



Foley High School Guidance Office

320-968-8416

SENIOR YEAR CALENDAR FOR COLLEGE PREPARATION

Please print and post for reference throughout the year or you can find online [here](#)

Issue 1 – Senior

September 2026

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Please Note: Much of the information in this newsletter has already been, or will be, shared through school announcements, Google Classroom, and other communications with students. Be sure to pay attention to these updates and look for opportunities throughout your senior year. Don't miss out!

September

Get ready to make the most of your senior year—it's your time to shine!

Seniors, now is the time to start narrowing down your possible majors and the colleges or universities you're considering. If you'd like support with your college search or planning, schedule an appointment in the Guidance Office.

You can also find helpful information and resources on each college or university's website. Take some time to explore their programs, admission requirements, application deadlines, and other information that may help you make your decision.

Many colleges are currently offering **free application incentives**, so be sure to check individual college websites for details and eligibility requirements.

****Applications for fall 2027 for Minnesota colleges and universities, including the University of Minnesota Twin Cities are open.**

****Programs at technical and community colleges can fill quickly, and many four-year colleges offer early admission with application incentives. Complete your applications as soon as possible! Some colleges have early admission and scholarship deadlines as early as **November 1**, so be sure to check each college's website for details. After you apply, watch your email closely and respond right away so you don't miss deadlines or lose your spot.**

****When applying online, you must request that your FHS transcript be sent to the colleges where you apply. To request a free FHS transcript, visit the FHS website → Guidance Office → Transcript Requests. Click "Order My Transcripts" or go directly to: <https://fhs.foley.k12.mn.us/guidance-office/transcript-request>. If you have questions, please see Kristi in the Guidance Office.**

****[EPIC Student Day](#) at St. Cloud Technical and Community College takes place on October 23, 2026. This event gives students a hands-on opportunity to explore different careers, learn about the**

skills needed for the future, and discover career pathways that may interest them.

Permission slips are available in the Guidance Office from Mr. Carlson or Mr. Kemmy. Space is limited to the **first 50 students who sign up**, so students should register early.

****MCIS – Minnesota Career Information System** Foley High School uses [MCIS \(Minnesota Career Information System\)](#) with all students. MCIS is an online tool that brings career, education, and labor market information together in one place.

With MCIS, students can:

- Explore more than **520 occupations**
- Build a personal portfolio and personal learning plan
- Research **colleges, universities, career schools, and the military**
- Search for **scholarships and financial aid**
- Practice job search skills and create a **resume**

- Complete interest, skills, and work assessments and explore **careers, colleges, and training programs** that match their results
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- Take interest, skills, or work assessments and explore careers, colleges, and training programs that match your results

MCIS is a great resource for exploring **college and career opportunities**.

Students have been introduced to and used MCIS, and they can continue to use it throughout high school as they explore their interests, plan for the future, and make college and career decisions.

If you forgot your username, it is your *GradYearLastNameFirstInitial*, or to reset your password use the “forgot password” function. If you have any questions, see Kristi in the Guidance Office.

****Seniors** should check the monthly calendar outside the Guidance Office, the Guidance Office window, and the [Daily Announcements](#) (sent to your school email) for dates when college and military representatives visit Foley High School. These visits are a great chance to connect with admissions reps, ask questions, and learn more about your future options. College visits are held during Flex and Lunch, so you won’t miss class. Many colleges also offer virtual visits—check their websites for details. If you have questions, see Kristi in the Guidance Office.

**** When making college and career decisions, remember the tools you may have already used.**

- 10th grade Pre-ACT with an interest inventory.
- Career Cluster Inventory in MCIS.

- ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery).
- ACT with an interest inventory. Some of you may choose to retake the ACT Test. [See ACT Test Dates](#).

****Explore College Websites**

Want to get a feel for a college without actually being there? Check out its website! College websites have tons of helpful information about admissions, financial aid, scholarships, majors, student life, and more. Many even offer virtual campus tours.

Interested in a certain major? Find the department’s website and reach out to a professor or department chair if you have questions. You can also usually sign up for an in-person campus visit right on the college’s website.

****Keep track** of all school and community activities you’ve been involved in from grades 9–12. You’ll need this information for college and scholarship applications. You can pick up a paper activity form from Kristi in the Guidance Office or find it online at: [School/Community Activity Worksheets – FHS Guidance Office](#).

****Seniors** may use two excused days during the school year for college visits. Schedule your visit on the college’s website, then follow these steps:

1. Turn in written permission from your parent/guardian to the office before your visit.
2. Pick up an absentee homework log from the office, if needed.
3. Make all arrangements in advance.

