Key Information Guide

GET STARTED

Fall 2020
## Calendar 2020

**Fall Semester: August 24 – December 18, 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes begin</td>
<td>August 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition due</td>
<td>August 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to add/drop classes</td>
<td>August 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College closed - Labor Day</td>
<td>September 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship application deadline (spring scholarships)</td>
<td>October 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota Teacher Conventions</td>
<td>October 15-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans’ Day</td>
<td>November 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving break</td>
<td>November 26-27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exams</td>
<td>December 14-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day of fall semester</td>
<td>December 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring semester begins</td>
<td>January 11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Star Alert messages

Star Alert is Ridgewater’s emergency notification system. For weather-related campus closures or a campus emergency, we use Star Alert to send SMS text messages or email messages to accounts that you have designated. Students are automatically opted into this service. To cancel or add additional information to your Star Alert account, please visit ridgewater.edu/staralert.

### Registration

**Academic Advising**

Students must meet with an advisor for degree and course planning and to obtain a registration access code unless they have completed 29 or more credits.

**Add, Drop and Withdraw**

A course add includes initial registration, additional registration, or substituting one course for another; it must be completed by the term’s fifth business day.

A course drop occurs when a student removes a course from his/her schedule on or before the fifth business day of the term.

A course withdrawal occurs when a student removes a course from his/her schedule after the fifth business day of the term. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor prior to withdrawing from courses.

### Paying for College

**Financial Aid**

The Financial Aid Office provides information on federal and state aid programs. Apply online at fafsa.ed.gov. Ridgewater’s school code is 005252. Payment plans are available through Nelnet. Learn more in your eServices account.

Undocumented/DACA Minnesota residents may be eligible for aid through the Minnesota Dream Act. Learn more at http://www.ohe.state.mn.us.

**Work Study**

Work on campus! Great jobs are available on campus for students who qualify for work study hours. Jobs are flexible with course schedules. Find a list of open jobs at ridgewater.edu/workstudy. You must complete the FAFSA and indicate an interest in work study to determine eligibility.

**Community Jobs**

Whether you are looking for part-time work while you are going to college or a full-time career once you graduate, Ridgewater has resources to help you. collegecentral.com/ridgewater

**Scholarships**

Watch your student email for reminders! More than $200,000 in scholarships will be awarded! ridgewater.edu/scholarships

### Refunds

Refund schedule for full-term course and other courses that begin during the first week of the semester:

- August 24-28: 100% refund
- After August 28, refunds vary, depending on timing. Go to ridgewater.edu/financialaid for more details.

### Satisfactory Academic Progress

To maintain enrollment and financial aid eligibility, students must make satisfactory progress, maintaining a 2.0 cumulative GPA and completing 66.67% of cumulative attempted credits.
D2L (Desire 2 Learn) is a tool used to deliver course materials for online and on-campus classes. Check with your instructor to see if D2L is something you will be using for any of your classes.

Log into your D2L Brightspace Account
ridgewater.edu/D2L

Enter your StarID and StarID password to access:

- Courses and Registration
  - Search and register for courses
  - View and modify your schedule
- Grades and Transcripts
  - View semester grades (they are not mailed)
  - View your unofficial transcript
  - View your DARS report (verify you take the right courses to graduate)
- Financial Aid Info
  - Check the status of your application
  - See your possible awards
- Bills and Payment Info
  - Check out your full account details
  - Pay online

Stay Informed: Check your email
Email is the primary way we communicate important information and opportunities. Each student is assigned a Ridgewater email and should CHECK IT OFTEN! ridgewater.edu/email. In addition, Ridgewater is piloting a text messaging student communication system called Signal Vine. Stay tuned.

Services Alerts:

Student Services text messages
In eServices, students can receive notifications of tuition due dates, course information, advising announcements, etc. Just go to your online eServices and opt in to text messaging under “Account Management”. Sign up today so we can help you succeed!

eServices makes it easier

eServices is your individual online student portal where you can access your grades, register for classes, pay your bill, and see your financial aid award letter.

To Log into eServices
ridgewater.edu/eservices

Enter your StarID and StarID password to access:

- Courses and Registration
- Grades and Transcripts
- Financial Aid Info
- Bills and Payment Info

Information release
Ridgewater cannot release private or educational information without your written consent. If you want information released to third parties, including parents, newspapers and for internal publications such as the graduation program, go to ridgewater.edu/inforelease. The release remains in effect unless changes are made.

* Data Privacy Act of 1972 and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974
Get your books at the bookstore. New and used books are available at ridgewaterbookstore.com and in the bookstore two weeks before each semester.

**All students who have met one of the tuition and fee payment requirements and are registered for at least one Ridgewater credit may charge their books at the on-campus bookstore on either campus or online.

Book buyback is available toward the end of each semester.

**Bookstore Hours:**
Monday - Thursday: 7:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 7:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

On the Ridgewater website, look for the Bookstore under Student Services & Activities.

Get your Warrior card the first week of class. Visit the Student Life desk and we’ll take your picture for your Student ID. Watch your campus email for available times. Your Warrior card will be used as a library card and a picture ID. You may also get some sweet student discounts with it around town!

**Get Involved!**
One of the best ways to maximize your college experience is to be involved. Find an activity that’s right for you! 

- Program-related clubs
- Athletics or recreational sports, including NEW mixed Clay Target
- Student government
- Fine arts and honor society
- On-campus disc golf or billiards

**Follow the Ridge!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student ID/Warrior Card</th>
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<td>Get your Warrior card the first week of class. Visit the Student Life desk and we’ll take your picture for your Student ID. Watch your campus email for available times. Your Warrior card will be used as a library card and a picture ID. You may also get some sweet student discounts with it around town!</td>
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**Important contact information - Student Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hutchinson Campus</th>
<th>Willmar Campus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Records and Registration</td>
<td>320-234-8592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>320-222-7488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Office</td>
<td>320-234-8596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advising and Counseling</td>
<td>320-234-8595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Services</td>
<td>320-234-8650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRIO Student Services</td>
<td>320-234-8650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Support / Tutoring</td>
<td>320-234-8636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multicultural Affairs</td>
<td>320-222-5986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Student Services</td>
<td>320-222-5971</td>
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