



September/October, 2025

Welcome to the Counseling newsletter! The EHS Counseling department will post a bi-monthly newsletter on the high school website to keep you up to date on many of the important events, deadlines, and other information that will benefit you.

ELLSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING STAFF

Ellsworth High School has two full-time school counselors: Miss Wiskow and Mrs. Pauley

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[Counseling website](#)

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AND DEADLINES

September 2	Picture Day for Freshmen, Sophomores & Juniors
September 12	ACT registration deadline (October 18th test)(optional for Seniors)
September 15	Parent Meet and Greet - 4:00 to 7:00
	Senior Parent meeting at 5:00 in Choir Room
September 23	ALL Juniors will take the practice ACT test at EHS
	Service Learning Morning for Freshmen, Sophomores and Seniors
October 6	No School
October 8	National College Fair at Convention Center in Mpls, MN
October 9	PSAT exam for Juniors at E.H.S. (optional)
October 9	UWRF On The Spot Admission Event - 1:00 to 3:00pm
October 17	Sophomore Respect Retreat
October 18	ACT National Test Date (optional for Seniors)
October 30	End of Term 1
October 31	No School
November 3	First day of 2nd Term
November 4	Last day to change 2nd term classes
November 7	ACT registration deadline (December 13th test)(optional)
November 19	ASVAB test (optional)

Students: Want to talk to a counselor? Fill out a request [here](#).

The counselors can be reached during school hours @ 715-273-3904. Always call or email if you have any questions or concerns.

You can also view the Counseling newsletter on the High School website.

ATTENTION SENIORS - UW-River Falls Admission Event at EHS

On October 9th, there will be a UW-River Falls admission counselor here from 1-3:00pm helping interested Seniors apply to UWRF and interview each Senior applicant. You will know at the end of the event if you are admitted and you will NOT have to write an essay. Please sign up with Kris in the Counseling office by October 2nd for your 30 min. appointment. This would be for seniors who have not been admitted through Direct Admit.

Xello

Ellsworth High School has an online program available to students, called Xello, for students to use for post-secondary planning. Students can access the website from any computer with an Internet connection and will have access even after they graduate. Xello will help students answer the following questions:

- What occupations match my interests, skills and values?
- What education/training do I need for specific careers?
- What can I expect to earn in a specific occupation?
- Which schools have the major I am looking for?
- Seniors can request to have their transcript sent to a college
- And *much* more! Xello also has links to school websites, and many other useful tools. You can also search for colleges by degree type, major, size, athletics offered, and more.

Students can log on by being in their school email and then clicking on the Xello link on the EHS website. We encourage *all* students to use their account for planning purposes.

Build My Future Wisconsin October 1st, 2025 - This would be a great opportunity for any students interested in a trade specifically construction. Here is the link to their website with some YouTube videos showing what was done last year. <https://www.scvhba.com/build-my-future/>. Interested students can sign up with [Mrs. Steitz](#) (Tech Ed Teacher). Here is a link to the [permission slip](#) as well.

EARLY COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM (ECCP) AND START COLLEGE NOW

ECCP - open to 9-12th graders and Start College Now - open to 11th-12th graders (can't graduate early and take spring semester classes) and allows all public high school students who meet certain requirements to take post-secondary courses at Wisconsin Technical (CVTC or WITC) and 4 years colleges (UWRF). The program opens the door to greater learning opportunities for all students. The student does not pay for the post-secondary course if the school board determines the course may receive high school credit and the course is 80% different from classes currently offered at EHS.

The Ellsworth School District will pay for a maximum of 18 college credits over the span of their high school years. If the student drops the class after it starts or receives a failing grade, the family is responsible for paying for the class.

Students interested in possibly taking an Early College Credit Program (available for Freshmen - Seniors) and or Start College Now (Juniors-Seniors) course for the 2026 spring semester must have a parent/guardian sign the interest form (located in the counseling office) or through this [link](#) by October 1, 2025.

PSAT

The PSAT will be given to interested juniors on Wednesday, October 9th at the Ellsworth High School. The PSAT test will take place in the IMC. The PSAT is a pre-test that helps students prepare for and experience taking college admissions tests. By taking the exam one is also eligible for the National Merit Scholarship Program. The test measures verbal reasoning, critical reading, math problem solving, and writing skills. The test is strongly recommended for any junior considering attending a four year college. The cost is \$18.00 and will be charged directly to your student's account.

