Make it YOUR time at the Ridge!

HUTCHINSON | WILLMAR | ONLINE | RIDGEWATER.EDU

#1 MN Community College and US Top 20, 2020 & 2021 niche.com
Our Communities: Hutchinson and Willmar

- Regional, progressive, safe communities 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

- Both campuses offer full academic programs and student services, including many available online or with a blend of both on-campus and online
- Each campus has its own special character, comfortable academic setting, safe environment, and abundant student life opportunities

Housing

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

Willmar Campus
Enrollment: 2,444

Hutchinson Campus
Enrollment: 1,742
Ridgewater Vision
Ridgewater College is a student-centered educational leader focused on innovation, excellence and affordability.

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 equity commitment
Ridgewater College is committed to providing welcoming and inclusive campuses that value and respect the unique experiences, needs and contributions of individuals and groups from every background and identity to ensure that each student, employee and community member has a genuine opportunity for participation and success.

Ridgewater Anti-racism commitment
Ridgewater College fully commits to opposing racism, bigotry and all forms of exclusion and unjust bias based on personal identity. We view such actions as critical threats to the health and well-being of our College and the communities we serve.

Warrior guiding principles
Enterprising - We are future-focused and change-oriented, developing creative solutions to challenges that maximize our institutional, system and local resources.
Empowerment - We develop and empower employees to make decisions to best serve students and stakeholders.
Excellence - We strive to exceed expectations in all that we do.
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - We seek to understand and appreciate the needs and experiences of every individual and actively work to provide genuine opportunities for everyone to succeed and participate in college activities and processes.
Trust and Respect - We are committed to developing a culture based in processes and behavior that create trust and respect among all stakeholders.
Collaboration - We connect and work together to achieve common goals while respecting needs and interests of stakeholders.
Curiosity and Creativity - We constantly strive to understand, learn, change, and improve.
Accountability - As individuals and groups, we willingly accept and take ownership of our successes and failures.
You don’t have to know exactly what you want to do – as long as you have the desire. Ridgewater is a great place to start!

100+

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

**Liberal Arts and Sciences Education**

Many employers want well-rounded employees with good communication and critical thinking skills.

A Liberal Arts and Sciences focus, also known as general education, means students study a variety of subjects such as communication, art, literature, sociology, math, science, history, psychology, and more. Students who earn a Liberal Arts and Sciences Associate of Arts (AA) degree often consider it their foundational first two years of a four-year degree if they plan to transfer to a university for a bachelor’s degree.

**Benefits**

- Develops critical thinking to connect concepts and principles
- Enhances self-awareness and confidence
- Builds a more holistic individual
- Creates broad perspective thinking for leading in our complex, interconnected world
- Offers an Associate of Arts degree

Liberal Arts and Sciences AA degrees based on the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum are guaranteed to transfer to any public university in Minnesota. Pathway-specific AA degrees also transfer to Minnesota State universities but allow you to be more focused on your academic goals. See more info at ridgewater.edu/liberalarts and ridgewater.edu/pathways.
Technical Education

The demand for skilled employees is high and expected to continue, which is great news for people looking to enter the workforce quickly.

Technical education, known as vocational training to your parents, spans nearly every industry, from automotives, business and manufacturing to agriculture, health care and computers. It helps connect students to high-skill, high-demand careers. Students who enjoy technical education and careers often prefer hands-on learning to apply practical knowledge and occupational skills. Learn more at ridgewater.edu/academics.

Benefits

- Develops your marketable skills that lead directly to employment
- Offers a degree, diploma or certificate in two years or less
- Enhances academic coursework with hands-on education
- Leads to high-demand, essential career options

95% Graduate job placement rate in related field

We’re Here for You!

