fully online. If it is an option, taking a class at your own institution can make sense because you won't need to transfer credits.

2. **What if I take a class at another school?** If you decide to take a class at another school, perhaps at a local college or community college, you need to first make sure it is a "new-to-you" class. Different schools often give different titles to the same class. A class in basic chemistry at one school may be chemistry I or chemical concepts at another school. Before registering for a class at another school, make sure you haven't already taken something similar. You won't be able to earn credit for the same course twice.

3. What credits will my home institution accept?

You will need to ask your school's registrar to confirm that they will accept the credits in transfer. Be sure to check on this before taking



the class. (And then don't forget to ask to have a transcript sent after completing the course.)

4. **What will it cost to take this class?** Don't automatically assume that a community college class is less expensive or that a class at a private college will cost more. The tuition for summer classes is often less than during the regular semester. Be sure to compare actual costs.

5. **Do my loans or financial aid cover summer school costs?** Financial aid may not cover the costs of summer classes. Always check first.

What are the advantages of taking summer classes?

There are some definite advantages to taking a class or two during the summer months. Help your student think through whether these make sense for them.

- **Summer classes are generally short and sweet.** There are different formats — a class may be a two-week intensive, or last only four–six weeks. This shorter format can help many students stay focused since it isn't stretched over an entire semester. Students do need to remember, however, that the shorter format means that the work is more intensive as well.
- **Students taking classes in the summer generally take only one, or at most two, classes at a time.** Not having to juggle four or five classes helps many students stay focused.

- Summer classes are often **smaller, more relaxed, and informal**, allowing students to more easily get to know and work with their professors.
- It's sometimes **easier to get into popular classes in the summer**. It may also be easier to access services such as tutoring or library services.
- Taking a summer class can be a great way to **complete prerequisites or gen ed requirements** to allow you to take more interesting upper-level classes in the future.
- **Taking a summer class can help with continuity of learning**. You can stay in study mode and “school sharp” and not have as great an adjustment returning to the classroom in the fall. A summer class can also help you solidify material that you learned in the spring that you will need to build on in the fall.
- Taking a summer class is a **great way to accumulate extra credits**, putting some students on a track to graduate early.
- Summer is the **perfect time to casually explore** an area of interest or subject just for fun.
- **Summer classes can help students raise their GPA**. If you take the summer class at your own institution, a strong summer grade can raise your GPA. If you retake a class you have failed, the new grade may replace the failing grade. You need to remember, however, that if you take the course at another institution, the credits transfer, but the grade usually does not.

- Taking a difficult class over the summer at another institution and transferring it in can **bring in those credits while protecting your GPA**. Check to see what the minimum required grade is to transfer a class. (It's often a C, but each school has different requirements.)
- Taking a class at another institution gives you a chance to learn from and **get to know other experts in your chosen field**. You'll be exposed to new professors, ideas, and perspectives.

Are there downsides to taking a summer class?

Summer classes are not for everyone, and factors that are advantages for one student may be disadvantages for another. Here are six things for your student to consider.

1. While it's nice to have a shorter class that lasts only a few weeks, the course material is usually the same. This means that the **work is more intense and will take significant study time**.
2. If the class is online, especially if it is an asynchronous class, you will need to be **organized and disciplined and work at time management**. This can be especially difficult during the summer when socializing and/or a summer jobs can be distractions. [Get tips for preparing for online class success here.](#)
3. There may be **fewer course options** in the summer.
4. Taking a summer class, or two, can mean a **shorter break over the summer** — or no break at all. While this may help some students, others need a break from studying to relax and recharge.
5. **Financial aid may not cover summer classes**. You may need to pay for these classes up front.
6. You may or may not be able to work around a **demanding summer job or family vacation commitments**.

Whether your student is thinking about a summer class to get ahead, make up some credits, complete requirements, or just do something different, there's lots to consider. Help them think through whether a summer class should be part of their summer plans.



A senior's goodbye to high school

By Kate Gallop, [CollegiateParent.com](https://www.collegiateparent.com)



Senior year of high school is full of goodbyes. The last fall semester comes and goes, followed too quickly by spring. Athletes play their hardest on the fields they've grown to love, actors perform on their favorite stage for the final time, and all of the small goodbyes slowly add up. I said goodbye to basketball, had my last high school spring break, and danced at my final prom. Even as I tried to come to terms with the mountain-sized pile of things I'd already left behind, I held onto each thing I had yet to say goodbye to. But it was no easy task.

