

Elk Point-
Jefferson
High School

Student & Parent Manual



Elk Point-Jefferson
School Counseling
Department

Elk Point-Jefferson High School Student Manual

Showing Pride...Taking Action!

District Mission Statement: The mission of the Elk Point-Jefferson School is to provide a safe environment where students are empowered with knowledge and skills to successfully navigate life's transitions and challenges.

High School Vision Statement: To provide educational opportunities that challenge all students to communicate effectively and think critically in order to become productive citizens in a global society.

Greetings!

This manual contains a lot of helpful information for success in high school and beyond. It is never too early to start thinking about what you want to do after high school. This manual can help you make your goals and dreams a reality.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the information in this manual

Christine McMeekin-Hemmingstad
 Elk Point-Jefferson
 6-12 School Counselor

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ACT

To visit the official ACT Web site to register online or for other questions, please go to www.act.org. Please have your ACT scores sent to EPJ School! This will allow us to send your scores to the schools you are interested in.

Elk Pont-Jefferson School Code is 420375

Test Dates

The ACT is given in September, October, December, February, April and June. Go to www.act.org to find the actual test date and registration deadline.

ACT PREP COURSE

Elk Point-Jefferson School offers an [ACT Prep](#) course in the spring of each year. The course is for current juniors.

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ACT Prep course

Studies show that ACT preparation courses can improve student scores by 2 or more points. The EPJ preparation course will cover test-taking strategies for the four main areas of the ACT – English, Reading, Math and Science. Teachers will also present actual content lessons based on class scores. This course is for current juniors. Cost for the course is \$35. Registration will take place in February. Instructions for registration will be communicated via email and announcements in February.

Students signing up to take the prep course should register to take the real ACT in April. The deadline to register for the April test date is in March. Register for the ACT test online at www.act.org or get a paper registration form in the counseling office. The cost for the ACT is \$33 or \$48 (with writing test).

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College Applications

The following websites offer online or paper applications and information on the application process and admissions.

South Dakota Regent Schools Online Application (Black Hills, State, Northern State University, University of South Dakota, South Dakota State University, Dakota State, and School of Mines) (use this to apply to one or multiple universities)

<https://apply.sdbor.edu/login.cfm>

Minnesota State Universities & Colleges

<http://www.mnscu.edu/admissions/application.html>

Minnesota Private Colleges

<http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org/how-prepare/college-application-process/application-deadlines>

University of Minnesota (all campuses)

<http://admissions.tc.umn.edu/apply/>

State of Iowa Regent Schools (Iowa, Iowa State, Northern Iowa)

<http://www.regents.iowa.gov/PublicUniversities/publicuniversities.html>

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Articulation Agreements

What are articulation agreements?

Articulation agreements allow students to get college credit for some of the courses they take in high school. Elk Point-Jefferson School has agreements with Southeast Technical Institute (STI) in Sioux Falls and Western Iowa Technical & Community College (WITCC) in Sioux City.

EPJ / STI Articulation Agreement

EPJ Course	STI Course / credits
Algebra I, Algebra II & Geometry	MATH 115 College Math (3 credits) Highest level of math must be taken within last two years of HS.
Computer Applications	CIS 105 Introduction to Computers for Business (3) (need to pass a free exam)
PC Upgrade & Repair	CIS 151 Microcomputer Hardware (2)

EPJ / STI Articulation Agreement Criteria

- All students enrolled under the articulation agreement shall meet the admissions standards as established by the post- secondary institute for that particular program.
- To receive articulated credit, the student must have completed the high school course within the last three years.
- For a student to articulate courses after the three (3) year time limit, an assessment of skill mastery will be required.

- A minimum of "B" average (3.0) in the course(s) to be articulated is required.
- No grade will be assigned for articulated credit. These courses will not be counted in determining the student's post-secondary grade point average.
- Credits articulated will count toward the total number needed for graduation from the program.
- Tuition is not charged for articulated credits. There is a processing fee that students will be required to pay.
- Southeast Technical Institute only: Articulated courses may be honored by all South Dakota technical institutes for those course(s) that have common numbers and titles.
- All articulation agreements between secondary schools and the technical institutes reflect only the transferability of credit between these agencies and not necessarily with state universities.