Not sure how to begin your academic journey? Schedule a visit with our counselors at 320-222-5971 to help you explore education and career options. Learn more at ridgewater.edu/explorecareers.
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 Applicator Technician
Agronomy Technology
Dairy Management
Farm Operation & Management
Poultry Management
Precision Agriculture (formerly GPS/GIS)
Veterinary Technology

Art, Design & Visual Communications
ridgewater.edu/art-design
Multimedia Design Technology
Photography & Design
Professional Photography
Web Developer

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

Business & Marketing
ridgewater.edu/business
Accountant
Administrative Assistant
Business Transfer Pathway
Entrepreneurship
Healthcare Administrative Assistant
Legal Assistant
Marketing & Design
Marketing & Sales Management
Multimedia Design Technology
Office Assistant
Photography & Design
Professional Photography Technology

Construction Trades
ridgewater.edu/construction
Electrical Technology
Electrician
STUDY

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

Education
ridgewater.edu/education
Agricultural Science & Technology
Early Childhood Education Pathway
Elementary Education Foundations Pathway
Special Education Transfer Pathway

Health Care
ridgewater.edu/healthcare
Activity Director
Emergency Medical Technician*
Health Information Technician
Health Sciences Broad Field
Healthcare Administrative Assistant
Massage Therapy
Medical Assistant
Medical Coding
Nursing Assistant (NA)*
Nursing - Associate Degree & Bachelor of Science
Nursing - Practical Nursing
Paramedic
Phlebotomy

Information Technology
ridgewater.edu/computers
Computer Programmer
Computer Support Technician
Network Administration & Security
Web Developer

Liberal Arts & Sciences
ridgewater.edu/liberalarts
Transfer Pathways
  Business
  Communication Studies
  Criminal Justice
  Early Childhood Education
  Elementary Education
  English
  Law Enforcement
  Psychology
  Special Education

Additional Liberal Arts & Sciences Options
  Art
  Biology
  Chemistry
  Coaching
  Economics
  Geography
  Global Studies
  History
  Mathematics
  Music
  Philosophy

Liberal Arts & Sciences Options cont’d
  Physical Education
  Physics
  Political Science
  Spanish
  Theater

Mathematics, Science & Engineering
ridgewater.edu/stem
Automation & Robotics Systems Technology
Health Sciences Broad Field
Nondestructive Testing Technology

Occupational Skills Program
ridgewater.edu/occupationskills
Occupational Skills

Peace Officer, Legal & Emergency Services
ridgewater.edu/law-ems
Criminal Justice Transfer Pathway
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)*
Law Enforcement Transfer Pathway
Legal Assistant
Paramedic
Peace Officer

* EMT and NA are short-term career trainings with Customized Training and Continuing Education. Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) training is also available.

See full program details at ridgewater.edu/academics

Liberal Arts & Sciences Options cont’d
  Physical Education
  Physics
  Political Science
  Spanish
  Theater

Mathematics, Science & Engineering
ridgewater.edu/stem
Automation & Robotics Systems Technology
Health Sciences Broad Field
Nondestructive Testing Technology

Occupational Skills Program
ridgewater.edu/occupationskills
Occupational Skills

Peace Officer, Legal & Emergency Services
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Law Enforcement Transfer Pathway
Legal Assistant
Paramedic
Peace Officer

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Online and blended/hybrid courses can be great options to complement traditional face-to-face courses.

**Flexible Opportunities**

Ridgewater offers a variety of online delivery opportunities for flexibility, accessibility and convenience!

- **Synchronous** – online classes with set times
- **Asynchronous** – online classes with no set times for maximum flexibility
- **Blended/hybrid** – scheduled in-person classes and online learning

To see how a specific course will be delivered, go to [ridgewater.edu/academics](http://ridgewater.edu/academics) and click on Course Schedule for your desired semester. The Delivery Method is listed on the right.

“ I chose Ridgewater because I had heard from a few friends that the graphic design MMDT program was absolutely wonderful. Ridgewater was a great fit for me because for my program, it required no commute. I could do everything online, even before the pandemic happened. Amy was such a fantastic teacher and it really felt like a classroom, despite being virtual. All of the discussions, posts and group critiques and projects were incredibly helpful in connecting me to my peers.”

~ Madeline Rose, Multimedia Design Technology, Annandale
Explore whether online courses or programs are right for you!

ridgewater.edu/online
Helping you reach your goals
Ridgewater offers exceptional student support services provided by caring instructors and staff members.

