Make it happen at the Ridge!

WILLMAR | HUTCHINSON | ONLINE | RIDGEWATER.EDU

Ranked #1 MN Community College, 2020 niche.com
You don’t have to know exactly where you want to land – as long as you start exploring. Ridgewater is a great place to start!

**We’re Here for You**

Not sure where to start in your academic journey? Ridgewater College can help you. Schedule an appointment with our counselors to explore education and career options. We can help you get started in the right direction.

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

Call 320-222-5971 to set up an appointment.

Already know what you’d like to study? Let’s talk. [ridgewater.edu/visit](http://ridgewater.edu/visit)

Employers look for graduates with the technical skills they need to enter the workforce with job-ready skills. The demand for skill-ready employees is high and expected to continue.

**Benefits of a Technical Education**

- Develops your marketable and work-ready skills that lead directly to employment
- Offers a degree, diploma or certificate in two years or less
- Enables you to enhance academic course work with hands-on education
- Provides high-demand, essential career options

**100+**

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

**91%**

Job placement rate, with many technical programs at 100%
Other employers seek to hire individuals who have a 21st century liberal arts education, comprised of broad and adaptive learning, personal and social responsibility, and intellectual skills.

**Benefits of a Liberal Arts Education**

- Teaches you how to think critically - to connect dots throughout concepts and principles in various frameworks
- Teaches you different ways to learn - to develop skills to become lifelong learners
- Enables you to experience the world holistically - to provide a broader perspective to see and understand your life and those around you

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

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**Transfer Pathways**

- Business
- Communication Studies
- Criminal Justice
- English
- Law Enforcement
- Psychology
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 Technology
- Dairy Management
- Farm Business Management
- Farm Operation & Management
- GPS/GIS Information Systems for Agriculture
- Poultry
- Veterinary Technology

**Art & Design**
ridgewater.edu/art-design
- Art
- Multimedia Design Technology
- Music
- Photography & Design
- Professional Photography
- Theater

**Automotive Trades**
ridgewater.edu/autotrades
- Auto Body Collision Repair
- Automotive Service Technology

New eight-week liberal arts and sciences courses give you additional options. Ask an advisor for details. ridgewater.edu/8-week-courses

Internships are a part of several programs at Ridgewater. Marketing and Sales Management student Jordan Walters gained experience with this Ridgewater partner.
Business & Marketing
ridgewater.edu/business
- Accountant
- Administrative Assistant
- Business
- Business Pathway
- Healthcare Administrative Assistant
- Legal Assistant
- Marketing & Design
- Marketing & Sales Management
- Multimedia Design Technology
- Photography & Design
- Professional Photography

Construction Trades
ridgewater.edu/construction
- Carpentry
- Electrician

Cosmetology & Massage Therapy
ridgewater.edu/cos-massage
- Cosmetology
- Estheology
- Massage Therapy
- Nail Technology

Education
ridgewater.edu/education
- Agricultural Science & Technology
- Early Childhood Education
- Education Paraprofessional

Health Care
ridgewater.edu/healthcare
- Activity Director
- Chemical Dependency Counseling

Health Care, continued
Emergency Medical Technician *
Health Information Technician
Healthcare Administrative Assistant
Massage Therapy
Medical Assistant
Medical Coding
Nursing Assistant *
Nursing - Associate Degree & Bachelor of Science
Nursing - Practical Nursing
Paramedic
Phlebotomy

Information Technology
ridgewater.edu/computers
- Computer Programmer
- Computer Support Technician
- Cyber Security Specialist
- Network Systems Administration
- Web Developer

Law Enforcement & Public Safety
ridgewater.edu/lawenf-safety
- Emergency Medical Technician *
- Law Enforcement
- Law Enforcement Pathway
- Paramedic

Liberal Arts & Sciences
ridgewater.edu/liberalarts
- Art
- Business Pathway
- Chemical Dependency Counseling
- Coaching
- Communication