EPJ / WITCC Articulation Agreement

EPJ Course	WITCC Course	STI Course / credits
Integrated Math I, II, III	MAT 772 Applied Math	
Algebra I, Algebra II & Geometry	MAT 772 Applied Math	MATH 115 College Math (3 credits) Highest level of math must be taken within last two years of HS.
Computer Applications	BCA 191 Computer Applications OR BCA Windows Operating Systems	CIS 105 Introduction to Computers for Business (3) (need to pass a free exam)
Construction	CON 155 Carpentry Level I	
PC Upgrade & Repair		CIS 151 Microcomputer Hardware (2)
Advanced Web Design		GC 114 Web Multimedia I (1)

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Board of Regents Scholar

The Board of Regents Scholar program recognizes students who successfully complete a rigorous program of study while in high school. The program includes specific courses students need to take, and specifies grade requirements. The grade requirements include: no final grade below a C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (grade of B). The Regents Scholar curriculum is as follows:

- 4 units of English** (courses with major emphasis upon grammar, composition, or literary analysis; one year of debate instruction may be included to meet this requirement).
- 3 units of social studies** (such as history, economics, sociology, geography, U.S. or South Dakota government, American problems, and similar courses).
- 4 units of algebra or higher mathematics** Algebra taken at the 8th grade, shall be accepted as one of the four years of math). NOT INCLUDED are arithmetic, business, consumer, or general mathematics or other similar courses.
- 4 units of science, including 3 units of approved laboratory science** (courses in biology, chemistry, or physics in which at least one regular laboratory period is scheduled each week). Qualifying physical science or earth science courses (with lab) shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.
- ½ unit of computer science** (students will have basic keyboarding skills and have had experience in using computer word processing, database, and spreadsheet packages and in using the Internet or other wide area networks).
- 1 unit of fine arts** (in art, theatre, or music. Such credit may be in appreciation, analysis, or performance).
- 2 units of the same modern or classical language** (includes American Sign Language).

**Being a Board of Regents scholar is one of the criteria for the Opportunity Scholarship.

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College Athletics

Students wanting to play for a Division I or II college or university must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse.

- Play close attention to the course, GPA and ACT requirements for NCAA to be sure you meet the requirements and are eligible.

Students who want to play for a NAIA college or university must register with the NAIA clearinghouse.

- The NAIA has ACT and GPA/class rank requirements.
- You have to pay a fee to register.
- You will need to have your ACT scores sent from the ACT center directly to the clearinghouse of your choice.
- Contact the High School counselor to send a transcript to the clearinghouse

If you do not register, you cannot play.

NCAA – students go to the following website to register.

http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp

[NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete](#)

NAIA – students go to the following website to register <http://www.playnaia.org/index.php>

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Career Cruising (www.sdmylife.com)

Career Cruising is an Internet-based career exploration and planning tool that students use to explore career and college options and develop a career plan. Career Cruising can be accessed from school, from home, or wherever a student has access to the Internet. Features of the program include:

Interest and Skills Assessment - a world-renowned career assessment tool, Career Matchmaker, to help people identify suitable career options based on their interests and skills

Career Profiles - thorough and up-to-date information about hundreds of different occupations, including direct links between careers and college programs

Multimedia Interviews - interviews with real people in each occupation, which add depth and realism to career profiles

College and Financial Aid Information - comprehensive college and financial aid information, with a number of useful search tools to help students find the right college and the right scholarships

My Portfolio - available online, so students can develop their education and career plans from wherever they access Career Cruising

Resume Builder - integrated with My Portfolio to help students format and print professional-looking resumes quickly and easily

Website: www.sdmylife.com

See the High School counselor for a user name and password.

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College Campus Visits

Visiting the schools you are interested in will help you make the decision as to where you want to go to school. To set up a visit contact the Admissions Department, or come to the Counseling office for assistance in setting that up.

EPJ seniors are given two absent exempt days to visit schools. In order for the day or days to be counted as absent exempt, seniors must complete the appropriate paperwork. Come to the counseling office to get the paperwork before your college visit.

You should try to do the following while on the visit:

- Take a campus tour.
- Have an interview with admissions officer.
- Get business cards and names of people you meet for future contacts.
- Pick up financial aid forms.
- Participate in a group information session at the admissions office.
- Sit in on a class of a subject that interests you.
- Talk to a professor in your chosen major or in a subject that interests you.
- Talk to coaches of sports in which you might participate.
- Talk to a student or counselor in the career center.
- Spend the night in a dorm.
- Read the student newspaper.
- Try to find other student publications—department newsletters, alternative newspapers, literary reviews.
- Scan bulletin boards to see what day-to-day student life is like.
- Eat in the cafeteria.
- Ask students why they chose the college.
- Wander around the campus by yourself.
- Read for a little while in the library and see what it's like.
- Search for your favorite book in the library.
- Ask students what they hate about the college.
- Ask students what they love about the college.
- Browse in the college bookstore.

