Parent and Family Connections Newsletter

Fall 2026



HAMLINE UNIVERSITY

Welcome to Fall 2026

Hello Hamline Parents and Families,

Fall on our campus is an amazing time. New students were welcomed by New Student Mentors, Resident Assistants, faculty, staff and returning students and they were invited to become an integral part of the campus. Returning students rekindle friendships, and all of the students have settled into their classes and schedules as well as become active in the 71 campus organizations including 6 campus recreation clubs, 22 varsity sports teams, theater, music ensembles, internships and friendships.

We know that transitions are never easy, and if you are a parent, I'm sure you have heard the challenges as well as excitement and success for both returning and new students. To assist with this, Student Affairs staff hosted events to share the resources of the campus. I want to remind you as parents about some of the resources available:

- All students have access to our counseling and health services. They are in the middle of hosting three flu and COVID vaccine clinics in October where faculty, staff, students, and Hamline community members received their vaccines.
- The Dean of Students office in West Hall is also a location for students to stop by with any questions or concerns to receive support and resources to assist in resolving conflicts.
- Student Activities is the home of the student organizations and the calendar for student events

Please know that the Dean of Students staff is here to support both you and your student. We hope you find helpful information in our newsletter to support you and your student.

Sincerely,
Patti Kersten



Patti Kersten

VP of Student Affairs
Dean of Students
Title IX Coordinator

I am the Vice President of Student Affairs, Dean of Students, and the Title IX Coordinator for the university. I oversee most of the out-of-classroom experiences while being a resource for any assistance and support for all students. I oversee 13 departments to maintain campus support for our students. In my role as Title IX Coordinator, I administer all aspects of Title IX implementation, including providing accommodations and support, and assisting university members through the complaint process and university procedures regarding sexual harassment and misconduct.



Carlos Sneed
Associate VP of Student Affairs
Associate Dean of Students



Maxwell Deyo
Senior Administrative Assistant

FLU AND COVID

VACCINE CLINICS

Anderson Center 112 **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**



Vaccine availability may depend on your insurance coverage at Walgreens. Bring your Insurance Card and ID to your appointment.

Thursday, October 8

Tuesday, October 13

Wednesday, October 21

To Register, visit:
https://www.hamline.edu/news/2026/09/flu-and-covid-19-vaccine-clinics-campus

Voting at Hamline University

It is ELECTION SEASON, and we launched our **Fall 2026 Hamline Votes Campaign**. We work to engage all members of our community to vote, reminding students it's crucial that we exercise our right to vote and make our voices heard by participating in elections. Whether it's local, state, or national, each election presents an opportunity for us to shape the future of our society.

We have been reminding students, If they haven't already registered to vote, or if they have moved, now is the perfect time to do so! By registering, they are taking an active step towards participating in the democratic process and advocating for issues that matter to them.

Here are options for student voting:

- Students whose residence is in another state and want to register to vote there, can click to learn more about your home state's absentee ballot process;
- Students who chose to vote in the Ramsey County Elections and live off campus within 10 miles of campus, were encouraged to change their mailing address in WorkDay so they can vote with their student ID; and,
- On campus residents are already on voting lists for Ramsey County.

We have another round of tabling the week of October 5th for students to get their questions answered about voter registration. Also for the first time, we have an early voting location at Hamline on Wed., October 7 from 10am - 2pm, where anyone living in Ramsey county can vote

To learn more about voting and your resources, visit the Hamline Votes website!

PUBLIC SAFETY
HAMLINE UNIVERSITY

Stay safe and connected with the LiveSafe app

Download the free LiveSafe app as a family member to use enhanced safety features and stay connected to Hamline Public Safety. With the app, you can:

- Receive Hamline University Alerts for any emergency notifications
- Report tips and concerns to Public Safety instantly (and anonymously)
- Call 911 or Public Safety at the touch of a button
- Alert Public Safety to your location without speaking or typing
- Get a virtual safe walk from a family member or friend
- And more!

Click Here for the Download Link for your Mobile Device

HAMLINE UNIVERSITY
PUBLIC SAFETY

SECURITY@HAMLINE.EDU
651-523-2100

SORIN 101
24/7 - 365 DAYS/YEAR

Who Are Our New Hamline Students?

New First Year Student Data

500 First Year Students	**25** States Represented	**51%** Students of Color
41% First Generation	**33%** Recruited Athletes	**5** Military Affiliation

Geographic Breakdown

81% Minnesota Residents **66%** 7-county Metro Region

(Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington)

3.45 Average GPA	**24%** Admitted to Early Honors	**258** High Schools Represented

Transfer Student Data

96 Transfer Students	**7** States Represented	**47%** Students of Color
42% First Generation	**27%** Recruited Athletes	**22** Average Age

Geographic Breakdown

81% Minnesota Residents **66%** 7-county Metro Region

(Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington)

Financial Aid Updates

Effective July 2026

Instant FSA ID Creation

Applicants can now create a same-day FSA ID through real-time Social Security Administration verification to use to complete a FAFSA.