Reminder: If you don’t follow these steps, your absence will be unexcused.

****Parents & Students:** Watch daily announcements for important deadlines and updates. Announcements are posted by 9:00 AM each day on the Foley High

School website, outside the Guidance Office, and by the lunch line. All students also receive them in their school email.

****Throughout the year, counselors and teacher advisors will meet with 12th-grade students during Flex Time to provide information and guidance on college planning. We will cover a variety of college-related resources and important steps in the planning process. Each senior will also have the opportunity to meet individually with a counselor and/or career coach to discuss their plans and receive personalized support.**



****Seniors and parents** should check the Foley High School website under Guidance Office → Scholarships/Grants, or visit: <https://fhs.foley.k12.mn.us/guidance-office/scholarshipsgrants>, for information on outside scholarships available to FHS students. Read each scholarship carefully and note all deadlines.

****Need help** applying for college, understanding financial aid, creating your FAFSA ID, or searching for scholarships? [Free virtual sessions](#) are available to answer your questions. Registration is required.

September 29 @ 7:00pm - Explore College Options

October 6th @ 7:00pm - Apply to College
October 13th @ 7:00pm

Understand Financial Aid

October 20 @ 7:00pm - FAFSA 101

October 27 @ 7:00pm - Minnesota
Alternative State Financial Aid Application
101

November 10 @ 7:00pm - Scholarships
101

October

****The 2027–2028 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is OPEN...a week ahead of the October 1,**

2026 launch. This is the form college bound students will use to apply for financial aid for the Fall **2027–2028 college school year. DO NOT apply using the 2026-2027 form unless you are applying for summer 2027 admission.** FAFSA now pulls your tax information directly from the IRS, so you don't have to estimate or enter it by hand. That means you can see your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) earlier, which helps with college planning. Some aid programs have limited funds, so apply as soon as possible! You can send your FAFSA to up to 10 colleges and update your list later if needed. Even if you believe that you will not qualify for federal financial aid, many scholarships and grants still require a FAFSA® for consideration. Apply online at: studentaid.gov

**** RSVP to attend the Service Academy Admissions Forum on October 10, 2026** hosted by the admission staff members from each academy: USAFA, USCGA, USMA, USMMA, USNA. This forum will provide an opportunity to not only learn more information about our nation's Service Academies, but connect and ask questions from the leadership teams at each institution. The event will cover an overview of each academy and their admission standards, nomination process, with a Q&A session. Students and family members are welcome to attend. Saturday, October 10, 2026 2PM-4PM (Check-in starts at 1:30PM) Cretin-Derham Hall High School - The Commons, 550 S Albert St., St. Paul, MN. [RSVP on this google form](#)

****October 1st marks the start of College Knowledge Month.** Take advantage of colleges that are waiving application fees. A list of participating colleges and application dates is available at [Minnesota Goes to College – Free Application Opportunities](#). Many Minnesota schools now offer free applications year-round. See Kristi in the Guidance Office if you need help applying.

****The Common Application** is accepted by over 1,000 schools, including some outside the U.S., and makes the college application process easier. First-time students can apply to multiple colleges at

once using a single application. More information is available at: <https://www.commonapp.org/apply/first-year-students>

****NACAC** has scheduled National College Fairs in Minneapolis for Monday October 5th and Tuesday October 6th. Find more details about the 2026 Fall College Fairs and to register for these events visit: <https://www.nacacattend.org/26Minnesota>

****Reduced Out-of-State Tuition Options:** Minnesota has tuition reciprocity agreements with Wisconsin and North Dakota, as well as an agreement with the Canadian province of Manitoba and a limited agreement with Iowa Lakes Community College in Iowa. These agreements may allow eligible Minnesota students to pay reduced or resident tuition rates at participating schools.

Minnesota residents may also qualify for reduced tuition through the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) at participating public and private colleges and universities in Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Ohio. Eligibility and participating schools vary.

For more information and to apply, visit [Minnesota Office of Higher Education – Tuition Reciprocity](#).

Important: Apply for reciprocity as soon as you know you will attend an eligible school. The application process depends on the state and institution, so check the Minnesota Office of Higher Education website and the college you plan to attend for specific instructions.

****Fall is a great time to explore Minnesota State** and learn more about your 26 [state colleges](#), 7 state universities, and the 18 [Private Colleges](#). Discover academic programs, financial aid, transfer options from 2-year to 4-year schools, and more! During MEA break, October 15–16, 2026, all 26 colleges and 7 universities will offer special visits for

high school students. Take this chance to get a feel for college life! Learn more about Minnesota State Week and the free application week: [Minnesota Goes to College!](#)

****Plan a campus or virtual visit on October 15–16** during our break. This is a great time to explore colleges in person or online. Many schools host special programs and open houses on these dates. You won't miss class, and you still have two excused days for additional college visits. Check college websites for visit dates, times, and activities, and register online—these programs usually fill up fast.

