

COLLEGE INFORMATION

On this page you will find information and resources on preparing, choosing, and paying for college. If you have any questions or would like help with college and career planning, contact your Learning Manager, School Counselor, or Dean of Students Brenda Swanson by email at bswanson@wolfcreekhs.org or by phone at 651-213-2037.

~ [College Knowledge Month is in October - Click Here for more information](#) ~

Click on the link to jump ahead to any of the following sections:

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- ★ [Choosing a College](#)
- ★ [Paying for College](#)
- ★ [Applying for College](#)
- ★ [College Timeline for Seniors](#)

Preparing for College

COLLEGE TIMELINE CHECKLISTS

[Freshman](#)

[Sophomore](#)

[Junior](#)

[Senior](#)

[Off to a Late Start](#) (and college is just around the corner)

WOLF CREEK VIRTUAL LIBRARY

INFO SESSIONS FOR COLLEGE APPS, FAFSA, SCHOLARSHIPS AND COLLEGE VISITS [CLICK HERE](#)

PSEO

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is an opportunity for eligible advanced high school students to earn college credit, by enrolling in and successfully completing courses at a postsecondary institution. Tuition, fees, and required textbooks are provided at no cost to the student. [Click here to see a list of participation postsecondary institutions.](#)

More information on PSEO including how to enroll can be found on our [Wolf Creek website](#) or on the [Minnesota Department of Education \(MDE\) website](#).

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Colleges often require multiple letters of recommendation as part of their application. When asking for a letter of recommendation it is important to remember to:

- ask someone that knows you well.
- give the writer ample notice by asking a few weeks in advance.

[Click here for this and other helpful advice on getting a great letter of recommendation.](#)

[WOLF CREEK'S LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION REQUEST FORM](#)

DOES GPA MATTER?

There are many factors that go into a college's decisions on accepting applicants. While your GPA is a factor, it is certainly not the only one. Other things colleges look at are:

- volunteer and work experiences
- extracurricular activities
- rigor of coursework
- ACT/SAT scores
- paying attention to the detail of your application
- the content of the essay portion
- if the applicants filled out optional portions of the application
- letters of recommendation
- extenuating circumstances that may have influenced poor grades

[Here is a video that illustrates how these different factors may come into play.](#)

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

ACT

The ACT is a test published and administered by the American College Testing Service. It measures a student's aptitude in English, math, reading, and scientific reasoning. The ACT also has an optional writing portion which is required by some colleges. We recommend the ACT along with the writing. It is recommended for students who plan to enroll in a four-year college to take the ACT at the end of their junior year (April or June testing dates). The ACT is an assessment that is used by the colleges in the Midwest as part of their entrance requirements. Registration materials can be picked up at campus or online at www.actstudent.org. **Wolf Creek School Code is: 241-342**

Students can access FREE, online ACT practice tests through local libraries. The practice tests and other ACT preparation material is in the Learning Express database which can be found on any public Minnesota library website. [A tutorial of how to access free, online practice ACT tests can be found here.](#)

More FREE ACT practice is available on ACT Academy: [Here is the link](#)

SAT

The SAT is a test published and administered by the College Board. It measures critical reading, math & writing abilities. We recommend that students check with their post-secondary institution to see if it is required. The test is usually used as an entrance requirement for post-secondary institutions not in the Midwest. Registration materials can be picked up in the guidance office or online at www.collegeboard.com

ACCUPLACER

The Accuplacer was developed by the College Board to provide information regarding the skill level of a student in the areas of reading, writing, English, and math. Most community and two-year colleges use this assessment as a placement tool to assist in selecting the most appropriate classes; contact the college of your choice for more information.

Choosing a College

There is a lot to consider when choosing a college. Use the tools and resources below to help you find a college that has your program of interest, is affordable, and is a good fit for you.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

As you look at different colleges, here some questions to ask to help you narrow down your choices and find the college that is best for you:

- Does the college offer my program of interest?
- Where is it located?

