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

Already know what you’d like to study? Let’s talk. 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).

**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](http://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](http://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](http://ridgewater.edu/art-design)  
Art  
Multimedia Design Technology  
Music  
Photography & Design  
Professional Photography  
Theater  

Automotive Trades  
[ridgewater.edu/autotrades](http://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](http://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.
See full program details at ridgewater.edu/academics

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

“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 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?

A Lifetime

Worth of college friendships and connections
GET INVOLVED

STUDENT LIFE 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

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

Our Students

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

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

29% 27.7% 39.7%
WE CHOSE RIDGEWATER

WHY CHOOSE RIDGEWATER?

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, Glencoe

“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

Ridgewater $5,600
State Universities $8,100-8,950
University of Minnesota $13,500-15,100
Private For-Profit Trade Schools $14,100-19,500
Private Colleges and Universities $14,900-57,100

Financial Aid
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
Our Ridgewater Foundation generously supports our students.

$225,000+
Scholarships awarded annually
85%
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!

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. 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

MINNESOTA STATE
Ridgewater College,
A member of Minnesota State

Data provided from 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic years as available.

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.

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

RIDGEWATER.EDU | 800-722-1151