

MEDFORD AREA SENIOR HIGH



Senior Handbook for the Class of 2026

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FORWARD

This is your big year of decision. The way you handle yourself this year will influence your style of life for the next forty or fifty years. Don't let yourself be detoured; plan your strategy. Take charge of your future. You're the one who's responsible for the rest of your life.

The counseling department wants to give you all the help possible, but in order for us to do that, you have to tell us what you need. Our purpose here is to help you as much as we can.

If you are going on to school, your admission test and application(s) should be completed timely. Most schools prefer you to apply online. A copy of both the UW and Wisconsin Technical College applications are included in this booklet to help you prepare for the information required to apply. If you are not going on to school, there still may be forms to take care of, information you need, or recommendations to fill out.

The primary responsibility is still **YOURS!** Use this booklet and follow the senior google classroom ([Class of 2026](#)). The MASH Student Services website will help direct you to schools, financial aid, scholarships and other helpful sites. Use your University of Wisconsin System Admissions booklet, Independent College and University booklet or your Wisconsin Technical College booklet as needed. They each have very helpful information about their respective programs. Please keep these publications and use them. They will be helpful in making and carrying out decisions.

Have a good year,

Mr. Lybert & Mrs. Jochimsen-McCarron
School Counselors

NONDISCRIMINATION

The Medford Area Public School District does not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap in its education programs or activities. Federal law prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or handicap.

I. Graduation Requirements

Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2026

In order to graduate from Medford Area Senior High, a student must have accumulated 23-3/4 credits including the following.

1. Four (4) credits in English, including English 9 or Honors English 9, English 10 or Honors English 10, English Language, Honors English Language or AP English Language, and English Literature, Honors English Literature or AP English Literature.
2. Three (3) credits in Social Studies, including Human Geography, AP Human Geography, US government or AP US Government, and US History or AP US History.
3. Three (3) credits of Science, including one credit of Physical Science, Biology, and Chemistry.
4. Three (3) credits of Mathematics.
5. One and one-half (1.5) credits of Physical Education including .5 credit of freshmen P.E.

Additional classes may be taken for elective credit.

6. One-half (.5) credit of Health.
7. One-half (.5) credit of Financial Literacy
8. One-quarter (.25) credit of Life Management.
9. One-half (.5) credit of Vocational Education.
10. One-half (.5) credit of Fine Arts.
11. Students will complete 20 hours of community service.
12. Required civics exam.

Classes meeting the Vocational Education requirements are:

- a. All Agriculture Department classes.
- b. All Business Department classes, except Financial Literacy.
- c. All Family and Consumer Sciences classes.
- d. All Technology Education classes.
- e. All Pre-Engineering classes.

Classes meeting the Fine Arts requirements are:

- a. All Art Department classes.
- b. All Music Department classes.
- c. Drama from the English Department.

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO SEE THAT
HE OR SHE HAS COMPLETED ALL OF THE ABOVE
REQUIREMENTS BY GRADUATION!**

II. Deadlines and Dates for the Class of 2026

American College Testing Program Tests (ACT)

****All dates are subject to change****

Test Date	Regular Registration Deadline Late Fee Applies After This Date	Late Registration Deadline	Photo Upload and Standby Deadline
September 6, 2025	August 1	August 19	August 29
October 18, 2025	September 12	September 30	October 10
December 13, 2025	November 7	November 24	December 5
February 14, 2026	January 9	January 23	February 6
April 11, 2026	March 6	March 24	April 3
June 13, 2026	May 8	May 29	June 5
July 11, 2026*	June 5	June 24	July 3

Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT)

SAT Test Date*	Registration Deadline	Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration**
Aug. 23, 2025	Aug. 8, 2025 Register	Aug. 12, 2025
Sept. 13, 2025	Aug. 29, 2025 Register	Sept. 2, 2025
Oct. 4, 2025	Sept. 19, 2025 Register	Sept. 23, 2025
Nov. 8, 2025	Oct. 24, 2025 Register	Oct. 28, 2025
Dec. 6, 2025	Nov. 21, 2025 Register	Nov. 25, 2025
March 14, 2026	Feb. 27, 2026 Register	March 3, 2026
May 2, 2026	Apr. 17, 2026 Register	April 21, 2026
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026 Register	May 26, 2026