****Career Day 2026 will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2026.** This is a great opportunity for students to explore a wide range of career paths and post-secondary options. We will kick off the day with a keynote speaker in the gym. Following the keynote, students will attend six 36-minute sessions based on their career interests, selected from more than 80 different options. In addition to the sessions, approximately 40 booths will be set up in the gym featuring local businesses, colleges, universities, technical schools, vocational trades, and military branches.

****Don't wait to start your college or school applications.** We recommend completing them by early November to meet early scholarship deadlines.

****Your senior picture for the yearbook is due by October 31, 2026.** The senior picture you submit will also be used in the graduation ceremony slideshow. Upload your senior picture directly to Jostens following this [link](#). Submit your senior quote using the Google form sent in email. Senior quotes are due no later than **October 15, 2026**. See Ms. Keating if you have any questions.

November

****If you haven't already, complete your college admissions applications online. After submitting your applications, request your FHS transcript. To get a free transcript, go to FHS Website → Guidance Office → Transcript Requests, click "Order My Transcripts," or use the following link:**
<https://fhs.foley.k12.mn.us/guidance-office/transcript-request>.

****Remember—your high school grades and activities still matter! Some seniors think colleges don't look at senior-year grades, but they do. Colleges require your final transcript after graduation, and poor grades or schedule changes in 2nd or 3rd trimester could affect your admission.**

****Research scholarships at the college you plan to attend and request information if needed. Many have early deadlines, so be sure to check the financial aid section of the college's website for opportunities.**

January

****If you're accepted to more than one college, take time to compare the financial aid packages and scholarships each school offers. Look at the total cost and what each college is offering before making your decision. If you have questions, reach out to the college's financial aid office—they're there to help you understand your options.**

****You will order your caps/gowns/tassels. More details will be shared in the Daily Announcements and Google Classroom "Class of 2027".**

February

****Foley High School's Local Scholarships: Keep an eye out! The Local Scholarship Packet will be available soon. Last year, local clubs, organizations,**

and families awarded FHS seniors more than 50 scholarships totaling over \$55,000 to help students pay for post-secondary education.

Don't miss out on these opportunities! Be sure to complete the scholarship packet and apply for the scholarships you are eligible for. Local scholarships can be a great way to help reduce the cost of college or other post-secondary education.

Parents and guardians: We encourage you to help your senior complete the packet and gather any information or documents they may need.

Spring

****Once You Choose a College**

After you decide which college you'll attend, visit the college's website and complete the next steps for tuition, housing, meal plans, and financial aid. There are many details to keep track of, so make a checklist and ask questions along the way!

If you're unsure where to start, contact the college's financial aid office. They're there to help you understand your options and make sure you complete everything you need before starting college.

****Accept Your Scholarships**

Remember to **accept and sign your scholarship awards from the college you plan to attend. This is usually done online through your college account.**

If you were accepted to more than one college, make sure you **withdraw your acceptance from the schools you won't be attending. This lets those colleges know you've made your decision and may open a spot for another student.**

May – June

****More details to follow in the Senior Class Newsletter in the spring on when Graduation Practice will be.**

****Your Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, June 5th. More details will follow in the Senior Class Newsletter in the spring.**

****Senior All-Night Lock-In** Seniors are invited to celebrate after graduation with an all-night lock-in! The event will include games, food, a hypnotist, an escape room, swimming, prizes, and much more. Watch for more details and registration information as the event gets closer. Information will be sent to your email as well as posted to the [FHS website](#).

****Colleges require a FINAL high school transcript before you can register for classes. Be sure to request your final transcript. To do so, go to FHS Website → Guidance Office → Transcript Requests, click "Order My Transcripts," or visit <https://fhs.foley.k12.mn.us/guidance-office/transcript-request>. Make sure to select "Hold for Grades" so all grades are final before your transcript is sent.**

****Students who have taken college credit classes at Foley High School must request that their final college transcript be sent to the college they will attend in the fall, including St. Cloud State University, Southwest Minnesota State University, and/or Central Lakes College. Visit <https://fhs.foley.k12.mn.us/guidance-office/transcript-request> or go to the FHS website under Guidance Office → Transcript Requests for instructions on sending your final transcript to your college.**

****When registering for college classes, do not retake any courses you already completed for college credit at Foley High School. Know which college credit classes you have completed and review them with your college registrar.**
[Concurrent Enrollment classes for FHS](#)