**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

**Our Warrior Family**

- **20%**
  - First-generation students
    * First in family to attend post-secondary institution

- **701**
  - Students of color

**Student Age Breakout**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unknown or &lt;18</td>
<td>1,231</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-24</td>
<td>1,685</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-54</td>
<td>1,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 27.8%
- 39.7%
- 3.5%
- 29%
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.edu/studentlife](https://ridgewater.edu/studentlife)

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

**Division III Athletics**

[ridgewaterathletics.com](https://ridgewaterathletics.com)

**MEN’S:** Basketball, wrestling, baseball

**WOMEN’S:** Volleyball, basketball, softball

**CO-ED:** Clay target

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. Join the action by playing on a team or cheering from the stands. Exercise in our campus fitness centers or enjoy our on-campus disc golf courses, pool tables, or yard game events.
WE CHOSE

GLAD WE DID!
Chase Engelke, Machine Tool Technology, Lester Prairie

“I chose a degree in Agriculture because of the passion I gained through showing livestock in 4-H and helping farmers around the area. I also love working outdoors and I want to help feed America’s growing population. After graduation, I am transferring to South Dakota State University to obtain my bachelor’s degree in Agriculture Science.”

~ Lucas Doll, Precision Agriculture and Agri Business, St. James

Heidi Yun Sun, Early Childhood Education, transferred to Southwest Minnesota State University for Bachelor’s Degree, Litchfield

“Ridgewater provided me a great opportunity to further my education. The learning experience in the field of early childhood education at Ridgewater not only assists me to be a better parent, but also enhances my teaching skills in the present work place. My instructors were all fantastic, both in the quality of education and in the level of support they offer. I really value my learning journey there.”

~ Heidi Yun Sun, Early Childhood Education, transferred to Southwest Minnesota State University for Bachelor’s Degree, Litchfield

Amanda Scott, MANE Nursing, Hutchinson

“I dropped out of high school in 2006 due to family issues. I soon went to Adult Basic Education to get my GED (General Education Diploma). [Fast forward to a December 2020 graduation]. I really believe that the Ridgewater MANE program has fit me well because of the smaller class sizes and the amazing instructors. I could not have done it without them. Going through the Nursing program during the COVID pandemic was challenging, but the instructors’ positive outlooks always helped me push through struggles. We learned to be flexible and adaptable, which is going to be a benefit once I get into the field. I cannot wait!”

~ Amanda Scott, MANE Nursing, Hutchinson
INVESTING IN YOU

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 2021-22, a credit load of 16 credits per semester will be approximately $3,154 plus books and other related expenses.

**Program Differential**

**Tuition Rates Per Credit**
Some programs and courses cost more to offer and thus are charged a tuition differential rate.
- Nursing: Associate Degree: $232.25
- Nursing: Practical Nursing: $226.25
- Veterinary Technology: $218.75
  * Includes student fees

**$197.10**
Tuition and fees per credit

**Online Courses**
Minnesota Resident/Non-Resident Tuition and Fees:
$212.60 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 2021-22 for most students. Online students do not pay parking or health services fees.
**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, 2020-2021. Does not include room, board, etc.*

- **Ridgewater** $5,680
- **State Universities** $8,250-9,081
- **University of Minnesota** $12,578-15,142
- **MN Private For-Profit Trade Schools** $14,100-19,500
- **MN Private Colleges and Universities** $15,346-59,352

**Financial Aid**

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

Ridgewater College offers an extensive financial aid program for qualified students.

- 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 College Foundation generously supports incoming and enrolled students every semester.

- **$350,000+** Scholarships awarded annually
- **79%** Students receive financial aid
Schedule a Visit
ridgewater.edu/visit or 320-222-5971

Visits are available in person or virtually. We also offer group events and information sessions.

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

Apply to Ridgewater
ridgewater.edu/apply

Complete your application online. It’s easy and FREE!
Veterans/military members should receive approval from your ESO, military counselor or service prior to enrolling at Ridgewater College.

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. Need help? Reach out to our Financial Aid Office.

Explore and Apply for Scholarships
ridgewater.edu/scholarships

Don’t miss deadlines for scholarship applications: November 1 and June 1.

1:21
Average ratio for faculty-to-students
THE WARRIOR EXPERIENCE

An Excellent Investment
Providing an affordable, high-quality, student-centered education for our diverse learners is our top priority.

Atmosphere
Friendly and welcoming campuses offer opportunities to engage in and out of class. Small classes and supportive student services staff offer helpful personal attention.

Hands-on Opportunities
Learn by doing through lab experiences and real-world projects.

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

Success
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.

Transfer Credits
Associate 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.

Check out the Ridgewater Bookstore for everything Warrior!
ridgewaterbookstore.com
Ridgewater College is 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 hearing or speech disabilities may contact us via their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service. 7/2021

ACCREDITATION

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