Other Dates and Deadlines for the Class of 2026

WI Education Fair

September 17, 2025 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. @ UW Eau Claire
September 18, 2025 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. @ UW Stevens Point in Wausau

Register at: [WEF Student and College Registration \(swoogo.com\)](https://swoogo.com)

FAFSA Completion Event

October 21, 2025 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. @ CVTC, Eau Claire
October 22, 2025 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. @ UW-Stevens Point, Marshfield
November 3, 2025 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. @ NTC, Wausau

Need assistance with FAFSA? College Goal is a statewide program designed to assist students and families with completion of FAFSA. To see a full list of available in-person and virtual sessions please follow this link: <https://collegegoalwi.org/>

III. OPTIONS: Reviewing Post High School Possibilities

Many jobs require you to have some kind of training. You can obtain training before you are hired by attending high school, career school, technical college or university. For some jobs you can get on-the-job training from your employer by attending classes or by becoming an apprentice. You can obtain training for some jobs by going into the military service. For most jobs, employers prefer to hire the person with the most education and experience.

Many types of career training programs are available. Some of these programs are described on the following pages. Some of the advantages and disadvantages of each program, along with sources for more information, are also listed.

OPTION: GOING TO SCHOOL

Selecting a School

Select a school that is right for YOU. Choose a school where you will fit in scholastically and socially...one that will allow you to prepare for the future you want and at the same time pursue other interests.

- ♥ Check out the web sites. Go to the MASH website, then [Student Services](#) and check out the many sites to help you with further decisions.
- ♥ University of Wisconsin Colleges: www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu
Wisconsin Private Colleges: www.wisconsinsprivatecolleges.org
- ♥ Wisconsin Technical Colleges: www.wistechcolleges.org
Universities in Minnesota: www.umn.edu
Minnesota State Colleges and Technical Colleges: www.minnstate.edu
- ♥ If you are considering college, be sure to talk to your counselor early in the year (September) and go over the tasks you will need to do in order to get into the college of your choice.

Facts to consider about four-year colleges and universities.

- ♥ Colleges give you a chance to explore other interests in addition to career-related ones.
- ♥ College may be more expensive than some other forms of training, although you may be eligible for more financial aid.
- ♥ A college program may take longer than other kinds of training. (Four or more years for a Bachelor's degree, 1-3 years more for a Master's degree, 2-6 years more for a Doctorate degree.
- ♥ Having a college degree may increase a person's chances for employment, even if it's not required to do the job.

Decide what is most important to you.

- Academic program/your major is available
- Type of school/4-year, vocational, 2-year
- Admission policy
- Cost
- Financial aid availability
- Location
- Enrollment of school/size of city where located
- The school's reputation in your major field
- Public vs. Private
- Accreditation by specific organizations
- Campus activities
- Support service (math or writing labs)
- Type of community (rural vs urban/suburban)
- Minority ratio
- Programs for students with disabilities
- Athletic programs

University of Wisconsin Admissions Criteria

Freshman applicants must satisfy the following minimum requirements to be considered for admission to the UW system:

I Graduation from a recognized high school or equivalent evidence.

II Required high school courses.

A minimum of seventeen high school credits is required. Thirteen of the 17 units will be the DPI requirements:

English	4 credits
Social Science	3 credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Natural Science	3 credits
The remaining 4 units will be:	
From the above areas or foreign language***	4 credits
TOTAL	17 credits

Each institution may specify additional unit requirements for the remaining 4 units and may specify required content for all 17 units.

***Check individual colleges for foreign language requirements.

III GPA

IV ACT or SAT test scores. *May be optional to report.

Considering college?

If so, plan a campus visit. After you have narrowed the field, plan a visit to one or more of the schools in which you are interested.

- ♥ Plan your visit in advance. Most visits are scheduled online, some by telephone.
- ♥ Visit the school when it is in session or when they have organized visitation days.
- ♥ Avoid just dropping in. There may not be anyone there to answer questions. A ride through a campus tells you very little about the school.
- ♥ Include your parents, if possible, on the visit. Their impressions are important but be sure to spend a little time alone to form your own impressions.
- ♥ Things to look for. Use the comparison sheet included in this booklet to help you make your decision.

Considering a private or proprietary school (Globe, Rasmussen, UTI, etc.)