Embedded Fraud Detection Screening

Requires some students to verify identity on camera while completing the FAFSA.

Graduate PLUS Loans

Eliminated for new borrowers, with a 3-year grandfather period for currently enrolled students.

Borrowing Caps

Overall federal lifetime maximum is capped at $257,500 per student.

Schedule of Reduction

Annual limits are reduced proportionally for less-than-full-time students.

Workforce Pell

Pell Grant coverage expands to include short-term job training programs lasting 8 to 14 weeks.

Eligibility Tightening for PELL

- Rules explicitly exclude “Pellionaires” – high-asset families with artificially low Student Aid Index scores.
- Students receiving full-ride scholarships that meet or exceed 100% of the total Cost of Attendance are no longer eligible for Pell grants.

Streamlined Invites

The process for adding contributors, such as parents or spouses, has been simplified to require only an email address.

Parent PLUS Loans

Capped at $20,000 / year and $65,000 lifetime per child.

Graduate Stafford Limits

Set at $20,500/year ($100k lifetime) for non-professional and $50,000/year ($200k lifetime) for professional programs.

Repayment Framework

Introduces the Repayment Assistance Plan (RAP). Phases out SAVE, PAYE, and ICR plans completely by July 2028.

Asset Exemptions

Net worth of small businesses (<100 employees), family farms, and commercial fishing businesses are excluded.

See how this may impact you on the next page.

Hamline Impact of Changes

Increase in Identity Verification

More students needing additional paperwork prior to receiving financial aid.

Schedule of Reductions

Students enrolled less than full time (12 cr) may have reduced access to federal student loan dollars.

MN State Grant Shortfall

Significant MN State Grant shortfall during the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Reduction in dollars and overall fewer students eligible for state grants.

Dates to Know

11/16/2026 - 11/19/2026	**Registration is Open for Spring Semester (date dependent on student status)**
11/26/2026 - 11/27/2026	**Thanksgiving Break - University Closed** Dining Services will be closed from 11/26/2026 - 11/29/2026
12/15/2026	**Fall Semester Classes End**
12/17/2026 - 12/22/2026	**Final Exams** University Residential Halls close on 12/22/2026 at 5:00 p.m. More information is sent to students in November
1/20/2027	**Spring Semester Classes Begin** University Residential Halls re-open on 1/17/2026 at 8:00 a.m. More information is sent to students in November
3/09/2026 - 3/13/2026	**Midterm Break - No Classes**



MN Financial Aid Survey for Students & Families

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) wants to hear your thoughts on state financial aid for college. Your feedback will guide recommendations to the Minnesota state legislature for how to make Minnesota's state financial aid system better.

https://www.research.net/r/OHE26_SF

CASA & CDC

The Center for Academic Success and Achievement

The Career Development Center

Empowering Student Journeys: Holistic Advising in Action

College is more than a path to a degree; it is a launchpad for a lifetime of purpose. To ensure our students do not just graduate, but thrive beyond Hamline, our teams in the Career Development Center and Center for Academic Success and Achievement have rolled out a holistic advising model designed to align academic pursuits with meaningful career outcomes.

Central to this effort is **The Purposeful Student Journey** which is an approach that integrates academic rigor with early professional preparation. Rather than viewing career planning as a final-year checklist, this framework helps students discover the direct relevance of their coursework while building key competencies every step of the way across four distinct phases:

Explore Purpose (Self-Discovery & Foundational Mapping)

Starting in their First-Year Seminars, students identify their unique strengths, values, and interests. Through "low-stakes" exploration like alumni informational interviews, they begin mapping out their personal mission well before settling on a final path.

Build Purpose (Skill Acquisition & Network Integration)

Students work alongside faculty and career advisors to translate their liberal arts curriculum into marketable career competencies. By engaging in student leadership, lab research, and job shadowing, building a professional network becomes a natural part of daily campus life.

Experience Purpose (High-Impact Applied Learning)

Through credit-bearing internships, community service-learning, campus employment, and creative research, students test their skills in real-world settings while receiving structured, formative feedback.

Launch Purpose (Narrative Clarity & Professional Transition)

In their final phase, students refine their personal branding, polish their interview storytelling, and articulate their unique Piper story allowing them to step confidently into their first professional destination and be prepared to navigate a lifelong career lifecycle.

By connecting classroom learning to real-world impact, this holistic approach ensures every student understands the why behind their education while developing the confidence and skills needed to achieve their goals.

“Dear Parents,”

A Student Spotlight with Magenta Owens

Who are you?



My name is **Magenta Owens**, I am a Criminology Major with a Political Analysis minor at Hamline University and am expecting to graduate with the class of 2028. My hometown is Maple Grove, Minnesota. I’m involved in many groups and activities at Hamline including being a Lead Mentor in both New Student Programs (NSP) and Piper Academic Community (PAC). I am in Track and Field as a shot-putter, discus, and hammer thrower, and I participate in the Residence Hall Association (RHA), Rock Climbing Club, Hamline Unidos, First Gen Scholars, and TRiO.