Students must [pre-register](#) with payment by Friday, September 15th. For more information about the test as well as access to Pre-Tests, please use [this link](#). No cancellations are possible after October 1st. If you apply to take the test and decide not to take it, you will still be charged for the test as they must be ordered and paid for in advance.

NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR

[MN National College Fair](#)/ Minneapolis Convention Center

Wednesday, October 8 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

EHS will be taking interested Juniors and Seniors to the National College Fair in Minneapolis on Wednesday, October 8th. Students will need to bring money for lunch or bring their own lunch. We will return for the 4th block. Interested students can sign up with [Mrs. Streitz](#) (Tech Ed Teacher) or in the counseling office. Permission [slip](#) is linked here.

WISCONSIN EDUCATION FAIR

Rethinking Wisconsin Education Fairs - we're offering virtual and in-person education fairs!! WEF will continue to be a resource for our students and schools. As in the past, we'll need your help to get our students and families pointed in WEFs direction. We're expecting nearly 100 colleges, universities, military branches, and specialty schools to participate in the college fair portion. Please click the link to register.

- Wednesday, 9/17 - YMCA Sports Center, Eau Claire, WI 9:00am to 11:00am
- Monday, 9/29 - La Crosse Expo Center, La Crosse, WI 9:00am to 11:00am

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

2025 Profile in Courage Essay Contest:

This contest provides students the opportunity to develop research, writing and critical thinking skills as they explore the concept of political courage. Students in grades 9 – 12 are eligible to apply. Seven scholarships will be awarded. Deadline is Jan. 12, 2026.

WI State Senate Scholar Program:

The Senate Scholar Program is an intensive week-long educational program offered by the Wisconsin State Senate. Admission to the program is highly competitive and is limited to 33 academically exceptional high school juniors and seniors from around Wisconsin. Each Senate Scholar receives a hands-on, up-close view of the Legislature's role in our democracy. The deadline to apply is November 15, 2024. For more information either see the counselors or go out to the following website: www.legis.wisconsin.gov/ssgt/senatescholar.

SENIOR INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025

Senior Individual Planning Conferences

Seniors and their parents are invited to participate in a Grade 12 Individual Planning Conference. This is not a traditional parent-teacher conference or an appropriate place to discuss discipline issues. It is a specially designed conference for you and your student to focus on your child's current talents and interests, their educational and career development, and information to begin planning for their future. Conferences generally last 45 minutes, and take place during various times throughout the school day. Your involvement in this conference is very important!

Topics covered will include transcript and graduation requirements, current year's schedule, career plans, information on post-secondary options, application materials for post-secondary options, assessment results, and more.

Letters with dates and times for appointments will be emailed to senior families. Please call or email as soon as possible to set up an appointment. All senior conferences will be held in person for both the parent and student but can also be done via Google Meet if needed. An invitation (including the Google Meet link if needed) will be sent via google calendar/email to both the student and parent.

College Readiness

Another factor to consider besides ACT test scores is student college readiness. College readiness is defined by a student being "college ready" if they have prepared themselves well enough in high school to be able to attend college and have a 50% chance of earning a "B" in a college course or 75% likely to earn a "C" in a college course. A significant factor in a student being "college ready" is the rigor of the high school coursework they take through their senior year. Students continuing in math through Statistics, Pre-Calculus and Calculus; in science through Anatomy & Physiology, and Physics; and in taking our Advanced Placement courses in English, Science and History tend to be much better prepared for the demands and rigor of post-secondary education. Colleges are interested in high school students being admitted into their schools, however they are most interested in keeping students in school and having them graduate. The accomplishment of graduating from college is much more demanding than simply being admitted to the school.

College Applications

Most colleges require students to apply through the on-line application. When you apply on-line, make sure you notify the counseling office with a request for a transcript or submit your transfer request in Xello under "College Applications". Students can pay the application fee by credit/debit card. We must send transcripts directly from the school to the college. Be aware of application deadlines for popular majors.