- ♥ If the school uses salesmen, beware of high pressure. No one can guarantee you a job after school. Beware if they insist on an immediate decision. If they demand you sign the contract now, be sure to get someone else to look it over first.
- ♥ Do not sign any contract until you have read it carefully. Be sure the costs and methods of payment are clear. Look for provisions for cancellations and refund policy of the school. Do not be in a hurry to sign the agreement. Make your investigation of the program before you sign. After you sign may be too late.

College and University Admissions

Number of Applications

In many cases it is necessary to submit only one application for admission. If you clearly meet the entrance requirements of a given college, such as the University of Wisconsin-Stout, and you are sure you want to go there, it is unnecessary to place applications with other colleges. Students applying, however, to colleges with selective and competitive entrance policies, may wish to file applications to two colleges and in some cases, three or four. It is, of course, advisable to submit one of these applications to a college to which you are clearly admissible. If you apply to and are accepted by several colleges, courtesy is important; notify the other college(s) of your decision when you have made your final choice as to which college you plan to attend.

Transcripts

After you have filled out your application for a university or technical college, obtain a copy of the "Transcript Release" form from Student Services. Fill in the form with your full name and date of birth. If you are 18 years old or over, you may sign the form. If you are not 18, you must have one of your parents sign the form. Bring the signed form to Student Services and we will send your transcript(s) in for you. If you apply online, check to see if you can submit a transcript electronically. The applications from the Universities of Wisconsin allow this option. If you submitted a referral electronically on the common app, please see your counselor in person.

The following is a checklist of things to do on a college visit.

- ☐ Meet with an admission counselor.
- ☐ Verify admission requirements. Do they require ACT scores?
- ☐ Discuss your chances for success in certain programs.
- ☐ Find out how to apply.
- ☐ Request a view book and other publications.
- ☐ Determine college costs. ([net price of Wisconsin Colleges by Income](#))
- ☐ Ask about financial aid opportunities including scholarships, as well as deadlines and forms required.
- ☐ Meet with faculty in the department of your intended major.
- ☐ Ask questions about academic requirements/offerings.
- ☐ Attend a class to get an idea of typical size, teaching style, and academic atmosphere.
- ☐ Ask about the placement record for graduates in the field you might study.
- ☐ Identify career planning services for undergraduates.
- ☐ Tour the campus and check out the residence halls, dining options, and library resources.
- ☐ Talk to students about the general academic environment and amount and kind of studying necessary for success.
- ☐ Find out what student activities (clubs, organizations, intramurals, etc.) are available and about campus life and social activities.
- ☐ Investigate transportation options.

College Comparison Worksheet

COLLEGE NAME			
SIZE/LOCATION -distance from home -enrollment -physical size of campus			
ENVIRONMENT -type of school (2 or 4 year) -school setting (urban, rural) -location and size of nearest city -co-ed, male, female -religious affiliation			
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS -deadline -tests required, including Writing Test -average test scores, GPA -notification			
ACADEMICS -your major offered -special requirements -accreditation -student/faculty ratio -typical class size			
COLLEGE EXPENSES -tuition, room and board -required forms -percent receiving aid -scholarships			
FINANCIAL AID -deadline -required forms -percent receiving aid -scholarships			
HOUSING -residence hall requirement -food plan			
FACILITIES -academic -recreational -other			
ACTIVITIES -clubs, organizations -Greek life -athletics, intramurals -other			
CAMPUS VISITS -when -special opportunities			

TECHNICAL COLLEGES

All Wisconsin Technical Colleges offer two-year programs leading to an associate degree. Also offered are one- and two-year technical diplomas and short-term programs. Some technical colleges also have liberal arts transfer programs.

Some of the “hottest” jobs require a technical degree. These careers require specialized knowledge, abilities, and technical skills. The largest and fastest growing part of our workforce requires education beyond high school, but not a four-year degree. If a student wants a four-year degree, there are many transfer agreements that have been signed by the UW system and WTCS to increase transfers between the two systems.

Technical colleges will accept ACT test scores. However, if your scores are not high enough to meet their admission standards, they have their own alternate assessment for admission or possibly a secondary admission criteria.

Requirements:

Requirements vary from program to program as well as school to school. A student must research their program individually to make sure they have taken the appropriate classes.

