

PARENT'S GUIDE TO Northland College

ASHLAND WISCONSIN · LAKE SUPERIOR

“ I WAS SO INSPIRED BY
THE ENVIRONMENTAL
AND PLACE-BASED
FOCUS OF THE
WHOLE CURRICULUM
AT NORTHLAND.
I DIDN'T KNOW IT AT
THE TIME BUT THAT'S
REALLY WHAT MADE
ME A GEOGRAPHER.
—CARL SACK, CLASS OF 2006

DISCOVER

Our values »

Our approach »

Campus culture »

Graduate success »

Next steps »

NORTHLAND
COLLEGE



WHO WE ARE

A GREEN COLLEGE

Northland College integrates liberal arts studies with an environmental emphasis, enabling our students to address the global challenges of our time. There's a reason why Northland ranks top in the nation for sustainability curriculum—it infuses everything we do. We are committed to educating environmental leaders and preparing students for an environmentally friendly life.

As an institution, we have divested from fossil fuels, invested in renewable energy, and we routinely evaluate opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint. We have a longstanding commitment to sustainable food systems and work with regional producers to serve high-quality, local foods in our dining hall.



THE RIGHT FIT

Surrounded by millions of acres of woods and water, our location on the south shore of Lake Superior is integral to the classroom, internships, and recreation. If your student is interested in environmentalism, the outdoors, or a personalized academic experience, Northland might be a great fit.



4

YEAR

**dedicated to the
environment**

LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

600 STUDENTS

Which means that class sizes are small and faculty are deeply involved in student development—taking students to professional conferences and on field trips as well as mentoring student research and internships. Northland students regularly have their research published in peer-reviewed journals.

"WE'RE NOT MASS PRODUCING DEGREES HERE."

Tom Fitz, Professor of Geology



TOP MAJORS

- ◆ Natural Resources
- ◆ Biology
- ◆ Business
- ◆ Outdoor Education
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Chemistry
- ◆ Sustainable Community Development

INTO THE FOLD

From the first moments on campus, Northland begins cultivating a strong sense of community. We have an amazing outdoor orientation program that is student-led with faculty oversight. Your student can choose from a variety of overnight camping adventures like canoeing, climbing, cycling, and hiking. Or they can opt to explore the outdoors on day-trips that return to campus in the evening. We know from our alumni that it is an experience that shapes them and stands out throughout their lifetimes.



The first day of our outdoor orientation trip, everyone was awkwardly standing around, not making eye contact with anyone. Katie and I looked at each other across the group, nodded, and that was that! We were canoe buddies quickly turned friends.”

Michaela Jurewicz
Chemistry Major

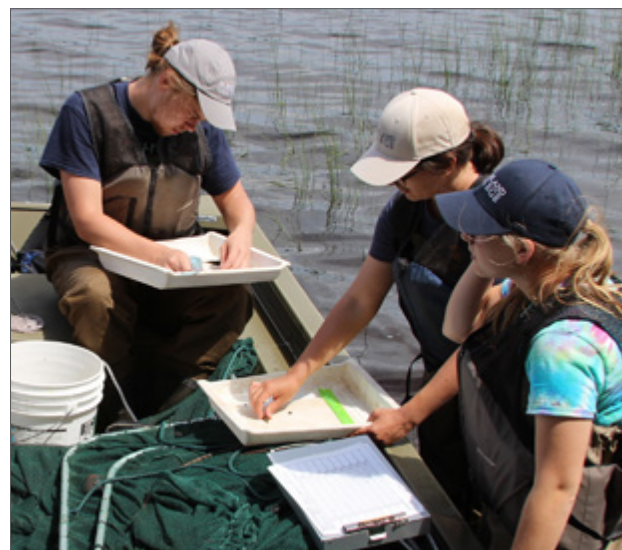


HOW WE TEACH



MILLION ACRE CLASSROOM

Campus is located on the edge of Ashland, Wisconsin, next to the largest freshwater lake in the world and is surrounded by national forest. We refer to this as our million acre classroom and we're not joking. Students go on night wolf howls; track wildlife; learn to identify plants, trees, and birds on the trail; perform water monitoring in the Lake Superior watershed; and conduct research in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.



OUR FACULTY

Northland faculty are more than just teachers. They are mentors who often establish lasting relationships with their students. Sustainability is woven into all faculty research programs and every major includes coursework related to sustainability—from either a human or environmental perspective. Your student will have a minimum of five courses with environmental or sustainability themes as part of their liberal education core.