- Walk or drive around the community surrounding the campus.
- Ask students what they do on weekends.
- Listen to the college's radio station.
- Try to see a dorm that you didn't see on the tour.

Sample questions to ask college recruiters

1. What are the admissions requirements?
2. How would you describe a strong candidate for admissions?
How important is the personal statement?
Extracurricular activities?
3. When do you recommend that I begin applying? What is your deadline?
4. What academic programs/majors does your school offer?
5. What unique support programs does your school offer (tutoring...)?
6. What off-campus opportunities are available?
Are internships opportunities available?
How about study abroad? – Can I pick any school? – Do I have to pay extra tuition?
7. What is your tuition per year?
Does that include room and board?
8. What percent students receive scholarships directly from your school?
What types of scholarships are available? Or characteristics of recipients?
What is the process for applying for them? Deadlines?
9. What is the average class size?
What is the student/faculty ratio?
10. What sports, intramurals or other activities do you offer so students can be involved?
11. What happens if my ACT scores are not very high? How high do they need to be?

Source: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/csearch/college-visits/72.html>

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College Readiness

How do you know if you are ready for college? What steps can you take to be sure you are ready for college – 2 year and 4 year programs?

These are important questions as over 30% of the college students leave after their first year, and almost 50% never graduate. While there are many reasons for this high dropout rate, one reason is that students are not academically ready.

What can you do to be sure you are ready? The ACT High School Profile for South Dakota provides some guidance.

Are you going to attend a 2-year program at a community or technical college? Community colleges and technical schools require all students to take and pass a placement exam. Students who do not pass the placement exam have to take remedial math and English courses. Read on.

College Readiness Benchmark Scores

A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college courses, which include English Composition, Algebra, Social Science and Biology. These scores were empirically derived based on the actual performance of students in college. The College Readiness Benchmark Scores are:

College Course	ACT Test	Benchmark Score
English Composition	English	18
Algebra	Math	22
Social Science	Reading	21

Biology	Science	24
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This information comes from Table 3.2 in the ACT High School Profile report for South Dakota

ACT Math Trends: More math is better

The ACT High School Profile for South Dakota shows that students who took the minimum amount of math which includes Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry scored an average of 18 on the math portion of the ACT. Someone with a score of 18 is not ready for college based on the benchmark scores. If you attend a state college in South Dakota the chances of you having to take a remedial math course in college is high if you have an ACT of 18.

Why pay for a remedial math course in college when you can take math in high school for free?

The report also showed that students who took four years of math including Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry and Pre-calculus scored an average of 22 on the math portion of the ACT. Students who take five years of math which includes calculus got an average of 25 on the math portion of the ACT.

ACT Science: Chemistry or Physics or both!

Students who took both Chemistry and Physics in addition to the required courses of Physical Science and Biology scored an average of 26 on the science portion of the ACT. Students who took Physical Science, Biology and Chemistry scored an average of 21 on the science portion of the ACT.

ACT English: A pat on the back for EPJ English requirements.

Students who took four years of English scored an average of 20 on the English portion of the ACT. This score put students above the benchmark readiness score.

ACT Reading: A pat on the back for EPJ Social Science Requirements

Students who took four years of social science scored an average of 24 on the Reading portion of the ACT.

Summary: Take a 4th year of math and science!!

While taking extra math and science courses does not guarantee a certain score, it does increase your chances of getting a better score. Consider these statistics: 15% of the students reported

taking the minimum core (Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry). 21% of these students were college ready. In comparison, 62% of the students who advanced beyond minimum core were college ready.

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Dakota Corps Scholarship

The Dakota Corps Scholarship was designed for high school students in South Dakota to provide full tuition and generally-applicable fees to selected qualified applicants.

Qualifications:

- Graduating senior must have a 2.8 GPA or higher,
- have composite ACT of 24 or higher,
- agree in writing, to stay in SD and work in a critical need occupation after graduation for as many years as the scholarship was received plus one year,
- be attending college within one year of HS graduation,
- attend a participating SD college (USD, SDSU, School of Mines, Black Hills State, Northern State, Dakota State... see website for a complete list of participating schools).

