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**SENIOR YEAR CALENDAR FOR COLLEGE PREPARATION**

Please print and post for reference throughout the year or you can find online at [www.foley.k12.mn.us/page/2523](http://www.foley.k12.mn.us/page/2523)



# September

**\*\* Get psyched for senior year!**

\*\*Minnesota Education Fair will be held on Thursday, September 21st, at Princeton High School from 1pm - 1:45pm. Up to 75 [representatives](#) from Public and Private Universities and colleges, community and technical colleges, and trade and career schools are expected to attend. Students will need to register before attending the fair. Registration can be done [here](#).

\*\* The annual Minnesota Education Fair will be held on Wednesday, September 27th, at St. Cloud State University. Located at the Halenbeck Fieldhouse from 1pm -2:30pm. Students will need to register before attending the fair <https://app.strivescan.com/registration>

\*\*Seniors should be narrowing their list of college majors/programs and which colleges/universities they are interested in. If a student needs any assistance, please make an appointment in the Guidance Office. Resources are available on the college websites, be sure to spend time gathering college information from their websites. **Many colleges are offering free application incentives to apply. Check individual college websites for details.** When applying online, students must request their FHS transcript to the

college/s to which they apply. To request a free FHS transcript, go to FHS Website/ Guidance Office/Transcript Requests. Click on “order my transcripts” or go to: <http://www.foley.k12.mn.us/page/2598>. If you have questions, please see Kristi in the Guidance Office.

\*\*Some programs offered through technical and community colleges fill quickly and many four-year colleges have early admission policies which offer early application incentives. We recommend that students complete their applications as soon as possible. Please be aware that there are early admissions and scholarship deadlines at colleges as soon as November 1st. Be sure to check college websites for deadlines. After submitting your application to the college, be sure to follow-up with all email correspondence they may send you, thus avoiding losing your place at the college due to missing deadlines.

\*\*Foley High School is using MCIS (Minnesota Career Information System) for all students. MCIS is a web-based system that combines a wealth of career, educational and labor market information into one comprehensive, easy-to-use exploration tool. With MCIS, students can:

- Learn about over 520 occupations

- Develop a personal portfolio and personal learning plan
- Research colleges, universities, and career schools
- Find scholarships and financial aid
- Improve job search skills and create a resume
- Complete an interest and/or skills and work assessment and get a list of occupations that correlate with your results. Use assessment results to match with colleges or training programs.

MCIS is a great website for students to explore college and career opportunities. All students have spent time using this program. 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 be watching the monthly calendar outside of the Guidance Office, the Guidance Office window, and the [Daily Announcements](#) (you are receiving daily announcements through your school email) on when college or military representatives are visiting Foley High School. This is a great opportunity to make a connection with your prospective school admissions

representative while also collecting more information and having the opportunity to ask questions in a small group. College visits are scheduled during Flex Time so you don't need to miss class to meet with them! Many colleges are also offering virtual visits. Be sure to also check college websites for campus visit details. See Kristi in the Guidance Office for questions.

**\*\*To also help you with the college/career decision making process, students and parents should refer back to career/interest inventories that the students completed during their previous school years. In 10<sup>th</sup> grade students took the Pre-ACT test which included an interest inventory. As Juniors students completed a Career Cluster Inventory on MCIS. Also in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, you may have elected to take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test which included an interest inventory and career planning unit. We offer another ASVAB test opportunity during the school day on November 16th, 2023. If interested in taking the ASVAB in November, see Kristi in the Guidance Office. Students took the ACT test their junior year—this, too, included an interest inventory.**

Some of you may choose to retake the ACT Test. See [ACT Test Dates](#)

**\*\*Spend some time researching colleges and programs on the internet.** All schools have great information available online. Next to a college visit, a visit to a college website is one of the best ways to get an accurate picture of what a school is really like. You can access information on admissions procedures, financial aid offerings, scholarships, the town or region where the college is located, and view a virtual tour to see what's happening on campus. If you're interested in a specific major or field, you can email questions to professors and department chairs. You can also plan and register online for a campus visit.

**\*\*Keep a list of all school and community activities that you have participated in**

during grades 9-12. You will be asked for this information when applying to colleges and for scholarships, etc. See Kristi in the Guidance Office for a paper copy of school and community activities form or go to: [School/Community Activity Worksheets - FHS Guidance Office](#).