RANKED

#1

4-YEAR BACHELOR DEGREE

**sustainability
curriculum**

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

This doesn't just mean labs at Northland. We take an energized, comprehensive approach to connecting students with their field of study. We make it easy to go beyond the textbook and classroom by providing ample opportunities for travel, internships, jobs, and original research.

Warmer spring weather means many professors use Northland's unique May term as a chance to travel and share valuable boots-on-the-ground and in-depth experience.

12:1
PROPORTION

12 students for every 1 faculty

PERSONAL ATTENTION



I came to Northland to study water science, but what has always drawn me to this field was how people and water connect. I don't think I could have landed in a better place to explore this."

Emma Holtan

Water Science Major & Research Assistant

COOL CLASSES

» **Sociology of Community**

Confront the importance of place, connections, and social justice within the face of global climate change.

» **Environmental Marketing**

Go beyond the click-bait "green" marketing strategies and challenge environmental business practices.

» **Pens and Paddles**

Combine literature with wilderness—including two weeks in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

» **Wildlife Ecology**

Get into the field to track, identify, and understand the behaviors of wildlife from squirrels to bobcats.

» **Great Lakes Water Wars**

Dive into the history of political maneuvering and proposed Great Lakes water diversion schemes.

» **Sustainable Food Production**

Meet with producers to study agriculture within an environmentally-conscious business context.



OUR PROGRAMS

- ◆ Art
- ◆ Biology
- ◆ Business Administration
- ◆ Business Management
- ◆ Chemistry
- ◆ Climate Change Studies*
- ◆ Climate Science
- ◆ Directed Studies
- ◆ Ecological Restoration
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Engineering
- ◆ English
- ◆ Environmental Education*
- ◆ Environmental Humanities*
- ◆ Environmental Studies*
- ◆ Fisheries & Wildlife Ecology
- ◆ Forestry
- ◆ Gender & Women's Studies
- ◆ Geographic Information Systems*
- ◆ Geology
- ◆ Graphic Design
- ◆ History
- ◆ Humanities
- ◆ Humanity & Nature Studies
- ◆ Mathematical Sciences
- ◆ Music*
- ◆ Native American Studies
- ◆ Natural Resources
- ◆ Outdoor Education
- ◆ Philosophy*
- ◆ Physics*
- ◆ Pre-Health Care*
- ◆ Pre-Law*
- ◆ Pre-Ministry*
- ◆ Pre-Veterinary Medicine*
- ◆ Psychology
- ◆ Religious Studies
- ◆ Sociology & Social Justice
- ◆ Spanish*
- ◆ Sports Management*
- ◆ Studio Art
- ◆ Sustainable Community Development
- ◆ Sustainable Business
- ◆ Sustainable Agriculture*
- ◆ Water Science
- ◆ Writing

* Available only as a minor or special program.



The Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation has a four-year paid track for student researchers doing everything from water-quality monitoring to lab analysis to data collection and original research on inland lakes and Lake Superior.

THE CENTERS

Northland continues to innovate, expand, and adapt as the world grows more complex. To better understand and address environmental and legislative challenges affecting freshwater quality, agriculture, rural economics, and access to natural spaces, we have established four centers of excellence.

- ◆ Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation
- ◆ Center for Rural Communities
- ◆ Hulings Rice Food Center
- ◆ Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute



HOW WE LIVE

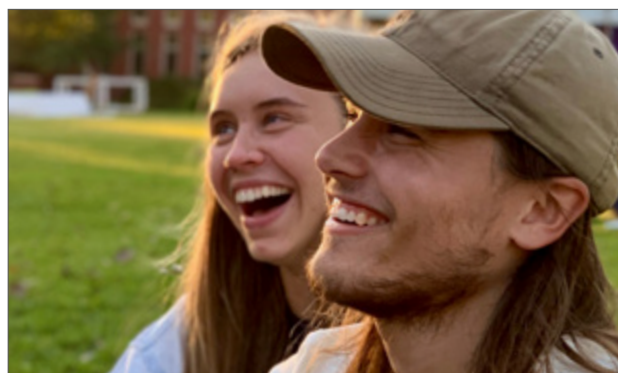


ALL ARE WELCOME

Every September, we kick things off with a party on our campus mall. Our newest community members march across the Fenenga Bridge led by a ceremonial drummer. The Everybody Party is one of the purest examples of the hospitality and kinship that exists so naturally here, that draws people to the area, and often inspires them to stay.

Ashland is a small, safe community of just over 8,000 people and is an easy walk from campus. Students often hang out at the Black Cat Coffeehouse, the Bay Theater, or the food co-op and farmer's market.

