



Student Resource Guide



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Disclaimer: Information and contacts in this guide are current as of February 26, 2025. See the Ridgewater website for the most current information. 2/27/2025

Ridgewater is a member of Minnesota State and 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 speech or hearing disabilities may contact us via their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.

Academic Calendar and **Key Student Dates**

2025-2026 CALENDAR - RIDGEWATER COLLEGE

	2025-2026 CALENDAR – RIDGEWATER COLLEGE							
9 19 20 25 26 28 29 29	Fall Book Ordering Opens Start Strong Event – Willmar Start Strong – Hutchinson Fall Semester Begins Welcome Day – Hutchinson Welcome Day – Willmar Tuition Due Last Day to Add/Drop Classes	AUGUST 2025 S M T W Th F S 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	SEPTEMBER 2025 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1	Labor Day Holiday (College Closed) Financial Aid Disburses			
16-	•17 Teacher Conventions (No Classes)	OCTOBER 2025 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	NOVEMBER 2025 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 11 27-28	Scholarship Application Deadline (Spring Awards) Veterans Day Holiday (College Closed) Thanksgiving Break (College Closed)			
19	Final Exams Fall Semester Ends 31 Semester Break Christmas Day (College Closed) Spring Book Ordering Opens	DECEMBER 2025 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JANUARY 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 1-9 12 13 15 16 16 19	New Year's Day (College Closed) Semester Break Spring Semester Begins Welcome Day - Hutchinson Welcome Day - Willmar Tuition Due Last Day to Add/Drop Classes M.L. King Jr. Holiday (College Closed) Financial Aid Disburses			
16	Presidents' Holiday (College Closed) Note: Precinct Caucuses take place in February. No classes can take place after 6:00 pm that day.	FEBRUARY 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	MARCH 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	2-6	Spring Break			
10	Employee Professional Development/Duty Day (No Classes)	APRIL 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	MAY 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	11-15 11 14 15 15 25	Final Exams Summer Book Ordering Opens Hutchinson Graduation Spring Semester Ends Willmar Graduation Memorial Day Holiday (College Closed) Summer Term Begins			
1	Scholarship Application Deadline (Fall Awards)	JUNE 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	JULY 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	3	Independence Day Holiday Observed (College Closed)			

15 16 17 18 19 20 22 23 24 25 26 27

23

19

Juneteenth Holiday

12

19

Semester/Term Begins Semester/Term Ends Employee Training Days College Closed Semester Breaks Key Student Dates

13 14 15 16 17 18

20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30

31

Summer Term Ends

REV. 04.17.24



Key Contacts - We're Here to Help

Online students may contact either campus.

Academic Advising 320-222-5971

advising@ridgewater.edu

Academic Coaching 320-222-5971

student.services@ridgewater.edu

Academic Support/Tutoring H: 320-234-8650 | W: 320-222-5263

ridgewater.edu/tutoring

H: 320-234-8650 | W: 320-222-8040 Accessibility & Disability Services

Admissions 320-222-5976

admissions@ridgewater.edu

Basic Needs Resources 320-222-6932

mark.taylor@ridgewater.edu

Business Office 320-234-8596

business.office@ridgewater.edu

Bookstore H: 320-234-8524 | W: 320-222-5590

bookstore@ridgewater.edu

Career Services 320-222-5983

stephanie.holland@ridgewater.edu

320-222-5971 Counseling

counseling@ridgewater.edu

FServices Assistance 320-222-5971

student.services@ridgewater.edu

Financial Aid 320-222-7488

financialaid@ridgewater.edu

320-234-8777 IT Technology Help Desk

> 877-466-6728 AFTER BUSINESS HOURS support@ridgewatercollege.samanage.com

320-222-5971 Post-Secondary Enrollment

pseo@ridgewater.edu Options (PSEO)

Registration & Records 320-222-5971

student.services@ridgewater.edu

320-222-6095 Scholarships

ridgewater.edu/scholarships

ridgewater.edu/transcript-requests Transcripts

H: 320-234-8650 | W: 320-222-8072 **TRiO Student Support Services**

H: elisabeth.mumford@ridgewater.edu

W: thomas.tie@ridgewater.edu

Veterans' Resource Center 320-491-2734

kari.johnson@state.mn.us







Advising and Registration



Academic Advising ridgewater.edu/advising

MAKE APPOINTMENT ON STARFISH

Academic advisors are the critical first steps toward student success. Students must meet with an advisor for:

- Degree planning
- Course registration
- Access to your registration code

Contacts:

advising@ridgewater.edu

Hutchinson: 320-234-8595 Student Services Front Desk

Willmar: 320-222-5982

Student Services Building A, Front Desk



Satisfactory Academic Progress

- To maintain enrollment and financial aid eligibility, you must make satisfactory academic progress (SAP):
 - Maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA and complete 66.67% of cumulative attempted credits
- If you fall below SAP requirements, you will enter a warning period for a semester.
 - · You are encouraged to meet with an advisor, coach or counselor to create a plan to return to good standing and avoid suspension.
 - · If you do not return to good standing within the warning semester, you will be suspended.

