



**RIDGEWATER**  
COLLEGE



*Make it YOUR time at the Ridge!*

HUTCHINSON | WILLMAR | ONLINE | [RIDGEWATER.EDU](http://RIDGEWATER.EDU)

#1 MN Community College and US Top 20, 2020 & 2021 *niche.com*

2021-2022 VIEWBOOK

# WHO WE ARE

## OUR COMMUNITIES: HUTCHINSON AND WILLMAR

- Regional, progressive, safe communities in central Minnesota
- Abundance of lakes, beaches, public wildlife areas, and trails to enjoy year-round in both communities
- Variety of shopping, dining, music, theater, cultural and recreational opportunities
- Outdoor activities such as water sports, hiking, biking, disc golf, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, and skiing



## WE HAVE CENTRAL MINNESOTA COVERED

- Both campuses offer full academic programs and student services, including many available online or with a blend of both on-campus and online
- Each campus has its own special character, comfortable academic setting, safe environment, and abundant student life opportunities

**WILLMAR**  
Population 20,200  
[willmar.com](http://willmar.com)

**HUTCHINSON**  
Population 14,000  
[explorehutchinson.com](http://explorehutchinson.com)

## HOUSING

- Explore the many affordable housing options within walking distance of campus
- Check out [ridgewater.edu/housing](http://ridgewater.edu/housing) for resources
- Access public transportation as needed in both Willmar and Hutchinson

**WILLMAR CAMPUS**  
ENROLLMENT: 2,444



**HUTCHINSON CAMPUS**  
ENROLLMENT: 1,742



# AND STRIVE TO BE

## RIDGEWATER VISION

Ridgewater College is a student-centered educational leader focused on innovation, excellence and affordability.

## RIDGEWATER MISSION

Ridgewater College empowers diverse learners to reach their full potential and enrich their lives through personalized and relevant education in an accessible, supportive and inclusive environment.

## RIDGEWATER EQUITY COMMITMENT

Ridgewater College is committed to providing welcoming and inclusive campuses that value and respect the unique experiences, needs and contributions of individuals and groups from every background and identity to ensure that each student, employee and community member has a genuine opportunity for participation and success.

## RIDGEWATER ANTI-RACISM COMMITMENT

Ridgewater College fully commits to opposing racism, bigotry and all forms of exclusion and unjust bias based on personal identity. We view such actions as critical threats to the health and well-being of our College and the communities we serve.

## WARRIOR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Enterprising** – We are future-focused and change-oriented, developing creative solutions to challenges that maximize our institutional, system and local resources.

**Empowerment** – We develop and empower employees to make decisions to best serve students and stakeholders.

**Excellence** – We strive to exceed expectations in all that we do.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** – We seek to understand and appreciate the needs and experiences of every individual and actively work to provide genuine opportunities for everyone to succeed and participate in college activities and processes.

**Trust and Respect** – We are committed to developing a culture based in processes and behavior that create trust and respect among all stakeholders.

**Collaboration** – We connect and work together to achieve common goals while respecting needs and interests of stakeholders.

**Curiosity and Creativity** – We constantly strive to understand, learn, change, and improve.

**Accountability** – As individuals and groups, we willingly accept and take ownership of our successes and failures.



# CREATING

You don't have to know exactly what you want to do – as long as you have the desire. Ridgewater is a great place to start!

**100+**

Educational options in both career training and liberal arts & sciences/transfer programs

## **LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES EDUCATION**

Many employers want well-rounded employees with good communication and critical thinking skills.

A Liberal Arts and Sciences focus, also known as general education, means students study a variety of subjects such as communication, art, literature, sociology, math, science, history, psychology, and more. Students who earn a Liberal Arts and Sciences Associate of Arts (AA) degree often consider it their foundational first two years of a four-year degree if they plan to transfer to a university for a bachelor's degree.