- What is the cost?
- Does the institution offer support to its students for finding employment?
- Is there an on-campus house option?
- What is student life like there? What clubs, organizations, and activities do they have for students to get involved in?
- How is my program of interest offered? Online? Full-time/ Part-time? Day courses? Evening courses?

MDE Has provided a WEALTH of information including many informational videos to help · **Videos for Students & Families** | [Access them here](#)

MDE has developed a number of short videos for students and families on various college topics such as: types of colleges, college match, college costs, financial aid 101, ways to pay for college, completing the FAFSA or Dream Act application, etc.

EXPLORE COLLEGES WITH MCIS

College and career planning Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS) is a great website that allows you to create a profile and save information (such as your volunteer time, hobbies, etc.) which you can then print out for college applications. The site also allows you to search for all kinds of colleges and careers. You will create your own username and password.

MCIS Account information: <http://mncis.intocareers.org>

username: wcreek

password: success

EXPLORE COLLEGES WITH COLLEGE BOARD

Link: [College Board's Big Future](#)

This is a good place to find out about colleges if you're just starting out in your search. It caters to students who might not know where to begin and guides you through the research process. There's a guide called **"College Search Step-by-Step" for students who are unsure of how to go about the search process.** It will ask specific questions about what you are looking for in a school and give you a "snapshot" of your preferences to help you decide where to apply. [Link to Step-by-Step college search](#)

COMPARING COLLEGES

College Simply offers a tool that can be used to quickly [compare the profile of up to three colleges](#). It also has an option to search for schools by ACT/SAT scores, city, state, major, or name. <https://www.collegesimply.com/> OR you can use their tool "College Match" which allows you to select your criteria and it will match those with colleges that fit. This is a good resource for those who want to do some more exploring.

SEARCH PUBLIC MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BY PROGRAM

You can use this link to search for public Minnesota colleges by program or college name.

<http://www.minnstate.edu/campusesprograms/index.html>

COLLEGE VISITS AT WOLF CREEK

Throughout the year we have a variety of colleges visit our campus. Students are encouraged to attend college presentations and visit with college representatives to help make an informed decision when choosing a college.

[Click here to learn more about upcoming college visits.](#)

Update Sept 2021- We will not have colleges coming to visit in the building, but will have live virtual sessions. Here you will find the Virtual Library of our recorded virtual sessions, or info sessions from the schools who did live sessions with us during the Fall of 2020 [Click Here](#) for the Library

- Here is another resource for virtual college tours all over the U.S. :

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/virtual-tours>

FINDING A COLLEGE THAT IS THE RIGHT FIT FOR YOU

Is college affordable? Does the college "feel right"? Do they offer activities and clubs that I am interested in? Am I interested in joining clubs or activities at all? These are some questions to think about when deciding if a college is a good fit for you.

[This a good resource when considering if a college is a good fit for you.](#)

TOUR COLLEGES OF INTEREST

Taking a tour or attending an open house at colleges of interest is a great next step in making a final decision. Most colleges have open houses and tours scheduled throughout the year. Dates and times can be found on college websites or by contacting them directly. You can find links to some popular colleges in the area in the next section.

Wolf Creek Virtual Info Session/ Virtual College Session Library: We continue to hold virtual tours and info sessions for Wolf Creek even during this time of Covid- 19. The Library will continue to be updated with the recorded virtual info sessions as we hold them throughout the year.

[Find the Video Library Here](#)

LINKS TO POPULAR COLLEGES



Pine Technical &
Community College



Applying for College

Common Application - over 750 schools nationwide are part of the common app. Fill out one application and apply to many schools at the same time without having to fill out separate applications for each school. Schools may have a supplement for their school, but the common app is a great way to apply to many schools. Explore More [Here](#)

- **Minnesota Colleges and Universities** also have an application portal to apply to multiple schools at the same time. Explore More [Here](#)

Deadlines:

Early Decision/Early Action deadlines are usually November 1 or November 15th. More info [Here](#)

Regular Admission: Usually January/February

Decision Deadlines (committing to a school): Usually March/April More info [Here](#)

Quick How-To video on starting your college application Link [HERE](#)

How to stand out in your College Application: [Link](#)

Paying for College

FINANCIAL AID

With the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#), students can apply for Federal Student Aid to help pay for college. [Federal Student Aid comes in different forms](#) including grants (that do not have to be paid back), loans (that do have to be paid back), and work-study programs to cover or reduce some of a student's tuition. We will be hosting a FAFSA virtual workshop late October, 2020.