ADD COURSE

• Add or substitute a course by a term's fifth day.



Adjusting Courses **Schedules**

DROP COURSE

• Remove a course by a term's fifth day for a full tuition refund.

WITHDRAW FROM COURSE/S

- Removing a course AFTER a term's fifth business day results in a transcript 'W' grade.
- Tuition may be partially refunded for total withdrawal of all classes if it occurs in the first four weeks. ridgewater.edu/refunds
 - Courses starting after a term's fifth day or that run less than a full semester have different deadlines. Contact Student Services for assistance.

NOTE: Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) students have until the 10th semester day to drop a course.



Information Release to Enable Sharing ridgewater.edu/inforelease

- Students must give consent for Ridgewater to release private/educational information, if you wish to share.
- Parents and agencies are third parties and need your consent.
- · Complete the online Authorization to Release Student Information form also for:
 - Dean's list news
- Competitive honors
- Theater productions

NOTE: A student release remains in effect unless changes made.



Scan QR code to complete.



Paying For College



Timelines, Options and Resources



Mark your calendars with tuition due dates:

Fall Semester 2025: August 29, 2025 Spring Semester 2026: January 16, 2026 Summer Semester 2026: June 1, 2026



As a registered student, you can view your account online from anywhere:

- · Go to ridgewater.edu
- · Select Logins (on top gray menu bar)
 - Select eServices
 - · Select Bills and Payments

PAYMENT OPTIONS

You have many options to pay your tuition and fees by the Tuition Due Date each semester.

- 1. Pay your tuition and fees online through eServices or at the Business Office.
- 2. Apply for financial aid available on December 1. Wait for your award letter from Ridgewater's Financial Aid Office.
- 3. Have your third party agency submit authorization to Ridgewater.
 - a. Third party agencies may include your employer, workforce center or other.
- 4. Establish a 0% interest payment plan with Nelnet.
 - a. This can be done through eServices. See contacts at right for help.
- 5. If eligible, complete a Veteran's Deferment Option form.
 - a. Veterans' Administration forms must include your expected graduation date

SCAN here to complete the Authorization to Release Student Information form (We cannot release information to parents, guardians, etc., without it.)



Business Office Contacts

Tuition and Billing Questions

Willmar/Hutchinson Cashiers business.office@ridgewater.edu 320-234-8596

Third Party Payments

JoLynn third.party@ridgewater.edu 320-222-5640

CHECK EMAILS

Please check both your Ridgewater and personal emails for important information from the Business Office.

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Financial aid is money to help pay for college. The money comes from the U.S. federal government and/or the State of Minnesota. Financial aid comes in the form of grants, loans and work study.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

GRANTS

Free money that doesn't have to be repaid

- **Pell Grant**
- Minnesota State Grant
- Federal SEOG Grant
- State Indian Scholarship Program
- American Indian Scholars Program
- **Alliss Grant**
- Minnesota GI Bill
- **Childcare Grant**

WORK STUDY

Flexible, part-time jobs for students with demonstrated financial need

- Most positions are on campus, but some are off campus.
- Positions are available at the bookstore, library, maintenance, athletics, marketing department, and

ridgewater.edu/workstudy

LOANS

Money borrowed from the federal government which has to be repaid

- **Direct Subsidized Loans**
- **Direct Unsubsidized Loans**
- · Parent Plus loans

NORTH STAR PROMISE

The North Star Promise Scholarship Program covers the cost of eligible tuition and fees for eligible Minnesotans at public institutions and tribal colleges in the state. The program covers the balance of eligible tuition and fees remaining after other scholarships, grants, stipends, and tuition waivers have been applied. Students must fill out the FAFSA or Minnesota Dream Act Application to see if they qualify. ridgewater.edu/northstarpromise