What were some of the biggest differences between high school and college?

No one can hold your hand, and the only way you get better and grow is if you take a leap of faith and do things because you want to and not because you’re told to do them. You have to learn to structure your own time and life by using a planner or Google Calendar. Communication goes a long way in college more than in high school. When you communicate in college, people talk, and it gets you recognized and helps teachers get to know you personally to find your path in terms of being a tutor, teacher's aide, researcher, recipient for rewards and grants, and much more.

What were some key challenges you faced (and overcame) as a new student?

Acclimating to a new life on campus was hard since I had just moved to Minneapolis in the same year and gotten a pet, which I didn’t want to be away from. I overcame this by talking to my parents from time to time and realizing the only way out of this feeling of change and movement/ adjustment was to get out of my door and go to events. Being on the track team also helped me with this, as I would hear my teammates talking about what events they were going to or wished they could go to, and I would just go to those events with my roommate and the two friends I made off the team at the time.

Another challenge I had was making friends. It was scary, but I forced myself to get over it by being really extroverted and asking people if they wanted to go to events or when I was doing something like a 30 Days of Fall/Halloween movies, I invited anyone to join which was the most extroverted thing I did, but it led to me having some really close friends. I know that this doesn't work for everyone, but the best option is to put yourself out there by going to events no matter how different they are from your own taste because it introduces you to new people and maybe skills you wouldn't have gotten any other way.

What are some resources you used to help you in your transition into the Hamline community?

The Piper Academic Community (PAC), Hamline University Programming Board (HUPB), the Center for Academic Success and Achievement (CASA), my roommate and my parents.

What are some things that parents and family members might do to offer support to their students?

I have a mother who is in her 60s, and I'm her youngest child. I understand how that transition is for her, with me being the last child to finally grow up and start to carve my own path. The best thing my mom did for me was tell me she was here for me and that if anything happened, she would come help me without judgement or anger.

As a parent, the best thing you can do is trust in your parenting skills and believe that any advice or stories you told your child about growing up or schooling were heard, and they'll take that with them and use it for good. Trust that they'll make the right decision, and if they make mistakes or make bad decisions, you'll educate them and help them do better. Be a safe space they can come to when things start getting bad. For some parents, you lose out on so much time once they go off to college, especially when they live on campus, but as long as you check in with them from time to time and offer them help, everything will hopefully work out for them. Let them fail and figure it out with the guidance of all the parenting you gave them up until this point. If you have helped your child get this far, you have already had faith in them to do good and want to achieve good things.

Call or text your child daily or weekly, or whatever works best in your family; check in with them about life in college and classes, but be supportive and recommend them to look into who can help them on campus, like CASA, TRIO, PAC, and other programs.

Give your child grace, they are in new environments, wanting to do and try new things, as long as you tell them to be safe and check in with you, let them safely experience life.

Lastly, don't hesitate to share the family streaming, music, and DoorDash accounts with your students to save them from splurging!

Family and Friends Weekend

November 6 and 7, 2026



Family and Friends Weekend is a time of exploration and fun as you reconnect with your student and meet the Hamline community! The schedule for the weekend includes academic panels, a concert by Hamline music ensembles, a wine and appetizer reception, and other family-friendly entertainment. Please use the registration link below to indicate how many people will be in your party, including any Hamline students who plan to attend with you. We look forward to seeing you at Hamline soon!

Family Weekend Dessert Reception 6:00 p.m. Friday, November 6 Anderson Center Forum	TBD
Family Game Night 7:30 p.m. Friday, November 6 112 Anderson Center	Campus Quest: Family Scavenger Hunt 2:15 p.m. Saturday, November 7 Begins in Anderson Center Forum
TBD	TBD
TBD	Family & Friends Evening Reception 5:30 p.m. Saturday, November 7 Klas Center Lobby

Register for Family and Friends Weekend

TRiO

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



TRiO Student Support Services is a home for first-generation students, students from low-income households, and students with disabilities on the Hamline campus.

HOLISTIC ADVISING

A one-stop-shop for academic advising, career counseling, and help with financial aid and scholarships.

COMMUNITY

Peers to learn from and lean on as you navigate college.

OPPORTUNITY

Priority registration, study hours, career networking, grad school visits, laptop lending library, and TRiO grants.

ANNUAL COMMITMENT

Enrolled students commit to participating in key activities. This allows for meaningful relationship and the best level of support.

First-Year Commitment

- 3 individual check-ins with your TRiO advisor
- 5 cohort advising check-ins
- 2 workshops (1 per term)
- 2 social events (1 per term)
- 1 orientation / retreat

Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Commitment

- 4 individual check-ins with your TRiO Advisor
- 2 workshops (1 per term)
- 2 social events (1 per term)



Katherine Jumbe

Director of TRiO
Student Support Services