### **Benefits**

- Develops critical thinking to connect concepts and principles
- Enhances self-awareness and confidence
- Builds a more holistic individual
- Creates broad perspective thinking for leading in our complex, interconnected world
- Offers an Associate of Arts degree

Liberal Arts and Sciences AA degrees based on the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum are guaranteed to transfer to any public university in Minnesota. Pathway-specific AA degrees also transfer to Minnesota State universities but allow you to be more focused on your academic goals. See more info at [ridgewater.edu/liberalarts](http://ridgewater.edu/liberalarts) and [ridgewater.edu/pathways](http://ridgewater.edu/pathways).

## **Transfer Pathways: Bridges to Bachelor's Degrees**

Business

Communication Studies

Criminal Justice

Early Childhood Education

Elementary Education

English

Law Enforcement

Psychology

Special Education



# OPPORTUNITIES

## TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The demand for skilled employees is high and expected to continue, which is great news for people looking to enter the workforce quickly.

Technical education, known as vocational training to your parents, spans nearly every industry, from automotives, business and manufacturing to agriculture, health care and computers. It helps connect students to high-skill, high-demand careers. Students who enjoy technical education and careers often prefer hands-on learning to apply practical knowledge and occupational skills.

Learn more at [ridgewater.edu/academics](http://ridgewater.edu/academics).

## Benefits

- Develops your marketable skills that lead directly to employment
- Offers a degree, diploma or certificate in two years or less
- Enhances academic coursework with hands-on education
- Leads to high-demand, essential career options

**95%**  
Graduate job placement  
rate in related field

## WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!

Not sure how to begin your academic journey? Schedule a visit with our counselors at 320-222-5971 to help you explore education and career options. Learn more at [ridgewater.edu/explorecareers](http://ridgewater.edu/explorecareers).



# OPTIONS TO

With hundreds of courses across multiple disciplines, there are plenty of options from which to choose. So go ahead, jump in!

## **Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering**

***ridgewater.edu/manufacturing***

Automation & Robotics Systems Technology  
Computer-Aided Drafting & Design  
Machine Tool Technology  
Nondestructive Testing Technology  
Welding

## **Agriculture & Veterinary Technology**

***ridgewater.edu/ag-vettech***

Agri Business  
Agricultural Science & Technology  
Agriculture Power & Equipment Technician  
Agronomy Applicator Technician  
Agronomy Technology  
Dairy Management  
Farm Operation & Management  
Poultry Management  
Precision Agriculture (formerly GPS/GIS)  
Veterinary Technology

## **Art, Design & Visual Communications**

***ridgewater.edu/art-design***

Multimedia Design Technology  
Photography & Design  
Professional Photography  
Web Developer

## **Automotive Trades**

***ridgewater.edu/autotrades***

Auto Body Collision Repair  
Automotive Service Technology

## **Business & Marketing**

***ridgewater.edu/business***

Accountant  
Administrative Assistant  
Business Transfer Pathway  
Entrepreneurship  
Healthcare Administrative Assistant  
Legal Assistant  
Marketing & Design  
Marketing & Sales Management  
Multimedia Design Technology  
Office Assistant  
Photography & Design  
Professional Photography Technology

## **Construction Trades**

***ridgewater.edu/construction***

Electrical Technology  
Electrician



# STUDY

See full program details at  
[ridgewater.edu/academics](http://ridgewater.edu/academics)

## Cosmetology & Massage Therapy

[ridgewater.edu/cos-massage](http://ridgewater.edu/cos-massage)

Cosmetology  
Estheology  
Massage Therapy  
Nail Technology

## Education

[ridgewater.edu/education](http://ridgewater.edu/education)

Agricultural Science & Technology  
Early Childhood Education Pathway  
Elementary Education Foundations Pathway  
Special Education Transfer Pathway

## Health Care

[ridgewater.edu/healthcare](http://ridgewater.edu/healthcare)

Activity Director  
Emergency Medical Technician\*  
Health Information Technician  
Health Sciences Broad Field  
Healthcare Administrative Assistant  
Massage Therapy  
Medical Assistant  
Medical Coding  
Nursing Assistant (NA)\*  
Nursing - Associate Degree & Bachelor of Science  
Nursing - Practical Nursing  
Paramedic  
Phlebotomy

## Information Technology

[ridgewater.edu/computers](http://ridgewater.edu/computers)

Computer Programmer  
Computer Support Technician  
Network Administration & Security  
Web Developer