Critical Need Occupations: Teaching K-12 music, special education, or foreign language in a public, private, or parochial school; Teaching high school math or science in a public, private, or parochial school; Working as a Licensed Practical Nurse, Registered Nurse, or in other allied health care fields (see the website for a complete description of allied health care fields and the most current list of critical need occupations).

Deadline: Feb 1st.

Website: <http://www.state.sd.us/dakotacorps/default.html>

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FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Why fill out a FAFSA?

The (*Free Application for Federal Student Aid*), or FAFSA, is the first step in the financial aid process. Use it to apply for federal student financial aid, such as the Pell Grant, student loans, and college work-study. In addition, most states and schools use FAFSA information to award their financial aid. For instructions on how to complete the FAFSA, select [Completing the FAFSA](#).

When should I apply?

State and school deadlines will vary and tend to be early – like March. Check with them to find out their exact deadline dates.

We recommend that you (and your parents if you are a dependent student) complete your tax return before filling out your FAFSA. This will make completing the FAFSA easier. If you have not filed your tax return yet, you can still submit your FAFSA but you must provide correct income and tax data once you have filed.

Why all the questions?

We enter your FAFSA responses into a formula (known as the Federal Methodology), which is regulated by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. The result is your Expected Family Contribution, or EFC. The EFC is a preliminary estimate that measures your family's financial strength. It is subtracted from the Cost of Attendance at the school(s) you plan to attend to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

How do I find out what my EFC is?

We will send you a report, called a *Student Aid Report* (SAR) by e-mail or by postal mail depending on the addresses that we have on file for you. The SAR lists the information you

reported on your FAFSA. At the upper right of the front page of the SAR, you will find a number called the EFC.

How much aid do I get?

Schools use your EFC to prepare a financial aid package (grants, loans, and/or work-study) to help you meet your financial need. Financial need is the difference between your EFC and your school's cost of attendance (which can include living expenses).

TIP: If you or your family have unusual circumstances that affect your financial situation, contact your school's financial aid office. Some examples include: unusual medical expenses, or a large change in income from last year to this year.

When do I get the aid?

Your financial aid will be paid to you through your school. Typically, your school will first use the aid to pay tuition, fees, and room and board (if provided by the school). Any remaining aid is given to you for your other expenses.

Where can I get more information about student aid?

The financial aid office at the school you plan to attend is the best place to get information about federal, state, school and other sources of student financial aid.

You can also check out these resources:

- www.studentaid.ed.gov
- www.students.gov

What Is a Federal Student Aid PIN and Why Do I Need One?

Your Federal Student Aid PIN is the personal identification number you use when you visit certain U.S. Department of Education Web sites. When you type in your PIN at these sites, you are saying either "Yes, it's really me—please show me the personal information about me on this site" or "Please accept my PIN as my electronic signature on this online form."

How do I get a PIN?

Go to **www.pin.ed.gov** and provide a few pieces of information such as your name, address and Social Security number. You will be given the option of creating your own PIN or having the site create one for you. If the site creates one for you, you can choose to have your PIN mailed to you, or you can choose to receive an e-mail that will give you the link to a site where you can access your PIN. They won't send your PIN to you in the e-mail itself for security reasons. Instead, they'll ask you for some personal information to identify yourself before they show you your PIN.

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Are You Considering The Military?

MILITARY SERVICE

One option for the graduating senior is to enlist in a branch of the military. There is literature available from all branches of the military service in the counseling office. Students may also receive valuable information from visiting with military representatives. The representatives will also have current information on the GI bill.

ASVAB (OFFERED AT EPJ IN SEPTEMBER)

The ASVAB is a group of ten tests that measures one's aptitude or ability in seven separate career areas and provides an indication of one's academic and occupational aptitudes. The military services use the ASVAB scores to help determine the qualifications of young people for enlistment and to place them in occupational specialties. However, **no** military obligation is required by taking this battery of tests.

The following websites can help you with ASVAB preparation.

<http://www.military.com/ASVAB>

ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS

The Reserve Officer Training Corps of the Army, Air Force and Navy (including the Marine option) offer an excellent scholarship program to the college-bound student willing to make a commitment to several years of active duty with the military after college. The ROTC scholarship provides an opportunity to attend a civilian college or university while studying officer training as part of the total undergraduate program. The application process for an ROTC scholarship is detailed and must be followed carefully. Deadlines for receiving application materials are early in the senior year and must be adhered to strictly. The selection process is lengthy. Any interested student should see their school counselor in the spring of their junior year or very early in their senior year for the application packet and detailed information.