Direct Admit and WI Guarantee Programs

Direct Admit Wisconsin is an initiative by the Universities of Wisconsin to proactively offer admission to qualifying high school students in between their junior and senior years of high school. Direct admission removes the traditional application process and instead uses data provided by the high school to admit students to universities. Currently, all Universities of Wisconsin except UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, and UW-Madison are participating in direct admission.

The Wisconsin Guarantee offers guaranteed admission to all Universities of Wisconsin (UW) universities for all who qualify. First-year applicants from Wisconsin high schools who are in the top 10% of their class at the end of 11th grade, or Wisconsin residents who are homeschooled and receive an ACT score in the national 90th percentile ranking or higher, or are a National Merit Scholarship finalist will be guaranteed to all UW universities except UW-Madison.

Additionally, first-year applicants from Wisconsin high schools who are in the top 5% of their class at the end of 11th grade, or Wisconsin residents who are homeschooled and receive an ACT score in the national 98th percentile ranking or higher or are a National Merit Scholarship finalist will be guaranteed admission to UW-Madison provided that they apply on or before the Early Action deadline.

For more information comparing the UW traditional application process, Direct Admit, and WI Guarantee click [here](#).

Class of 2026 Direct Admit Form Walkthrough For Students

Join UW HELP for a walkthrough of the Direct Admit Form for students and families participating in the Direct Admit Wisconsin program. This webinar will walk through the Universities of Wisconsin Admissions Portal and how to submit Direct Admit Forms. Please share with your students!

- Tuesday, September 23 from 4:00-5:00 PM - [Register Here](#)
- Wednesday, October 8 from 3:30-4:30 PM - [Register Here](#)
- Thursday, October 23 from 4:00-5:00 PM [Register Here](#)

Chippewa Valley Technical College - Free application code: go2cvtc

Important information for Seniors and their parents!

Please note, most colleges have this philosophy regarding student schedule changes during their senior year: "final admission is contingent upon the student successfully completing courses in their senior year, and maintaining their high school class rank". This means schedule changes and grades can and will affect admission even after acceptance. If you have any questions on this topic, please contact your college admissions counselor directly (getting permission in writing from them before changing your schedule is best).

Admission Requirement Update

Most UW campuses now state that their admission process is based on a comprehensive review of the applicant's materials. Below are the UW campuses that still give specific admission guidelines.

- UW-Colleges – 2 year campuses - New freshmen likely to be admitted if ranked in the top 75% of their class.
- UW-Milwaukee – New freshmen are likely to be admitted if they rank in the top 50% of their class
- UW-Platteville – New freshmen are likely to be admitted if they rank in the top 50% of their class.
- UW-River Falls – New Freshmen are likely to be admitted if ranked in the top 50% of their class. Elementary education majors and animal science majors are much more competitive.
- UW-Stout – Typically applicants must rank in the top 50% of their class..
- UW-Superior – New freshmen are likely to be admitted if they rank in the top 50% of their class.
- UW-Whitewater – New freshmen are likely to be admitted if they rank in the top 50% of their class.

Senior Transcripts

Seniors can request to have their transcripts sent to colleges through Xello. Here is a [quick guide](#) showing how to do that.

Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation are used for some college admission and many scholarships. Students should complete the letter of recommendation form found in the counseling office and give it to staff in a timely manner. Students should allow at least two weeks for the letter to be written!

Financial Aid Information

When completing the FAFSA online application you will come across a question that asks what the name of the high school you attended is. This question is very sensitive to the name of the high school you put in – you should key in Ellsworth Senior High School. Parents have contacted us regarding this concern.