## Liberal Arts & Sciences

[ridgewater.edu/liberalarts](http://ridgewater.edu/liberalarts)

Transfer Pathways  
Business  
Communication Studies  
Criminal Justice  
Early Childhood Education  
Elementary Education  
English  
Law Enforcement  
Psychology  
Special Education

## Additional Liberal Arts & Sciences Options

Art  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Coaching  
Economics  
Geography  
Global Studies  
History  
Mathematics  
Music  
Philosophy

## Liberal Arts & Sciences Options cont'd

Physical Education  
Physics  
Political Science  
Spanish  
Theater

## Mathematics, Science & Engineering

[ridgewater.edu/stem](http://ridgewater.edu/stem)

Automation & Robotics Systems Technology  
Health Sciences Broad Field  
Nondestructive Testing Technology

## Occupational Skills Program

[ridgewater.edu/occupationalskills](http://ridgewater.edu/occupationalskills)

Occupational Skills

## Peace Officer, Legal & Emergency Services

[ridgewater.edu/law-ems](http://ridgewater.edu/law-ems)

Criminal Justice Transfer Pathway  
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)\*  
Law Enforcement Transfer Pathway  
Legal Assistant  
Paramedic  
Peace Officer

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\* EMT and NA are short-term career trainings with Customized Training and Continuing Education. Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training is also available.  
[ridgewater.edu/customized](http://ridgewater.edu/customized)



# ONLINE

Study and work  
*at home*

Online and blended/hybrid courses can be great options to complement traditional face-to-face courses.

## FLEXIBLE OPPORTUNITIES

Ridgewater offers a variety of online delivery opportunities for flexibility, accessibility and convenience!



Synchronous – online classes with set times



Asynchronous – online classes with no set times for maximum flexibility



Blended/hybrid – scheduled in-person classes and online learning

To see how a specific course will be delivered, go to [ridgewater.edu/academics](https://ridgewater.edu/academics) and click on Course Schedule for your desired semester. The Delivery Method is listed on the right.

“ I chose Ridgewater because I had heard from a few friends that the graphic design MMDT program was absolutely wonderful. Ridgewater was a great fit for me because for my program, it required no commute. I could do everything online, even before the pandemic happened. Amy was such a fantastic teacher and it really felt like a classroom, despite being virtual. All of the discussions, posts and group critiques and projects were incredibly helpful in connecting me to my peers. ”

~ Madeline Rose, Multimedia Design Technology, Annandale



# FLEXIBILITY

## FULLY ONLINE PROGRAMS

Accountant  
Activity Director  
Administrative Assistant  
Agri Business  
Business Transfer Pathway  
Communication Studies Transfer Pathway  
Computer-Aided Drafting and Design  
Computer Programmer  
Criminal Justice Transfer Pathway  
Early Childhood Education (Certificate only)  
Early Childhood Special Education (Certificate only)  
English Transfer Pathway  
Entrepreneurship  
Health Information Technician  
Healthcare Administrative Assistant  
Law Enforcement Transfer Pathway  
Legal Assistant  
Liberal Arts  
Medical Coding  
Multimedia Design Technology  
Office Assistant  
Peace Officer  
Photography and Design  
Poultry Management  
Professional Photography Technology  
Psychology Transfer Pathway  
Web Developer

Explore whether online courses or programs  
are right for you!

[ridgewater.edu/online](http://ridgewater.edu/online)



or get in  
the zone  
*on campus*



Helping you  
*reach your goals*

# WE CONNECT



# WE SUPPORT YOU

Ridgewater offers exceptional student support services provided by caring instructors and staff members.

## COUNSELING/ADVISING

Every student at Ridgewater College is assigned an academic advisor to help select courses and develop a schedule that will best achieve your educational goals. You will also have access to a counseling department that can assist with both academic and personal needs, plus career exploration and assessments.

## ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- Academic Support Centers
- Developmental courses
- Disability services
- Library assistants
- Online tutoring
- Peer tutoring
- Study skills training
- Supplemental instruction
- Technology labs
- Testing assistance
- TRIO Student Support Services
- Veterans' services

# OUR WARRIOR FAMILY

**20%**

First-generation students

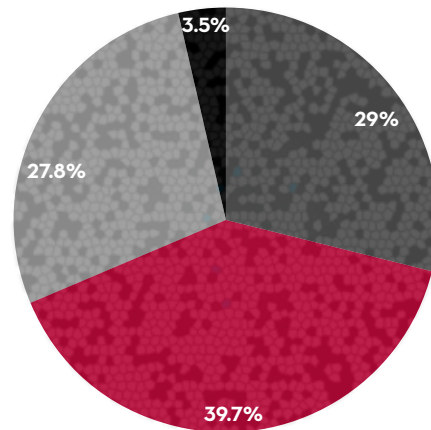
\* First in family to attend  
post-secondary institution

**701**

Students of color

## STUDENT AGE BREAKOUT

Unknown or <18	1,231
19-24	1,685
25-54	1,180
55+	148





# ENGAGE. JOIN.

Make the most of your college experience and get involved in Warrior life. Meet new people, have fun, explore opportunities, and make memories!

## ORGANIZATIONS

[ridgewater.edu/studentlife](http://ridgewater.edu/studentlife)

Ridgewater College has dozens of different campus organizations. Student groups are a great way to get involved, develop leadership skills, and meet new people with similar interests. A sampling includes:

- Student Senate
- Multicultural Club
- Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
- DECA Professional Leaders Organization
- Professional Agriculture Students (PAS)
- Rodeo Club
- Theater

## DIVISION III ATHLETICS

[ridgewaterathletics.com](http://ridgewaterathletics.com)

**MEN'S:** Basketball, wrestling, baseball

**WOMEN'S:** Volleyball, basketball, softball

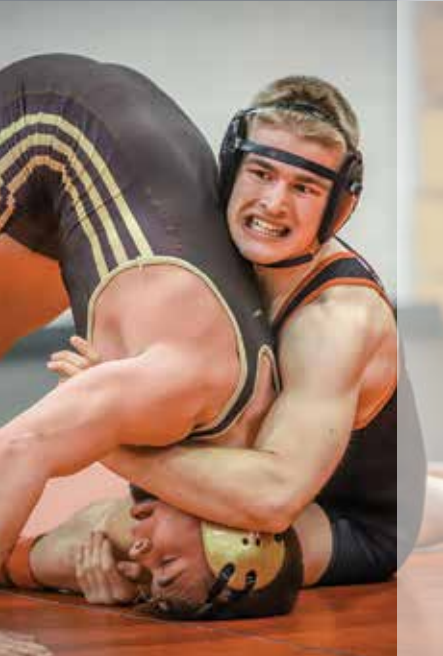
**CO-ED:** Clay target

Students with many interests and backgrounds participate in our athletic opportunities, which include varsity and recreational activities. Varsity sports are open to all students but based in Willmar, with the exception of clay target which is available in both communities. Join the action by playing on a team or cheering from the stands. Exercise in our campus fitness centers or enjoy our on-campus disc golf courses, pool tables, or yard game events.



## *A Lifetime*

Worth of college friendships  
and connections







# FIND THE FUN





WE CHOSE



GLAD WE DID!



# RIDGEWATER



"I chose a degree in Agriculture because of the passion I gained through showing livestock in 4-H and helping farmers around the area. I also love working outdoors and I want to help feed America's growing population. After graduation, I am transferring to South Dakota State University to obtain my bachelor's degree in Agriculture Science."

*~ Lucas Doll, Precision Agriculture and Agri Business, St. James*

"Ridgewater provided me a great opportunity to further my education. The learning experience in the field of early childhood education at Ridgewater not only assists me to be a better parent, but also enhances my teaching skills in the present work place. My instructors were all fantastic, both in the quality of education and in the level of support they offer.

I really value my learning journey there."

*~ Heidi Yun Sun, Early Childhood Education, transferred to Southwest Minnesota State University for Bachelor's Degree, Litchfield*



"I chose Ridgewater College because I like smaller schools. Faculty can be standing right next to you and they're helping when you need it. You get more one-on-one time, it's more affordable, and it's close to home. I'm a hands-on person who likes to figure things out. I feel really prepared going out into industry. I have a lot of family working in the machining industry so I'm familiar with it."