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Minnesota - South Dakota Reciprocity Program

The Minnesota - South Dakota Reciprocity Program allows SD residents to attend public post-secondary institutions in Minnesota (any University of Minnesota campus, state universities, technical colleges and community colleges) at rates below those charged other non-residents. South Dakota students planning to attend one of the University of Minnesota institutions next year must apply to the Board of Regents for reciprocity status. The other schools will give South Dakota students the reciprocity rate.

Here is a link to an explanation of the program and a Q&A document:

<http://www.sdbor.edu/services/policyplanning/SouthDakotaMinnesotaReciprocity.htm>

Here is the application to apply for reciprocity at a UofM campus:

<https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=1288>

Contact Information:

South Dakota Board of Regents
Reciprocity Program
Box 2201 University Station
Brookings, SD 57007-2201
605-688-4497

Questions and Answers about Tuition Reciprocity with Minnesota

1. Who is eligible for the benefits of the Minnesota – South Dakota Tuition Reciprocity Program?

Residents of South Dakota are eligible for reciprocity status to attend public colleges and universities in Minnesota. Residents of Minnesota are eligible for reciprocity status to attend the South Dakota state universities.

2. What tuition rates do South Dakota residents who are approved for reciprocity status pay when they attend college in Minnesota?

Minnesota College/University	South Dakota Resident Pays
Any University of Minnesota campus	MN resident tuition rate South Dakota residents planning to attend any University of Minnesota location (Twin Cities, Crookston, Duluth, Morris, and Rochester) must apply to the South Dakota Board of Regents for reciprocity status https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=1288
State universities	MN resident tuition rate -assign reciprocity automatically
Technical colleges	MN resident tuition rate- assigned automatically.
Community colleges	Slightly more than MN resident tuition rate – assigned automatically

3. When should I apply for reciprocity and what is the deadline for turning in reciprocity forms?

If you send your application to the Reciprocity Office **two months** before the semester begins, you are likely to be billed at the reciprocity tuition rate (assuming you are approved).

The deadline for applying is the last day of the term or semester the student is attending. For example, a student who is attending college in the fall semester or quarter has until the last day of the semester to apply for reciprocity. This is NOT recommended. Failure to apply before the term begins makes it likely that you will be billed at the much higher non-resident rate.

Reciprocity status is **not retroactive**. You may apply for reciprocity status for future or current semesters, not for past semesters.

4. If I plan to attend a Minnesota technical college, do I need to apply for reciprocity status?

If you plan to attend a technical college, you do NOT need to apply for reciprocity status using the application. You will be able to work with the technical college.

If you plan to attend a combined community/technical college, you DO need to apply for reciprocity status using the application.

5. How long does the application process take?

After the Board of Regents Reciprocity office receives an application, a letter is sent to the student within a week. Applications are sent to the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office (MHESO), which notifies the Minnesota colleges and universities that the South Dakota resident has reciprocity status and should be charged the reciprocity tuition rates. The process takes approximately six weeks. Students may wish to confirm with their college or university that information about their reciprocity status has been received.

6. Do I have to reapply every year?

Re-application is NOT necessary as long as you continue to earn credits within the academic year (fall/winter/spring).

Re-application IS necessary if you do not earn credits during a 12-month period. Call the Reciprocity Office if you are unsure or to request an application.

7. What should be done if I transfer from one Minnesota college or university to another Minnesota college or university?

Inform the South Dakota Reciprocity Office that you are transferring from one Minnesota college or university to another Minnesota college or university. The Reciprocity Office will notify the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office (MHESO).

8. Is it possible for South Dakota residents to apply for reciprocity status on-line?

No, it is not possible for South Dakota residents to apply for reciprocity status online now. South Dakota is working on establishing an on-line reciprocity application process.

9. Does South Dakota have reciprocity agreements with any other states?

The Legislature has only authorized the Board of Regents to enter into a reciprocity agreement with Minnesota (SDCL 13-55B-1). South Dakota does participate in the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Program operated by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). More information is available on the WICHE site at <http://www.wiche.edu> (student exchange).

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Natural Helpers

The Natural Helpers program is based on a simple premise: Within every school, an informal ‘helping network’ already exists. Students who need help naturally seek out other students – and also teachers or other school staff – they trust. The Natural Helpers program utilizes this existing helping network and provides training to students and adults who are already serving as informal helpers. It gives them skills to more effectively help others.