Sources of information:

1. Check out the web sites:
Wisconsin Technical Colleges: www.wistechcolleges.org
Minnesota State Colleges and Technical Colleges: www.minnstate.edu
2. A copy of the Wisconsin Technical College System which lists all of the programs offered in the Wisconsin technical school.
3. Catalogs from most of the technical schools in Wisconsin are available in Student Services.
4. Check with your counselor if you are considering a technical program that fills up early. He/she should know and will inform you of this. Don't wait until it is too late.

SHORT-TERM TRAINING

Some training programs last less than a year. They usually prepare you for some specific occupation. They may be offered at a high school, local college, vocational school, business college, or proprietary school. Short periods of training are offered for such occupations as cosmetologist, massage therapy, truck driver, or motorcycle mechanic.

Facts to consider about short-term training:

- ♥ Many kinds of institutions offer short-term training programs. One may be close to home.
- ♥ The classes are usually very practical. They are just the ones you need to work at one kind of job.
- ♥ New classes may start up often. You may not have to wait until fall to enroll.
- ♥ You will be on the job sooner than people who choose longer types of training.
- ♥ Jobs which require short-term training may not pay as much as jobs with longer training requirements.
- ♥ Be careful in selecting these schools. Some may claim to offer training

and services which they cannot actually provide.

FINANCIAL AIDS

How is Financial Aid Determined and Administered?

All government related aid is based on financial need. The student's need is determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is filled out by the parents and students at: www.studentaid.gov. The Federal Student Aid Program analyzes the information and sends it to the colleges where the student wants to be considered for financial aid. Northcentral Technical College will be offering two financial aid nights at the NTC Campus.

Below is a helpful list of items that were needed in the past to complete your FAFSA:

- Prior Year's Federal Tax Return & W2s
- Prior Year's Untaxed Income Records, such as child support or veteran's non-education benefits
- Information on savings, Investments, Business assets and farm assets (if applicable)
- Driver's License (if you have one)
- Social Security Number
- Alien Registration Card or Permanent Resident Card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- Date of birth for parents
- Month and year of parents' marriage, divorce, or separation
- FSA ID (if you have one). To create an FSA ID, please visit studentaid.gov. Every student and at least one parent, if the student is considered a dependent student, needs one.

It is highly recommended that the dependent student attend the event with a parent so the FAFSA can be submitted that day.

The college, based on the information from FAFSA, determines the amount of financial aid a student will receive. The amount of a grant is based upon the difference between what the student and his/her parents can contribute and the cost of attending the particular college to which the student is applying.

Because of the need to help more students and because of the requirements of federal programs, an increasing number of colleges and technical schools now "package" aid--offering a combination of grants, campus jobs, and loans. How much of the package is granted depends on each college's or technical school's available funds, the number of students it is trying to help, and its own financial aid policies.

If you have questions about applying for financial aid, Student Services will give you any help you need.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available from multiple sources and have specific criteria which must be met to be eligible to apply. The student may have to write an essay, provide letters of reference, enter a certain career, etc... **It is the student's responsibility to see that he/she turns in applications for these scholarships on time or mails them directly, if needed.**

Sources of Scholarships:

Universities/Colleges/Technical Colleges

Schools offer their own scholarships for students who are accepted and apply. Typically, their due dates are earlier than most scholarships and handled directly through the school. Students will need to research how their school handles applications and timelines.

Local/Community

Businesses and organizations in Medford and surrounding areas offer scholarships. Some choose to offer their application through the student services office. Others publicize their applications through their newsletters, websites, or employees and select their own recipients. Students should check the Student Services website regularly because the listings change weekly in the spring. The **"General Scholarship Application"** form covers specific local scholarships. **This form will be distributed around February 1st and is due back to Student Services on or before March 19th.**

State/National

These scholarships can come from any business, organization, or government entity. They can become available at any time of the year when students compete at a state and/or national level.

OPTION: MILITARY TRAINING

The armed forces (Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Marines, and Air Force) offer a wide range of occupations. Many military occupations are closely related to civilian jobs. In many cases, you can choose your military training and occupation before signing enlistment papers. Examples of occupations for which you may be trained are secretary, baker, carpenter, medical technician, and airplane mechanic.