Liberal Arts, continued
Communication Studies Pathway
Economics
English
English Pathway
Geography
Global Studies
History
Human Services
Liberal Arts
Music
Physical Education
Philosophy
Political Science
Psychology
Psychology Pathway
Spanish
Theater

Mathematics, Science & Engineering
ridgewater.edu/stem
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth Science
- Health Sciences Broad Field
- Mathematics Department
- Physics & Engineering

Occupational Skills Program
ridgewater.edu/occupationalskills
- Occupational Skills

* EMT and NA are short-term career trainings offered through Customized Training and Continuing Education.
ridgewater.edu/customized
Online and remote courses can be great options to complement traditional face-to-face, on-campus courses.

Flexible Opportunities

Ridgewater offers a variety of distance education delivery opportunities including fully online, blended online that includes both face-to-face experiences and online convenience, remote learning, and more!

These courses have many benefits:

• **Flexibility:** Choose classes that work with your schedule
• **Student-centered teaching approach:** Ensure you understand material completely before moving on
• **Accessibility:** Access online course materials 24 hours a day
• **Potential savings:** Take advantage of limited costs for transportation and accommodations

Explore whether an online or remote course or program format is right for you!

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

“Choosing Ridgewater was the best thing that I could have ever done with my life! While attending Ridgewater, I was an intern for a local company and later hired on full time, working for a total of three years with them. Approximately four months ago I moved on and accepted a position which I am considering my dream job!”

~ Cory Klassen, Computer-Aided Drafting & Design, Glencoe
Fully Online Programs

Accountant
Activity Director
Administrative Assistant
Computer-Aided Drafting and Design
Computer Programming
Cyber Security Specialist
Early Childhood Education (Certificate only)
Early Childhood Special Education (Certificate only)
Health Information Technician
Law Enforcement
Legal Assistant
Liberal Arts
Medical Coding
Multimedia Design Technology
Poultry
Web Developer

Blended and Hybrid Online Options

Blended and hybrid online courses provide students some of the flexibility of online courses with the benefits of supportive in-person interaction. This delivery format gives you an opportunity to interact with students and faculty, while still having online flexibility.

To learn more about the different distance learning, online and remote course offerings, visit ridgewater.edu/online.

900+ Fully online students
53% Students enrolled in one or more courses
WE CONNECT
WE SUPPORT YOU

We’ll connect you with caring instructors and staff members, meaningful career opportunities, and exceptional support services.

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

Division III Athletics

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. You can be part of the action by playing on a team or cheering from the stands. Have fun being active in our campus fitness centers or enjoy our on-campus disc golf courses, pool tables, or yard game events. How will you make connections?
GET INVOLVED

STUDENT LIFE EXPERIENCE

EXPERIENCE
Our Communities: Hutchinson and Willmar

- Regional, progressive centers located 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

- Each campus provides full academic programs and student services
- Each campus has its own special character, comfortable academic setting, and abundant student life opportunities

Housing

- Explore the many affordable housing options within walking distance of campus
- Check out ridgewater.edu/housing for vacancies
- Access public transportation as needed in both Willmar and Hutchinson
**Our Campuses**

- 1,873 Hutchinson Enrollment
- 2,619 Willmar Enrollment

**Our Students**

- 2,474 Female Students
- 1,959 Male Students

**17%**

Students of color

**2,185**

Underrepresented students

*Students of color, Pell grant eligible, or first-generation*

**Student Age Breakout**

- Unknown or <18: 1,244
- 19-24: 1,783
- 25-54: 1,301
- 55+: 164

- 39.7%
- 29%
- 3.6%
- 27.7%
WHY CHOOSE

GLAD WE DID!
“I chose Ridgewater College because I feel the instructors are very welcoming and I liked the atmosphere and friendliness of the college. The faculty here are very passionate with their teaching in the classroom and want students to be successful. Because of them, we will be well educated when we leave Ridgewater! It does not surprise me at all that Ridgewater is ranked the number one Minnesota community college!”
~ Mitch Bulau, Automation & Robotics Systems Technology, Cokato