Natural Helpers include a cross-section of students and adult staff members. They are identified and selected through an anonymous school-wide survey of both students and adults. After the helpers are identified, they are invited to participate in the Natural Helpers program. They receive training in communication and decision making skills, information on major problems facing students, use of local resources, and awareness of their limits as helpers. This training assists the Natural Helpers to listen empathetically, provide information or referral if needed, and help others make their own choices. They are NOT professionally trained therapists or counselors.

The following are some things that EPJ Natural Helpers do:

- Welcome new students and give tours, etc.
- Red Ribbon Week Activities
- Act as a large support network in times of crisis
- Present on a variety of topics to elementary classes (ex: include Tobacco Prevention, Character Counts...)

Natural Helper Mission Statement

We the Natural Helpers of Elk Point-Jefferson High School will provide a safe school environment. We will do this by setting a good example, listening, solving problems, and being friendly. It is what we are all about.

Natural Helpers

Seniors

Bobby Ortiz - Bobby.Ortiz@k12.sd.us

John Schuh - John.Schuh@k12.sd.us

Maria Corio - Maria.Corio@k12.sd.us

Katherine Giorgio - Katherine.Giorgio@k12.sd.us

Juniors

Alicia Nelson- Alicia.Nelson@k12.sd.us

Payton Donnelly- Payton.Donnelly@k12.sd.us

Sophomores

Aaron Koupal – Aaron.Koupal@k12.sd.us

Emily Mickelson – Emily.Mickelson@k12.sd.us

Elena Giorgio – Elena.Giorgio@k12.sd.us

Emily Peirce – Emily.Peirce@k12.sd.us

Freshman

Elsie Aslesen - Elsie.Aslesen@k12.sd.us

Elyssa Collins – Elyssa.Collins@k12.sd.us

Taylor Trudeau – Taylor.Trudeau@k12.sd.us

Jacob.Reed – Jacob.Reed@k12.sd.us

Cecil Gylfe – Cecil.Gylfe@k12.sd.us

Payton Hall – Payton.Hall@k12.sd.us

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Residency / In-State Tuition

If you are interested in attending a college or university that is out-of-state, you should check in to how to get in-state tuition. Look on the school's website or contact an admissions representative to ask directly.

- Does the school allow you to establish residency by living in the city/town for a certain length of time (usually a year)?
- Do you have to get a driver's license and register to vote in the city/town to establish residency?
- Can you get in-state tuition if you have a certain ACT or GPA?
- Are there scholarships available for out-of-state students that lower the cost of tuition to in-state tuition?

Check out the Minnesota - South Dakota Reciprocity Program and the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) for deals on out-of-state colleges.

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Senior Year Month by Month Calendar

MAY

- Don't just get any summer job; get one that is related to the career you are interested in. This will help you decide if the career choice is right for you!
- Register for some summer camps! This is a great way to explore a career that interests you, and visit a college campus. It also looks good on college applications!
- Register with the [NCAA Clearinghouse](#) if you plan to play sports at the college level. Check out the [NCAA document](#) to find out how to register.

JUNE /JULY

- Plan a couple of *college visits*. The best way to figure out what school is right for you is to visit the school. Scheduling a visit is easy...just call the Admissions Office at the college you want to visit. They will take it from there! Check out the [Questions to Ask at College Visits](#) and use the [College Comparison Worksheet](#) to help you keep track of important information on each school.
- If you do not have a lot of volunteer experience, focus on getting some this summer. Scholarship applications almost always ask about what you have done.
- Interested in attending an out-of-state school, but afraid you can't afford it? Learn about [Minnesota Reciprocity](#) and the [Western Undergraduate Exchange](#) – two options that make out-of-state schools affordable!!

AUGUST

- Check your class schedule. Are you taking math and science your senior year? Check out the [College Readiness](#) document to read about why it is important to take as much math and science as you can.

- Check your class schedule...are you taking the courses you need to be able to play sports at the college level? Check out the [NCAA](#) document to find out what courses you need to have.
- Register with the [NCAA Clearinghouse](#) if you plan to play sports at the college level. Check out the NCAA document to find out how to register.
- Not sure what you want to do...look into [Cooperative Education](#) programs. These programs integrated on-the-job learning with classroom learning.