*~ Chase Engelke, Machine Tool Technology, Lester Prairie*

"I dropped out of high school in 2006 due to family issues. I soon went to Adult Basic Education to get my GED (General Education Diploma). [Fast forward to a December 2020 graduation]. I really believe that the Ridgewater MANE program has fit me well because of the smaller class sizes and the amazing instructors. I could not have done it without them. Going through the Nursing program during the COVID pandemic was challenging, but the instructors' positive outlooks always helped me push through struggles. We learned to be flexible and adaptable, which is going to be a benefit once I get into the field. I cannot wait!"

*~ Amanda Scott, MANE Nursing, Hutchinson*



# INVESTING IN YOU

Investing wisely in your education is important. Ridgewater offers a quality education at an extraordinary value with a variety of ways to help with your educational investment.

## TUITION AND FEES

For fall 2021-22, a credit load of 16 credits per semester will be approximately \$3,154 plus books and other related expenses.

**\$197.10**

Tuition and fees per credit

## PROGRAM DIFFERENTIAL TUITION RATES PER CREDIT

Some programs and courses cost more to offer and thus are charged a tuition differential rate.

- Nursing: Associate Degree: \$232.25
- Nursing: Practical Nursing: \$226.25
- Veterinary Technology: \$218.75

\* Includes student fees

## ONLINE COURSES

Minnesota Resident/Non-Resident  
Tuition and Fees:  
\$212.60 per credit plus books

## OTHER EXPENSES

Students should plan for other expenses as well. A few things to consider:

- Books
- Food
- Gas
- Rent/utilities/phone
- Program-specific expenses
- Entertainment

Student fees include student services, health services, technology, parking and the Minnesota State College Student Association. They total \$20.85 per credit for 2021-22 for most students. Online students do not pay parking or health services fees.



Ridgewater College



# IS WORTH IT!

## EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

Affordable tuition combined with high-quality education delivers tremendous educational value whether you are working toward a technical degree or getting started on a four-year degree.

*\* Approximate tuition and fees for 30 credits/year from minnstate.edu, 2020-2021. Does not include room, board, etc.*

**Ridgewater** \$5,680

**State Universities** \$8,250-9,081

**University of Minnesota** \$12,578-15,142

**MN Private For-Profit Trade Schools** \$14,100-19,500

**MN Private Colleges and Universities** \$15,346-59,352

## FINANCIAL AID

[ridgewater.edu/financialaid](http://ridgewater.edu/financialaid)

Ridgewater College offers an extensive financial aid program for qualified students.

- State and federal grants
- Work study
- Subsidized and unsubsidized loans

## PAYMENT PLANS

Several payment plans are available to help you manage your educational investment. Ask us, we're here to help!

## SCHOLARSHIPS

[ridgewater.edu/scholarships](http://ridgewater.edu/scholarships)

Our Ridgewater College Foundation generously supports incoming and enrolled students every semester.

**\$350,000+**

Scholarships awarded annually

**79%**

Students receive financial aid

Creating  
*opportunities*



# FIRST STEPS

## SCHEDULE A VISIT

[ridgewater.edu/visit](http://ridgewater.edu/visit) or 320-222-5971

Visits are available in person or virtually. We also offer group events and information sessions.

- Visit with an admissions specialist about applying and transitioning successfully to college
- Tour our modern, safe, high-tech facilities, small classrooms and labs
- Learn about programs and services available to support your success

## APPLY TO RIDGEWATER

[ridgewater.edu/apply](http://ridgewater.edu/apply)

Complete your application online. It's easy and FREE!

Veterans/military members should receive approval from your ESO, military counselor or service prior to enrolling at Ridgewater College.

## APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

[fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov) - Ridgewater's college code 005252

Complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

If you are interested in on-campus student employment, indicate that on your FAFSA by checking the work study option. Need help? Reach out to our Financial Aid Office.

## EXPLORE AND APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

[ridgewater.edu/scholarships](http://ridgewater.edu/scholarships)

Don't miss deadlines for scholarship applications: November 1 and June 1.