Title IV Institution code list for the FAFSA:

UW Colleges – All campuses	003897	UW-Parkside	005015
UW-Eau Claire	003917	UW-Platteville	003921
UW-Green Bay	003899	UW-River Falls	003923
UW-La Crosse	003919	UW-Stevens Point	003924
UW-Madison	003895	UW-Stout	003915
UW-Milwaukee	003896	UW-Superior	003925
UW-Oshkosh	003920	UW-Whitewater	003926
Chippewa Valley Tech.	005304	WI Indianhead	011824

Financial Aid Application "Priority" Deadlines

<u>Technical Colleges</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>
Chippewa Valley Tech	May 5 th
Wisconsin Indianhead	April 15 th

<u>UW System</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>	<u>UW System</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>
Eau Claire	March 15	Platteville	February 1
Green Bay	January 15	River Falls	February 1
LaCrosse	February 1	Stevens Point	March 15
Madison	December 1	Stout	March 15
Milwaukee	February 1	Superior	January 15
Oshkosh	January 1	Whitewater	January 1
Parkside	March 15		

College Goal Wisconsin 2025 – get free, on-site professional assistance completing the FAFSA. The FAFSA is the form you must complete to be considered for grants and loans to help pay for college. See www.collegegoalwi.org for more info.

Scholarships

We get new scholarship information on a daily basis. All scholarships are filed by the month they are due in the scholarship book located in the Counseling office. The majority of local scholarships are not available until February.

[Coca-Cola Scholars Scholarship](#)

Due: September 30, 2025

NCAA Initial Eligibility

Any senior who is even considering playing sports at a Division I or II college should see their counselor immediately to complete paperwork for the NCAA Eligibility Center. It is a process you want to begin very early. An application, transcript and \$100 fee are required. Note: Career

Communications, Intro to Theatre, and Literature and Film do not count toward the English requirement. Math for the Trades does not count towards the Math requirement.

Campus Visits and College Representatives

Representatives from colleges and the military visit EHS throughout the year. The only time they are allowed to schedule a visit is from 1:20 to 1:55 p.m., or during lunch. Please sign up in advance to visit with a representative. Seniors have two days to use as college visit days. You will need a note from home signed by a parent stating you will be attending a college visit. These days do count towards attendance. See your counselor if you have a date and college in mind to visit.

Seniors should also periodically check the Campus Visit and Open House Information binder in the Counseling Office. This binder has all the information on when different colleges are having their campus visit days and open houses. Campus visits and open house information can also be found on all UW schools websites.

September 10	UW-Madison during 1st EXCEL in Counseling office
September 11	Army during lunches in cafeteria
September 12	Army Nat'l Guard during lunches in cafeteria
September 17	UW-Stevens Point during EXCEL 2 in Counseling office
September 23	UW-Stout during 2nd EXCEL in Counseling office
September 24	Army Nat'l Guard during lunches in cafeteria
October 29	Army Nat'l Guard during lunches in cafeteria

MN State College-Southeast (Red Wing) - [Virtual Tour](#)

Seniors and the ACT

For seniors who need to retake the ACT, registration information is available in the Counseling Office.

It is suggested that you retest in October or December for college admission requirements. (if you want to improve your scores) Seniors must apply online by September 12, 2025 for the October test and November 7, 2025 for the December test. You will need to have your ACT ID number that is shown on your March 2025 test results in order to apply to retake the ACT.

There are no limitations on how often students can retake the ACT, although there are restrictions on how frequently they can test. For example, students may test only once per national or state test date, and if they test through other non-national testing such as special testing, they must wait a minimum of 60 days between retests.

Students should consider retesting if they encountered any problems during the tests such as misunderstanding directions or not feeling physically well. Students may also wish to consider retesting if they are not satisfied their scores accurately represent their abilities in the areas tested; for example, if there is a discrepancy between their ACT scores and their high school grades or if they have subsequently completed coursework in the areas covered by the ACT Assessment.

Students who decide to retake the Writing Test must also retake the multiple-choice tests of the ACT Assessment. The Writing Test cannot be taken by itself.

Writing Test Addition to the ACT Assessment

UW-Madison, U of M (Twin Cities, Duluth, Rochester and Morris) and Carleton College will require students applying to include the results of the ACT Writing Test. At this time, no other UW campus will require it.

For more information on the ACT Writing Test, go to <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/writing-test-prep>.

[html](#) For more information on the new SAT I, go to
www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/newsat/about.html.

Selective Service Registration

Reminder for male students who are or who will be turning 18 years of age. You must register within 30 days of your 18th birthday for the selective service so as not to jeopardize any problems with future financial aid or federal jobs. You will need your social security number to register. You may register over the Internet at www.sss.gov , at the local post office, or in the Counseling office.