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SEPTEMBER

- Check the *Regional/National Scholarships* on the Guidance Department website. Check the website once a week to see what scholarships have been added.
- If you have not held any leadership positions while in high school, now is the time to step up and assume leadership of one of those organizations.
- Begin to finalize list of colleges with your family and guidance counselor.
- Visit any colleges you have not already seen. You get two college visit days. Talk to your school counselor about how to request those days.
- Ask your school counselor if they will invite a specific college or university to come to Elk Point Jefferson school
- Register for *one last shot at the ACT* if you haven't taken one yet -- or if you aren't happy with earlier scores.
- Request (or download from college's Website) any applications that you do not have. Be sure to review each college's application requirements carefully.

OCTOBER

- Finalize list of college choices to reasonable number, ideally with one or more "stretch" schools and one "safety" school.
- Create a file for each of your college choices -- and keep all materials organized.
- Consider creating a master schedule of all your application deadlines.
- Start working on college applications.
- If you have a clear "first choice" college, consider applying for early decision.
- Have standardized testing service send your scores to your list of colleges. You can also have your school counselor send your ACT scores to your list of colleges.

NOVEMBER

- Complete college applications and put packets in the mail.

- Be sure your school counselor knows your final list of colleges, as well as your preferences.
- Request key financial aid and scholarship information from your list of colleges.

DECEMBER

- If you applied for early decision to a college, expect notification this month.
- If not completed, finish and mail remainder of college applications.
- Start detailed financial aid search, including outside sources for scholarships and loans.

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JANUARY

- If applying for financial aid, get started on preparations by obtaining a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Check out the [Financial Aid](#) section for some helpful documents.
- Register for a PIN so you can complete the FAFSA online. Instructions on how to apply for a PIN are included in the Financial Aid section.

FEBRUARY

- Begin applying for the local scholarships! Visit the Guidance Department website for the current list.
- Complete the FAFSA, if possible. (You'll need your family's/guardian's tax records.)
- Keep track of your college applications; be sure all schools have received all your materials.

MARCH

- College decision letters begin arriving.
- Celebrate your acceptances, decide about your wait lists, and deal positively with your rejections.
- Finalize financial aid applications.
- Continue searching and applying for scholarships and grants.

APRIL

- Make decision about college choice from among the colleges that accepted you.

- Notify all colleges (that accepted you) of your final decision.
- Continue searching and applying for scholarships and grants.

MAY

- Graduation! Congratulations!!
- Send thank you notes (if you haven't already) for the local scholarships you received.

JUNE / JULY

- Watch college's summer deadlines (orientations, housing options, registration, etc.) closely.
- Attend orientation / register for fall courses at your college.

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Scholarships - General Information

Scholarships awarded by colleges/universities technical schools usually come under one of the following categories: academic, departmental, performance / athletic, leadership / service, and minority. Privately funded scholarships are also available. A file of private scholarship applications is available in the counseling office and is updated as material is received. Two of the better FREE Internet scholarship sites are www.fastweb.com and www.zinch.com .

6 Tips for Learning about college Scholarships

Retrieved from www.collegeboard.org

1. Start with a personal inventory, ask yourself:
 - Do I want to participate in a competition? If so, what are my talents and interests?
 - What subject do I plan to major in?
 - What career do I plan to pursue?
 - Do I want to apply for all types of aid or only scholarships?
2. Research local scholarships first
 - Stop by the counseling office, counselors will have information regarding scholarships .
 - The public library may have books on financial aid/scholarships, such as the *Scholarship Handbook*.
3. Check membership organizations and employers
 - Explore categories you have not have considered, i.e. religious, community service, fraternal, military, union and professional.
 - Many companies offer scholarships or tuition programs for children of employees, so don't forget to ask your parents.
4. Use a free scholarship search service

- A scholarship search company collects information on awards and compares your student characteristics with scholarship restrictions. Based on your answers to a questionnaire, you receive a list of possible scholarships.
 - Free scholarship search services: Scholarship Search, Fastweb, and Sallie Mae.
5. Contact your State Department of Higher Education
 - Almost every state has a scholarship program for residents, however the awards are usually limited to students who attend college in-state.
 6. Research institutional scholarships
 - Research what kinds of scholarships are available at the colleges that interest you
 - Are scholarships awarded automatically if a student matches certain criteria? i.e. GPA, ACT or SAT scores.
 - What is the application procedure? What materials are required?
 - Is the award renewable? What are the requirements to maintain the award?

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South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship

The South Dakota Legislature authorized the Regents Scholarship Program in 2003 to allow South Dakota's most academically accomplished high school graduates to receive an affordable education at any university, college, or technical school in South Dakota that is accredited by the North Central Association (NCA).