My friend calls the human reaction to an experience coming to an end “windowing” and sees it every year at the sleepaway camp where he is a counselor. The term comes from the “window of vulnerability” that occurs when people face large transitions. These reactions are understandably more apparent in a group of seven-year-olds leaving camp. He described the different ways each child behaves in their final days — there's the kid who cries constantly, the one who starts to complain about everything and says they can't wait to go home, the one who stays in their bunk and refuses to participate in any activities, the one who pretends they aren't leaving, and everything in between. Their reactions sound dramatic, but the truth is, I've related to each one of these types throughout my goodbye process.

At first, I was the kid who pretended camp wasn't ending, ignoring it at all costs. I breezed through my first senior semester, submitting college applications and then distracting myself to avoid the thought of my future. The difficulties of applying to and deciding on a college kept my mind occupied, and I wasn't thinking about what I'd be leaving behind when I actually went.

Once I clicked the “yes” button that sealed my four-year fate, the stress of the college decision process was finally over and I was relieved. At last, I knew where I was going to college, but the excitement was quickly overshadowed with dread.

After I was committed to a school, avoidance was no longer an option. So, I moved on to being the complainer. It was not my proudest moment, but the thing about windowing is you can't always control it. Very unlike how I'd treated the rest of my high school experience, I began complaining about my school, my teachers, and some of the people in my grade. Most of this was to my mom, who listened carefully and gently reminded me of the windowing concept I'd been the one to tell her about in the first place. I think I was subconsciously feeling that, if high school was something I hated, leaving it behind would be easier. I kept talking about the college I'll be attending and the amazing people I'd meet. Of course, this was just a way to avoid contemplating all the ones I'd have to leave. I tried to focus on everything I won't miss instead of everything I will which was easier in the moment, but only made it worse when I finally faced the fact that, in some capacity, I will miss it all.

This new understanding led me to being — you guessed it — the crier. I'm not someone who cries very often, so this caught me off guard. During my final week of classes one of my friends said something small along the lines of, “Wow, this is our second to last high school history class.” That comment opened my eyes to how close it all was to ending. Despite my best efforts at holding it in, I couldn't any longer. Looking around at my friends, teachers, and even

people I'd never talked to, I felt unbearably sad about the prospect of never sharing the same experience with these people again. So soon we'd all be living separate lives apart from one another. I was heading to a completely unknown place.

The last few days of school didn't feel real. I tried to enjoy them, but it was hard to smile and laugh without thinking about the moments I'd miss. All the times I was overwhelmed with homework or social conflict didn't matter anymore. I saw only the echoing laughter around lunch tables, the rare lighthearted classes with a review game, and all the lazy free periods spent laying on the grass with friends, forgetting about our to-do lists. The memories with friends were the hardest to contemplate because I would never get to experience daily life with my favorite people again. It was a painful cycle of wanting to appreciate my time, feeling sad when I encountered more "lasts," and being disappointed when I felt sad because I wanted to appreciate my time. It was unbearably confusing, but necessary.

By the time I walked out of the doors to my school for the last time, I had already processed it all. It didn't make leaving classmates, teachers, and coaches behind any less daunting, but it was a start. I was calm as I drove away from high school for the last time because I knew I was ready to start something new.

The four years worth of goodbyes that I said leaving campus will be nothing compared to the ones I will say on the day I leave home. I'll pack up the room I grew up in and solemnly walk my suitcases down the stairs that I used to sprint down in excitement when my dad got home from work. I'll eat my last home-cooked meal, say goodbye to my dog, and pass the lines that mark my height on each birthday. I'll walk out the door, nervous for my first day of school once again, except this time, I won't return later in the day to tell my mom how it went. After move-in, my family will leave me alone in a place that won't be home yet. Then, slowly, I'll find the people who will make saying goodbye at college graduation just as hard as high school.



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

MAY

- 15** – Final grades available for second 8-weeks classes
Final grades for 16-week classes due to Registrar's Office by noon
- 16** – First day of summer dynamic classes
- 17** – Last day to drop a class or withdraw from a class and receive a 100% refund for dynamic-dated classes
- 22** – Final grades available for Spring 2023 16-week classes
- 25** – Last day to withdraw from all classes and receive a 75% refund for dynamic-dated classes
- 29** – Memorial Day, University closed
- 30** – Standard 8-week Summer classes begin

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

SAVE THE DATE!



**Parent & Family
Weekend
Sept. 14 – 17, 2023**