MDE Paying for College short informational videos: [Click Here](#)

WOLF CREEK FAFSA HOW-TO VIDEO - Financial Aid/FAFSA Session:

[FAFSA video](#) (explaining the slides)

[FAFSA Slides](#)

FAFSA Process

Step One: Creating an FSA ID

The first step in completing the FAFSA is creating an FSA ID. This will give you access to the Federal Student Aid's online system and will serve as your electronic signature. **Use this link to create your FSA ID**

<https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>. A parent or guardian will also need to create an FSA ID if you are a dependent student so they can electronically sign your application as well. Not sure if you are a dependent student? [Here is a video that can help to determine your dependency status](#).

Tip: Use a personal email address when registering your FSA ID as you will need access to your email after you leave Wolf Creek.

You can use [this document](#) to save your FSA ID information.

Step Two: Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

After creating an FSA ID, students can start their FAFSA at <https://fafsa.gov/>. To complete the application, students will need:

- Your Social Security Number
- Your Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- Your federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned. (**Note:** You may be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.)

- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- An FSA ID to sign electronically.

For more details on what documents to gather before the application, visit [This Link](#)

Step Three: Student Aid Report

After completing the application, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) which is a summary of the FAFSA data you submitted. It is important to look this over and make sure all of the information is correct. It may also include an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number. This is not the amount of money your family is expected to pay. You may be responsible for less or more than this number. Colleges and career schools use this number to determine aid.

Step Four: Award Letter

Colleges and career schools that you have been accepted into are sent your information and will use it to calculate your aid. The school will then send you an Award Letter informing you of the aid you are eligible to receive. The timing of receiving this information varies from school to school. It could be the winter before you start or as late as immediately before you start school. It depends on when you apply and the school's preference for awarding aid. Contact your college or career school's financial aid office to get more information on when to expect to receive this information.

Common FAFSA Questions

[How do I create an FSA ID?](#)

[Do I need to include my parent/guardians' income?](#)

[Is there information or tips for parents?](#)

[How long will it take to get my results?](#)

[What happens after I submit my application?](#)

[How is aid calculated?](#)

[How do I accept aid?](#)

[How will I receive the aid I have accepted?](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Did you know you can get FREE MONEY to help you pay for college? Unlike student loans, this is not something you need to pay back. Who doesn't like free money?

Wolf Creek Scholarship Help Session: [Slides Here](#), [Video Session Here](#)

Places to find scholarships:

- [List of scholarship resources](#)
- Scholarship pages on college websites
- Your employer
- Your parent's/caregiver's employer
- MN Career Information System (MCIS)
- Scholarship websites:
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.cappex.com/scholarships
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.gocollege.com
 - <https://studentscholarships.org/>
 - www.scholarships.com
 - www.scholarshipexperts.com
 - www.scholarshiphunter.com
 - <https://www.bestcolleges.com/financial-aid/#scholarship-database>
 - www.collegegreenlight.com
- Local high school's scholarship pages
 - [Forest Lake High School](#)
 - [Chisago Lakes High School](#)

Tracking Scholarship Information

You can track scholarships using this [Scholarship Tracking document](#). The document is preloaded with some popular scholarships for Wolf Creek students.

Beware of Scholarship Scams!

There are companies that send out forms claiming that for a fee they will find you a number of scholarships. PLEASE do not be taken in by their promises.

Warning Signs:

- A Fee or requesting your credit card or Banking information.
- A "Money Back Guarantee"