Go to <http://www.sdbor.edu/SDOpportunityScholarship.htm> for the application, FAQ's, and the continuing eligibility requirements.

Initial Eligibility Requirements: *Students Entering High School After July 2010*

1. Have an **ACT composite score of 24** or higher before beginning postsecondary education.
2. Complete high school course requirements commonly known as the Board of Regents Scholar curriculum **with no final grade below a C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (grade of B) prior to graduation**
3. Enter into program within 5 years of high school graduation or within 1 year of the student's release from active duty military service (if that release is within 5 years of the date of the student's high school graduation).

Curriculum: *Students Entering High School After July 2010*

- **4 units of English** (courses with major emphasis upon grammar, composition, or literary analysis; one year of debate instruction may be included to meet this requirement).
- **3 units of Social Studies** (such as history, economics, sociology, geography, U.S. or South Dakota government, American problems, and similar courses).
- **4 units of Algebra or Higher Mathematics** (algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or other advanced mathematics, as well as accelerated or honors mathematics [algebra] at the 8th grade, shall be accepted).
- **4 units of Science**, including 3 units of approved laboratory science (courses in biology, chemistry, or physics in which at least one regular laboratory period is scheduled each week).
- **½ unit of Computer Science**
- **1 unit of Fine Arts** (in art, theatre, or music. Such credit may be in appreciation, analysis, or performance).

- *1/2 unit Health*
- *1/2 Unit Physical Education*
- *1/2 Unit Personal Finance or Economics*
- *2 units of either of the following or a combination of the two:*
 - *Approved Career & Technical Education Courses*
 - *Modern or Classical Language (Sign Language does apply)*

Effective for those students entering into postsecondary education for the first time on or after August 2013, the curriculum requirements and grade requirements specified above are not required for any student who has received a composite score on the ACT of at least 28 and meets the ACT college readiness benchmarks scores equaling or exceeding 18 for English, 21 for Reading, 22 for Math, and 24 for Science.

Participating Schools – Augustana College, Black Hills State, Colorado Technical University, Dakota State, Dakota Wesleyan, Killian Community College, Lake Area Tech, Mount Marty, Mitchell Tech, National American University, Northern State, Presentation College, School of Mines, SDSU, Southeast Tech, USD, USF, Western Dakota Tech

Due Dates

Complete application packages are due to institutional representatives (financial aid office of the school you are attending) by no later than September 1st for those seeking initial enrollment during the Fall term, and no later than January 15th for those seeking initial enrollment during the Spring term. However, it is recommended that the initial scholarship application and transcript be submitted by June 1st when establishing eligibility for the Fall term and November 1st for the Spring term so that the financial aid office can begin to work with eligible students to package a scholarship award in a more timely manner.

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How to Request a High School Transcript

A transcript is an official document from our school that will provide a detailed list of your courses and grades you have received in high school. A transcript also includes grade point average, and class rank. All post-secondary institutions, including technical schools and community colleges, require a transcript.

1. Please request a transcript by listing the following information on the form on the Counseling office bulletin board: your name, the name and address of the college or university. In addition, you can request that your ACT scores be sent as well.
2. We include a copy of your senior class schedule along with your transcript.
3. All schools need a final transcript that includes all four years and has your final GPA. Talk to the counselor to have a final transcript sent.

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Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

WHAT IS WUE?

WUE is the Western Undergraduate Exchange, a program of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). Through WUE, students in western states may enroll in many two-year and four-year college programs at a reduced tuition level: 150 percent of the institution's regular resident tuition. WUE tuition is considerably less than nonresident tuition.

WICHE states include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Virtually all undergraduate fields are available to WUE students at the participating colleges and universities. Some institutions have opened their entire curriculum on a space-available or first-come, first-serve basis; others offer only designated programs.

To learn of the wide array of programs available, go to <http://wiche.edu/wue> and click *Programs and Institutions* under *Students & Parents* (on the right), and then click on *WUE Database*.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for WUE, students must be a resident of a WICHE State. Some colleges and universities also have additional criteria such as ACT/SAT test scores or high school GPA. Consult the WUE Bulletin for details.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

If interested, apply for admission and WUE tuition status directly to the institution(s) of your choice. **There is no general WUE application. Mark prominently on the institution's application form that you seek admission as a WUE student. For online applications, contact the school for specific information on WUE inquiries.**

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