**\*\*Seniors are allotted two excused days to visit colleges during the school day. Set up your college visit online on the college website. A reminder that you must follow the procedures below when using your college visit days:**

1) submit to the office written permission from your parent/guardian prior to the visit and pick up an absentee homework log from the office, if needed; 2) these arrangements must be made in advance of your college visit. Students who do not follow these procedures will be unexcused.

**\*\*Parents & Students:** Pay attention to daily announcements for important deadlines and information. Daily announcements are available for viewing by 9:00 AM each morning on the Foley High School website and are also posted outside the Guidance Office and lunch line for the students to view. All students receive the daily announcements in their school email.

**\*\*The counselors and teacher advisors will spend time with the 12<sup>th</sup> graders covering a wide variety of college information during Flex Time. Students will be receiving important information that will help with college planning. Each senior will also meet individually with a counselor and/or the career coach.**



**\*\*Seniors and parents should visit the Foley High School website under Guidance Office /Scholarships/ Grants or click:**

<http://www.foley.k12.mn.us/page/2524>

to view information on outside scholarships as they become available to FHS students. Please read each scholarship carefully and pay attention to deadlines.

## October

**\*\*New this year\*\*** The Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application will not be available in October as it has in previous years. The application will now be available in December. This is due to significant changes to the application and the rebuild of the FAFSA processing System.

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

October 3rd @ 7:00pm - Apply for College

October 10th @ 7:00pm - Understand Financial Aid

October 17th @ 7:00pm - Create your FSA ID

October 24th @ 7:00pm - Search for Scholarships

**\*\*October 1st is the start of College Knowledge Month.** A reminder to take advantage of the colleges that are not charging an application fee. A list of the colleges/universities and what dates you can apply can be found at [Minnesota Goes to College - Free Application Opportunities](#). Many Minnesota schools are now free to apply all year. Please let Kristi in the Guidance Office know if you need assistance in applying.

**\*\*NACAC has scheduled virtual College Fairs on September 15 and November 12. In-person College Fairs in Minnesota are scheduled for Wednesday, October 4th and Thursday October, 5th. Find more details about the 2023 Fall College Fairs and to register for these events visit:** <https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs>

**\*\*Reduced Out-of-State Tuition Options** –Minnesota has reciprocity agreements with Wisconsin, North

Dakota, and South Dakota. Minnesota also has an agreement with the Canadian province of Manitoba, and a limited agreement with Iowa Lakes Community College in northwestern Iowa. Minnesota residents also may be eligible for reduced tuition at a limited number of Midwest public and private schools and programs of study in Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. For more information go to [Reduced Out-of-State Tuition Options](#). Don't forget to complete the reciprocity agreement form for the state in which you are enrolling.

### 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](#). Learn about their academic options, financial aid, transferring from a 2 year college to a 4 year university and more! October 19-20, 2023, over the MEA break, each of the 26 colleges and 7 universities of Minnesota State will be offering special visits for high school students. Get a feel for what college is all about and receive a promo code to use the week of October 23-27 to waive your application fee when you apply! Learn more about Minnesota State Week and the FREE application week : [Minnesota Goes to College!](#)

**\*\*Plan a campus visit or virtual visit on October 19th and 20th during our break.** This is a great time to visit colleges both in person and virtually. Many colleges organize special programs and host open houses on these dates, you do not miss your classes and you still have two excused days for further college research. Search college websites for college visit/campus tour dates/times/activities and register online. These programs usually fill fast.

**\*\*Delay no longer in starting to fill out your college/school applications.** We recommend that students complete their applications by early November as there are some early scholarship deadlines.

**\*\*Your senior picture and senior quote for the yearbook are due October 31, 2023.**

The senior picture you use for the yearbook will also be used for the graduation ceremony senior slideshow. Students can upload your senior pictures directly to Jostens following the [directions](#) that were sent via email to both parents and students. Senior quotes are submitted via the google form that was received in email. See Kristi in the Guidance Office if you have questions.

**\*\*You also need to submit a baby/toddler picture for the graduation ceremony slideshow.** Students can email the baby photo to [jewinkelman@apps.isd51.org](mailto:jewinkelman@apps.isd51.org) by the October 31st deadline.