Campus is alive with students working in the gardens, playing pickup games of Frisbee, doing tune-ups at the bike shop, and tending to the campus thrift store.



It was warm and I was barefoot and so alive. I closed my eyes and connected with the beat and felt comfortable in my own skin for maybe the first time ever.”

First-time Everybody Party memory

ISN'T THIS WHAT
WE ALL WANT FOR
OUR STUDENTS?
TO HAVE THEM **FIND
THEMSELVES, FIND
THEIR PEOPLE, AND
CONNECT WITH A
COMMUNITY?**

LEADERSHIP

The Northland College Student Association is the only student government in the state of Wisconsin that drafts its own budget and manages its own finances. NCSA coordinates concerts, lectures, and activities across campus—and is dedicated to supporting student needs.

Northland students manage their student newspaper (*Drifts*), a literary journal (*Mosaic*), and a yearbook (*Wedge*). Your student can get involved as an editor, writer, or designer.

We combine leadership with recreation as well. There are frequent student-led excursions, including canoeing, mountain biking, cross-county and downhill skiing, climbing, and camping. Our area is overflowing with safe and accessible trails that make it easy to get out for some quiet reflection time.



Northland's size also makes an ideal environment for students to earn their degree while playing a sport they love at a competitive level.

- ♦ Volleyball
- ♦ Soccer
- ♦ Softball
- ♦ Basketball
- ♦ Hockey
- ♦ Golf
- ♦ Lacrosse
- ♦ Baseball
- ♦ Cross-country



People often ask me how athletics fits within an environmental liberal arts college. My short answer is it should be every institution's mission—environmental or not—to create opportunities for students to achieve their dreams of playing collegiate athletics and improve physical health and wellness.”

Seamus Gregory, Athletic Director & Men's Hockey Coach



WHERE WE LAND

MAKING CHANGE

» **Sports Management**

Luis Victoria, class of 2017, is the coordinator of cultural and educational programs with the Oakland A's.

» **Water City Program Coordinator**

Joe Fitzgerald, class of 2016, works for the city of Milwaukee, addressing water quality, infrastructure, and ecological restoration.

» **Veterinarian and Entrepreneur**

Margaret Koosmann, class of 2010, is a veterinarian and the owner of her own clinic, employing four other veterinarians, including her sister, Fay, class of 2015.

» **Climate Justice Advocate**

Gabriela Boscio Santos, class of 2009, coordinates Boston's most vulnerable citizens in creating and implementing a plan for climate change.

» **Sustainable Wine Specialist**

Aaron Schreiber-Stainthorp, class of 2005, helps wineries implement water conservation and zero waste programs and improve energy efficiency.

» **NASA Senior Scientist**

Shannon Franks, class of 2001, studies and improves metrics for monitoring forest disturbance.

» **International Sustainable Architectural Designer**

Ben Shepherd, class of 2000, was the recipient of Top 20 Under 40 rising star awards, given to those making a positive impact on design and construction.

**WHAT CAN
YOU DO WITH A
NORTHLAND
DEGREE?**

**ANYTHING
YOU WANT.**

» **Map Maker**

Carl Sack, class of 2006, is a cartographer because he wants to make the world better. He creates maps that empower marginalized communities to fight environmental and social injustice.

» **Big Cat Conservationist**

Tina Ramme, class of 1990, is the director of the Center for Lion Conservation and Research in Kenya and is the president of the Lion Conservation Fund.

northland.edu/meet-our-alumni

THE NEXT STEP

COST

- » **Tuition:** \$38,376
Substantially lower with scholarships and grants.
- » **Room:** \$4,470
Part of what makes our community so tight is due to our students living on campus their first three years.
- » **Board:** \$5,218
- » **Student fees:** \$1,518
- » **Financial aid:** most students are eligible for at least \$18,500 in institutional scholarships. US citizens and permanent residents should file the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) every year.

APPLYING

- » **Application period:** opens late summer of senior year. Decisions are typically made within two weeks.
- » **Test scores:** ACT & SAT scores are not required for the 2021 academic year.
- » **Application essay:** not required.
- » **Average GPA:** 3.2 to 3.5 cumulative, unweighted
- » **FAFSA filing:** opens October 1 at fafsa.ed.gov (use Northland's school code: 003875)



VISIT

The best way to see if Northland is a good fit for your student is to visit us, either in-person or virtually. Get a tour of campus, engage with students, and meet with an admissions counselor to answer your questions and discuss financial aid. Students who visit in-person and qualify for a renewable \$1,000 visit grant!

» northland.edu/visit-us

99
PERCENT

**of students get
financial aid**
AFFORDABILITY MATTERS

northland.edu