**1:21**

Average ratio for  
faculty-to-students

Changing  
lives

18

# AT RIDGEWATER

## THE WARRIOR EXPERIENCE

### AN EXCELLENT INVESTMENT

Providing an affordable, high-quality, student-centered education for our diverse learners is our top priority.

### ATMOSPHERE

Friendly and welcoming campuses offer opportunities to engage in and out of class. Small classes and supportive student services staff offer helpful personal attention.

### HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITIES

Learn by doing through lab experiences and real-world projects.

### FLEXIBLE OPTIONS

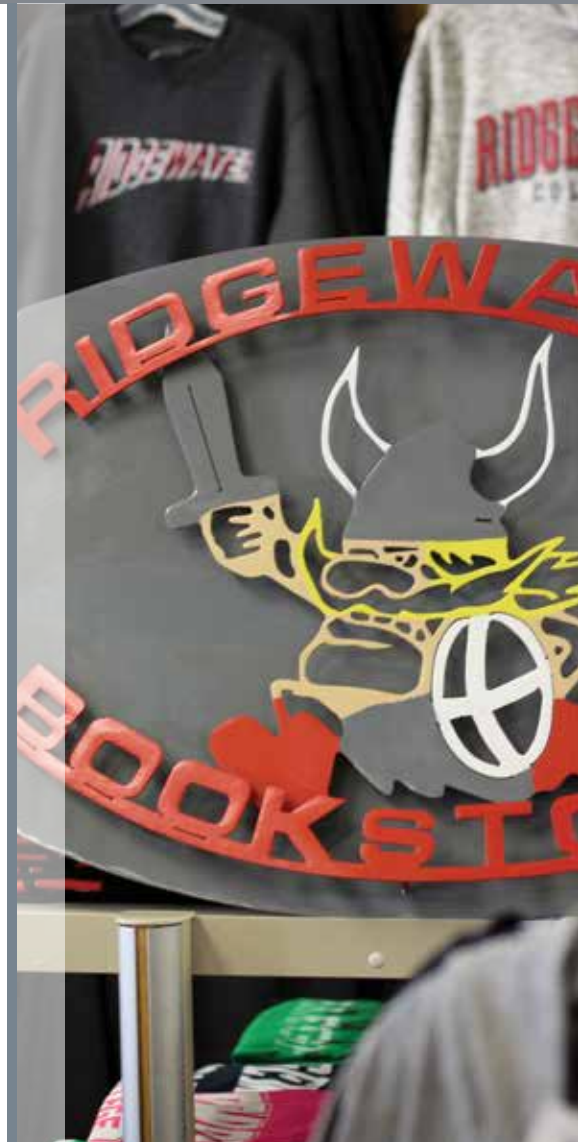
Take classes full time or part time, on campus, fully online, or a hybrid of partially online blended with face-to-face on campus.

### SUCCESS

Studies show that students who begin at Ridgewater and then transfer to four-year colleges perform as well or better in their junior/senior years than students who begin at four-year colleges.

### TRANSFER CREDITS

Associate degrees based on the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum are guaranteed to transfer to any public university in Minnesota. Work with your advisor to ensure a smooth transition.



Check out the  
Ridgewater Bookstore for  
everything Warrior!  
[ridgewaterbookstore.com](http://ridgewaterbookstore.com)



### HUTCHINSON CAMPUS

2 Century Avenue SE  
Hutchinson, MN 55350



### MINNESOTA STATE

*Ridgewater College,*  
**A member of Minnesota State**



### WILLMAR CAMPUS

2101 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
Willmar, MN 56201

*Viewbook data provided from 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years as available.*



#1 MN Community College,  
Top 20 in US, 2020 & 2021



#3 in MN, 2019  
Ridgewater College



#7 in MN, 2020  
Ridgewater College

Ridgewater College is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator. This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 800-722-1151. Consumers with hearing or speech disabilities may contact us via their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service. 7/2021

## ACCREDITATION

Ridgewater is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. [ncahlc.org](http://ncahlc.org)

RIDGEWATER.EDU | 800-722-1151