## November

**\*\*If you have not already done so, get those admissions applications completed online.** Once you complete your application(s) online you must request your FHS transcript. To request a free transcript go to FHS Website/ Guidance Office/Transcript Requests. Click on "order my transcripts" or click the following link <http://www.foley.k12.mn.us/page/2598>.

**\*\*Remind yourself continually that high school grades and activities are important.** Seniors sometimes feel that their senior grades are not important. **Upon graduation a FINAL transcript will be requested by the college you plan to attend and admission may be revoked for poor performance and/or class changes 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 3rd trimester.**

**\*\*Research and request scholarship information from the college you plan to attend.** Many college scholarships have early deadlines. Check the financial aid link on the college website for scholarship opportunities.

**\*\*Don't forget to search the [MCIS link](#) Education/Scholarships for paying for college, scholarships and more information.**

## December

**\*\*The 2024–2025 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) season will begin in December.** You will be able to fill out the FAFSA for the 2024–2025 college school year. Applicants will no longer need to estimate income and tax information and will be able to retrieve their data directly from the IRS using prior year tax information. If that data doesn't reflect your current financial situation, the U.S. Department of Education recommends you contact your college's financial aid office after you submit your FAFSA form to explain your current situation and have them use it to inform their decision. In addition, students will have information about their Expected Family Contributions earlier, helping you as you go through the college application and selection process. There are a few federal student aid programs that have limited funds, so be sure to apply as soon as you can once the FAFSA is available for the year you will be attending school. Students can code up to 10 colleges they want to receive their FAFSA information and an option to add/replace colleges. Go to <https://studentaid.gov/> for more information and to apply.

## January

**\*\*Compare financial aid packages and awards received if you have applied to more than one school.** Contact the college financial aid counselor with questions.

**\*\*You will order and be sized for your caps/gowns/tassels at the 12<sup>th</sup> grade meeting.** More details to follow in the Daily Announcements.

## February

**\*\*Foley High School's local scholarship packet will be distributed.** Last year local clubs, organizations and families awarded Foley High School seniors with over 50 scholarships totaling over \$54,000 to

attend any post-secondary school in the year following their high school graduation. Be sure to apply—your odds of receiving a scholarship are very good. We advise parents to assist their child in the completion of this packet.

## Spring

**\*\*Decide which college you will attend.** Follow the directions of the college you will be attending in regards to tuition, room, food plans and financial aid. Call your college financial aid office if you have any questions.

**\*\*Don't forget to sign and accept college scholarship documents from the college you plan to attend (typically online).** If you applied and were accepted to more than one college do not forget to withdraw your acceptance from the college you do not plan to attend.

## May – June

**\*\* Graduation Practice will be Thursday, May 30th from 8:00-10:00 AM.** More details to follow in the senior class newsletter in the spring.

**\*\*Your Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, June 1.** More details will follow in the senior class newsletter in the spring.

**\*\* Seniors will be able to attend an all night lock-in after the graduation ceremony.** The all night lock-in will include; games, food, hypnotist, escape room, prizes, swimming and much more. More details will follow in the senior class newsletter in the spring.

**\*\*Most colleges require a FINAL High School transcript before you are allowed to register for classes. Be sure to request your final transcript.** To request a **FINAL** transcript go to FHS Website/ Guidance Office/ Transcript Requests. Click on “order my transcripts” or go to <http://www.foley.k12.mn.us/page/2598>. Make sure to use the drop down menu

“hold for grades” so that all grades are final before we send your transcript.

**\*\*Those students who have taken college credit classes at Foley High School must submit a request to St. Cloud State University, Southwest Minnesota State University and/or Central Lakes Community College to have their final transcript sent to the college they will be attending in the fall.** Click on the link <http://www.foley.k12.mn.us/page/2598> or go to the Foley High School website under the Guidance Office/Transcript Request which will give you instructions on how to request a final transcript to be sent to the college you are attending.

**\*\*When registering for classes at your college it is important that you do not retake a class you already completed for college credit while at Foley High School.** Know what college credit classes you completed and discuss that with the registrar of your college. [Concurrent Enrollment classes for FHS](#)