HELPFUL VIDEO LINKS

Understand aid/awards. ridgewater.edu/financialaid

- Financial Aid for Applicants View Aid Status
- How to Accept Loans
- View Aid Awards

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as Early as Possible at studentaid.gov

- The FAFSA for the next year is available October 1.
- Students must complete the FAFSA before July 31, 2025, to be eligible to receive 2025-26 Minnesota State Grant funds.
- · Create an FSA ID at studentaid.gov
- Gather your tax return information
- Go to studentaid.gov to complete the application once you have your FSA ID
- Use Ridgewater College School Code 005252
- Allow 2-3 weeks for your financial aid to be processed

APPLY SOON

AID **DISBURSEMENT**

Financial aid disbursement occurs on the 10th day of each semester.

MINNESOTA DREAM ACT

Undocumented/DACA Minnesota residents may be eligible for Minnesota Dream Act aid. www.ohe.state.mn.us

QUESTIONS? WE CAN HELP!

- nidgewater.edu/financialaid
- 320-222-7488

4/7/2025



Technology: Key for Today's Student (ridgewater.edu/technology-services

Online students may contact either campus.



Student Logins and Star ID

ridgewater.edu/logins

• The Ridgewater website is the most-used college resource for all things Ridgewater.



Click top right ≡ menu icon for common LOGINS to drop down.



Click LOGINS in the top menu bar for common logins to drop down.

STUDENT LOGINS

- D2L Brightspace
- Email & Office 365
- EServices
- Star ID

Star ID

ridgewater.edu/starid

- This Minnesota State and Ridgewater username replaces many login IDs with one ID and one password that works everywhere.
- · Activate your Star ID and change the password with the link above.
 - Passwords expire after 180 days. You will be notified to change it.

Contacts:

Hutchinson: 320-234-8777 Help Desk: Room 325

Willmar: 320-234-8777

Help Desk: Building L, Room L110



eServices

ridgewater.edu/eservices

- This student portal includes most official student information and student processes.
- Receive Student Services Alert texts about advising, course information, announcements, and more.
- · Sign up through eServices and OPT IN under Account Management.

Log into eServices

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
- View your unofficial transcript
- · View your DARS report (verify you are taking the right courses to graduate)

Financial Aid Info

- · Check your application status
- See your possible awards

Bills and Payment Info

- · Check out your full account details
- · Pay online

Contact:

320-222-5971

8 student.services@ridgewater.edu



Campus WiFi - It's Secure!

- Helpful for both computers and cellular service
- Select the Eduroam network on your device.
- It's a secure, automatic roaming connection that works on all Minnesota State campuses.
- Use starID@go.minnstate.edu and StarID password.
- If prompted, accept the security prompt for radius.mnstate.us.
- If you have trouble connecting to Eduroam, search GetEduroam in your app store. When prompted, choose Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.





Technology, continued ridgewater.edu/technology-services



Ridgewater Email

ridgewater.edu/logins

You have mail! Your Ridgewater email is ready.

- · Ridgewater email is the official method of communication between Ridgewater and students.
- Format: firstname.lastname@go.ridgewater.edu
- Access: https://portal.office.com
 - Log in: your username starid@go.minnstate.edu (i.e. aa1234bb@go.minnstate.edu) and your Star ID password.
- Many students view email through the Outlook app. Search for Microsoft Outlook in your device's app store to install.
- · Email account includes 1 TB cloud storage and Microsoft Office 365 with apps like Word™, Excel™ and PowerPoint ™ and OneDrive ™.
- You may download Microsoft Office 365 for your personal computer.



D2L - Brightspace

ridgewater.edu/D2L

- D2L (Desire 2 Learn) Brightspace is the course platform used for Minnesota State colleges.
- · Instructors deliver course materials and assessments through D2L.
- · You can accept and post assignments for online and on-campus classes.
- · Access and bookmark it from the LOGINS option on the Ridgewater website home page top menu bar.
- · Check it out early to be prepared.

Log into Your D2L - Brightspace Account

Enter your StarID and StarID password

- Any classes that will use D2L will be listed in the My Course section. Click the blue hyperlink at the start of the semester.
- · Access each class the first day of school to check in with your instructor.
- · View instructor contact information and syllabi.



Starfish

ridgewater.edu/D2L

- · Access through D2L Brightspace.
- Use Starfish to set up appointments with campus supports.
- · Stay on top of positive kudos or flags from instructors.



Zoom - Virtual Convenience

https://minnstate.zoom.us

- This free videoconferencing software is used for some classes, faculty office hours, work groups, etc.
- Works for both mobile and desktop devices.
- Use StarID to set up and record personal sessions.



