



College Planning Series

Fact Sheet for Schools and College Access Programs

Free college and financial aid events are available to Minnesota students and families via Zoom starting January 20! This six-part Tuesday evening series walks participants through earning college credit in high school, applying for scholarships and financial aid, understanding FAFSA and aid offers, navigating transfer credit, and preparing for the transition to college—resources you can share with families as they plan for what comes next. Please let students in your community know about this opportunity. To access tools and materials to promote these events in your school or program, access our [Ready Set FAFSA Promotional Toolkit](#).

What are the dates, topics and suggested audience?

All sessions are at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights and will last approximately 45-60 minutes. Participants can ask questions in the chat. Participants can attend any number of sessions. Suggested audience is 12th grade students and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

- **January 20:** Earn College Credit in High School
- **February 3:** Scholarships 101
- **February 10:** FAFSA 101
- **February 17:** Understand Your Financial Aid Offer
- **February 24:** Understanding Transfer Credit
- **April 21:** Key Conversations Before College Begins

How can students and families participate?

All sessions will be on Zoom, but space is limited. Students and families can register at the following link: bit.ly/CollegePlanningSeries. Session materials and recordings will be posted on the same page after each event.

Who are the presenters?

- Mainhia Yang, Director at EMC The College Place-Southern Minnesota
- Mandy Schram, Director at ECMC The College Place-Northern Minnesota
- Libby Fahrenkamp, Outreach and Communications Coordinator at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education
- Beth Barsness, Dual Enrollment Program Specialist at the Minnesota Department of Education
- Jennifer Skluzacek, State Financial Aid Program Associate at the Minnesota Office of Higher Education



Will this information be offered in other languages?

Yes! All sessions will have simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, Somali, Hmong. We plan to record the presentations as well.

Is there a scholarship for students?

Students who attend any of the sessions or watch a session recording will be eligible to win a \$1,000 scholarship (one entry per session attended) awarded by ECMC The College Place Minnesota.

What tools are available to help promote these events?

The [Ready Set FAFSA Promotional Toolkit](#) includes information about virtual financial aid events for school/program newsletters, email messages and social media posts to engage students and families. It includes:

- **Short blurbs for family communications** to include in newsletters, emails, texts.
- **A social media guide** with images and corresponding captions to share on Instagram, Facebook and/or Twitter accounts.
- **Digital display promo images** to use on school TV monitors and other on-campus screens.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

- Beth Barsness, mde.postsecondary@state.mn.us | Minnesota Department of Education
- Mainhia Yang, myang@ecmc.org | ECMC The College Place Minnesota