“I chose Ridgewater because I really enjoyed my tour when I visited campus. It seemed like the faculty were well engaged and taking care of their students. The college was advocated for enthusiastically. It is very affordable and the low to no debt was very appealing!”
~ Maddie Keaton, Nursing, Richmond

“It is a profound moment when we are able to recognize the specific action that was the harbinger for our success. That action for me was when I chose Ridgewater. Ridgewater provided me a scaffolding for my future academic rigors by providing me with affordable tuition, professor mentorship, and a unique campus experience where there was always time for extra questions. Thanks to Ridgewater, I am now looking towards the horizon of my dreams.”
~ Carlos Lopez, Litchfield, Ridgewater Liberal Arts AA, St. Cloud State University Psychology BA and Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate student

“Thanks to my Ridgewater instructor for all the guidance these last two years…. Her love for kids always inspired me to become a good teacher. I have learned many skills and important information about teaching, but most importantly, I have learned what makes a great teacher… I will make sure to love and care for each and every one of my students. I have been truly blessed.”
~ Erica Boeyink, Early Childhood Education, Willmar
YOUR INVESTMENT

Today’s economy is challenging, so 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 2020-21, a credit load of 16 credits per semester will be approximately $2,979 plus books and other related expenses.

*Fall tuition was frozen; Spring 2021 will increase 3 percent

**Program Differential Tuition Rates Per Credit**

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

- Farm Business Management: $178.48
- Nursing: Associate Degree: $222.14
- Nursing: Practical Nursing: $216.14
- Veterinary Technology: $208.64

* Includes student fees

**Online Courses**

Minnesota Resident/Non-Resident Tuition and Fees:

- $202.48 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 2020-21 for most students.
**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, 2019-20*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Tuition Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ridgewater</strong></td>
<td>$5,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Universities</td>
<td>$8,100-8,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Minnesota</td>
<td>$13,500-15,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private For-Profit Trade Schools</td>
<td>$14,100-19,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Colleges and Universities</td>
<td>$14,900-57,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Financial Aid**

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

Ridgewater College has an extensive financial aid program.

• 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 Foundation generously supports our students.

$225,000+

85%

Scholarships awarded annually

Students receive financial aid

*First-time, full-time students*
**Schedule a Visit**

*ridgewater.edu/visit* or *320-222-5971*

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

Visits are available one-on-one, virtually, or as larger events. For campus visit event details and registrations, watch *ridgewater.edu* and *facebook.com/ridgewatercollege*. Ridgewater also offers various program-specific and career cluster information sessions each year.

**Apply to Ridgewater**

*ridgewater.edu/apply*

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

**Apply for Financial Aid**

*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. We can help!

**Explore and Apply for Scholarships**

*ridgewater.edu/scholarships*

Don’t miss deadlines for scholarship applications: October 15 and April 15.

**1:21**

Average ratio for faculty-to-students

**42%**

Students who attend part time
Providing a high-quality, student-centered, affordable education for our diverse learners is our top priority.

**Excellent Value**

Friendly and welcoming campuses offer opportunities to engage in and out of class. Transitioning from high school to college can be easy at Ridgewater at our safe, easy-to-navigate campuses.

**Atmosphere**

Learning opportunities and lab experiences allow you to apply what you’ve learned during class.

**Hands-on Experience**

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

**Flexible Options**

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.

**Success**

Associate of Arts (AA) 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.

**Transfer Credits**

Small classes and supportive student services staff offer helpful personal attention. All classes are taught by caring college faculty – not teaching assistants. We help you reach your full potential.
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 Vision

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

Hutchinson Campus
2 Century Avenue SE
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Willmar Campus
2101 15th Avenue NW
Willmar, MN 56201

Ridgewater is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. hlcommission.org