Campus Computers

· You may access college computers in the library.

Locations:

Hutchinson: Room 134 Willmar: Building L





Star Alert Emergency Notifications

- · Students are automatically enrolled in this text message notification system
- · Receive alerts for immediate weather cancellations. safety issues and emergencies.
 - · Star Alert, email and social media are all used to communicate emergencies.



Student Supports

ridgewater.edu/student-services-activities

Online students may contact either campus.



Academic Support/Tutoring Services

ridgewater.edu/tutoring

- · Provides extra support such as tutoring, study skills and/or computer assistance
- Free and available for all Ridgewater students
- Varied hours
- · In person or online
- · Wide range of subject help: math, English, sciences, psychology, and more

Locations:

Hutchinson: Room 134 Willmar: Building L

MAKE APPOINTMENT

24/7 **ONLINE ACCESS**

From D2L platform: tutor.com



Accessibility & Disability Services

ridgewater.edu/accessibility



APPLY

- · Reasonable accommodations are available after student submission and Accessibility and Disability Services Office (ADSO) staff review of appropriate documentation.
- Free and available to all students
- Students seeking services must self-disclose disability status to the ADSO
- Eligibility requirements apply
- · All information is kept confidential

Contacts:

Hutchinson: Elisabeth Mumford • 320-234-8650 elisabeth.mumford@ridgewater.edu • Room 116

Willmar: Jay Morrison • 320-222-8040 jay.morrison@ridgewater.edu • Room A119



TRIO Student Support Services

ridgewater.edu/trio



- · Connects participants to an advisor, additional tutoring, financial assistance, scholarship application support, four-year college transfer assistance including tours, and access to laptops and graphing calculators.
- Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) students not eligible.

Who is eligible?

- First-generation college students
- Low-income students
- Students with disabilities
- US citizens or those meeting residency requirements for federal financial aid
- · Students enrolled in or accepted into an associate degree program for the next term

Contacts:

Hutchinson: Elisabeth Mumford • 320-234-8650 elisabeth.mumford@ridgewater.edu • Room 116

Willmar: Thomas Tie • 320-222-8072 thomas.tie@ridgewater.edu · Room A144



Academic Coaching (ridgewater.edu/academiccoaching)

MAKE APPOINTMENT ON STARFISH

- Take your student success to the next level through varied strategies.
- Meet once for some tips or regularly for ongoing support and accountability for various needs:
 - Time management
 - Study skills
 - Procrastination strategies
- Positive student behaviors
- Goal setting
- Support

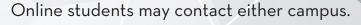
Contacts:

320-222-5971 • student.services@ridgewater.edu

Hutchinson: Room 111 Willmar: Building A, Student Services



Student Supports, continued





Counseling

ridgewater.edu/counseling

MAKE APPOINTMENT ON STARFISH

- · Counselors support mental and emotional wellness for academic success.
- Free and confidential counseling for a variety of reasons:
 - Personal issues

- · Life-balance challenges
- Referrals to community agencies
- Personal safety

Contacts:

320-222-5971 · counseling@ridgewater.edu

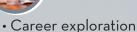
Hutchinson: Room 125 Willmar: Building A, Student Services



Career Services

ridgewater.edu/career-services

MAKE APPOINTMENT ON STARFISH



- Find that dream job
- · Online job listings to help pay for college
- · Job searches for post-graduation
- Resume and cover letter development
- Interview practice and tips
- Employer connections

Join the job search app today!

CREATE ACCOUNT

Handshake

Contact:

Stephanie Holland • 320-222-5983 stephanie.holland@ridgewater.edu Hutchinson: Room 216, Wednesdays Willmar: Student Services Building A Room A120, M, T, TH, F



Basic Needs Resources

ridgewater.edu/basicneeds

- We help students meet basic living needs in challenging times.
 - Food: Warrior Pantry
 - Housing
 - Childcare
 - Unexpected bills
- Physical/mental health
- Technology access
- Transportation
- Community services



- Take what you need, leave what you can.
- Hutchinson: Commons, Room 307
- Willmar: Building A, Room A244

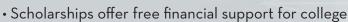


Mark Taylor • 320-222-6932 mark.taylor@ridgewater.edu Willmar: Room A145b, M, T, W, F Hutchinson: Room 327A, Thursdays