The ASVAB is the entrance exam used by the military and is a multiple-aptitude battery that tests a student's knowledge in eight areas including: general science, mathematics, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, electronics information, auto and shop information, and mechanical comprehension. Results are presented on an ASVAB Summary Results sheet, a report that describes standard and percentile scores on individual ASVAB test, Career Exploration Score composites, and military entrance score.

Facts to consider about joining the military:

- ♥ You must commit yourself for a period of time, usually two to four years.
- ♥ You receive room, board, a moderate salary, travel privileges and other benefits in addition to your training.
- ♥ Military life is very regimented.
- ♥ You may have to go into combat during a military crisis.
- ♥ You may receive training for a job which is not available in civilian life.
- ♥ You may receive better training than is available elsewhere, such as flight training.

Other sources of information:

- ♥ Talk to the various recruiters when they visit the high school. Military recruiters schedule visits regularly at MASH. You need to ask for a pass from Student Services if you wish to talk with a recruiter.
- ♥ If you're interested in college, ROTC may be an option for you. A short description of ROTC programs is included later in this section.

Selective Service

Federal law requires a young man to register within one month of his 18th birthday. **The easiest and quickest way to register is on-line at: www.sss.gov** Financial aid will be affected if this goes undone.

U.S. Military Service Academies

A student interested in competing for an appointment with one of the service academies (U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, or U.S. Air Force Academy) should write to his/her congressman and senators early in the spring of his/her junior year. Please check the medical requirements in advance, however, to be sure that you can qualify physically. Students who apply should be fairly certain that they want a career in the military service.

ROTC

ROTC is a military leadership instruction course offered at some colleges and universities. The program is designed to prepare men and women to be officers in the active services and in their reserve components. The ROTC programs are usually 2, 3, or 4 years in length. The scholarships connected with the program usually pay for college tuition, textbooks, lab fees, and other academic expenses. These scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis. Students interested will have to take the first ACT or SAT during the spring of their junior year.

In return for the scholarship, a student must agree to spend at least four years on active duty for the branch of the services from which he or she received the scholarship. You will find more information on ROTC and where it is offered in Student Services. Check with your counselor early.

OPTION: APPRENTICESHIPS

What is Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeship is a structured system of training designed to prepare individuals for skilled occupations. It combines on-the-job training under the supervision of experienced journey workers with related classroom instruction. Apprentices who successfully complete the prescribed number of hours of training in an apprenticeship program become certified skilled workers. A written agreement between the apprentice and the apprenticeship program is registered with the Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards, Department of Workforce Development, www.dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship.

Benefits for the Apprentice

Apprenticeship offers several unique benefits: You "earn while you learn" - you can make a living wage with health insurance, retirement and other benefits while learning skills in a trade. As your skill level increases by learning the trade both in the classroom and on the job site, your wages also increase progressively. After completion of an apprenticeship program, your journey-level status is recognized nationally.

Apprenticeship is a rewarding but demanding choice that requires determination, commitment and a good attitude to succeed, but for those who meet the challenges of apprenticeship, the rewards are substantial. A journey worker typically receives an excellent wage and benefit package anywhere in the United States. He or she is a highly trained and skilled worker whose qualifications are recognized and respected throughout the industry. Apprenticeship is one of the best ways to acquire work experience and training to establish yourself in a career in the skilled trades.

Licensing laws and special legislation require people learning some trades to serve an apprenticeship, i.e., barbering, cosmetology, plumbing, watchmaking, sprinkler fitting and embalming. Under special Industrial Commission orders, the following are declared "Trade Industry" which requires learning the trade by apprenticeship: carpentry, painting and decorating, trowel trades, tile laying, stone mason, and plastering.

General Regulations Pertinent to Apprenticeships

You must be 18 years of age or older.

- ♥ Must be a high school graduate or have an HSED.
- ♥ Must be physically fit and have aptitude for the trade or industry.
- ♥ Acceptance is regulated by ratio of apprentices to journeymen; usually one apprentice to the first journeyman, and additional apprentice for three additional journeymen. Ratio will vary in different trades.
- ♥ The employer must be qualified and capable of providing complete training.
- ♥ Provide official transcripts for high school and past high school education showing courses completed and grades received.

To learn more about Apprenticeships in Wisconsin go to this link: [Department of Workforce Development](#)