Scholarships - Ridgewater Foundation

ridgewater.edu/scholarships



- · Awards may be based on need, academics, programs, etc.
- \$395,000+ awarded to Ridgewater students annually

Scholarship Application Deadlines:

- June 1 for Fall Semester Awards
- November 1 for Spring Semester Awards

Contact:

Stephenie Jimenez • 320-222-6095 stephenie.jimenez@ridgewater.edu Hutchinson: Room 217, Tuesdays Willmar: Room A145, M, T, TH, F







Bookstore/Book Ordering www.ridgewaterbookstore.com

- Books: Online order for home delivery or pick-up on campus
- Supplies
- Book buyback and rental returns

BOOKSTORE HOURS Monday - Friday 7:45 am - 3:30 pm



- Food, snacks and beverages
- · Graduation cap and gown
- · College apparel and gear
- Novelty items

- Buy textbooks online at www.ridgewaterbookstore.com.
- Ordering begins two weeks prior to classes.
- Options include new, used, rental, and e-books.
- Orders may be shipped to you by UPS or may be picked up at the Hutchinson or Willmar campus stores
- · Picture ID required.

PAYMENT

NOTE: 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 online.

ORDER BOOKS & MORE

Charge to credit card or pay cash

> Charge books against financial aid, an agency or **PSEO** funds

OPTIONS. (If charging against financial aid, you can still order early. Enter a credit card in case aid does not cover all charges.)

Contacts:

Hutchinson: 320-234-8524 bookstore@ridgewater.edu Commons, Room 205

Willmar: 320-222-5590 bookstore@ridgewater.edu Student Services Building A, Room A100

2025 Fall Semester Key Bookstore Dates

Online book sales begin	August 9
Classes begin	August 25
Last day to add/drop classes	August 29
Last day to return books for full credit	August 29
Final day to charge books to financial aid	August 29
Bookstore book buyback	December 15-19
Fall rental & PSEO book return deadline	e December 19

2026 Spring Semester Key Dates

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Online book sales begin	December 27
Classes begin	January 12
Last day to add/drop classes	January 16
Last day to return books for full credit	January 16
Final day to charge books to financial aid	January 16
Bookstore book buyback	May 11-15
Spring rental & PSEO book return dead	line May 15

Returns

- · Must have receipts and books must be in original condition, including intact plastic wraps.
- Access codes cannot be returned if scratched.

PSEO Book Returns

• PSEO Students: If you miss the return deadline, you will be charged.

Find the Summer key Bookstore dates on the Ridgewater website.

ridgewater.edu/bookstore





Visit the Library

ridgewater.edu/library



Regular Hours: M - F: 8 am - 4 pm

Summer Hours: M - TH: 8 am - 2 pm



Check website for current information.

- Research assistance
- Printers
- Free tutors academic support
 - Computer help
 - Quiet study rooms

Contacts:

Hutchinson: Room 134 Barb Saunders • 320-234-8511 barbara.saunders@ridgewater.edu Willmar: Building L

> Lizeth Rios • 320-222-7538 lizeth.rios@ridgewater.edu

Warrior Student ID

ridgewater.edu/warriorcard

- Request your Warrior Card online or on campus.
- Use it as your library card.
- Use it as a photo ID.
- Use it for free admission. to Warrior home sports and theater events.
- Score some sweet student discounts with it around town on:
 - Gas and auto services
 - Restaurants
 - Fitness clubs
 - Haircuts



Scan QR code to learn more and order card.



Get Involved for Fun and Connections

ridgewater.edu/studentlife

Maximize your college experience by getting involved. Find activities right for you!

- · Frequent events, such as:
 - Grocery Bingo
 - Online contests
 - Game nights
- Clubs and interest groups
- Division III athletics

- Recreational sports
- · On-campus disc golf
- Student Senate
- Fitness centers
- Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
- Theater

ridgewaterathletics.com

Student attendance is FREE for Warrior sports and theater events with your Warrior Card.

Contacts:

Hutchinson: Heather Marcus • 320-234-8562 heather.marcus@ridgewater.edu · Room 327B Willmar: Angela Haas • 320-222-5643 angela.haas@ridgewater.edu · Room A211



Follow Ridgewater on Social Media

Stay current with your college, program, and student life fun opportunities!

















Snapchat, Hutchinson: snapchat.com/add/ridgewater-h Willmar: snapchat.com/add/ridgewater-w





Campus Maps (ridgewater.edu bottom of home page)



Hutchinson Parking



Willmar Parking



Hutchinson Campus



Willmar Campus

