

NORTHLAND COLLEGE

Provisional Plan Update February 2025

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Introduction & Circumstances

In February of 2025, the Board of Trustees, conducted a thorough and comprehensive review of previous fiscal year performance, current assets, and projections for future performance. On the basis of this review, the Board of Trustees concluded the College did not have sufficient resources to continue current programs and operations.



The updated provisional plan that follows was prepared at the request of the Higher Learning Commission. It is focused on meeting the needs of students who may be affected by a full closure of the College's academic programs.

1) Currently Enrolled Students

As of January 22, 2025 (the winter-semester census date), Northland College had a total head count of 257 students. Some students exited before the announcement of closure and thus our current student count is 245.

Of these students, 0 entered as first-time freshmen in January, 8 entered as transfer students in January, 3 returned to the College in January, 235 were continuing students from the fall semester, and 10 were non-degree-seeking students.

Northland anticipates that 80 of its current students will graduate in May or August. Of Northland's remaining student body, 16 are seniors (with 90 or more earned credits), 47 are juniors (with 60-89 earned credits), 42 are sophomores (with 26-59 earned credits), and 72 are freshman (with 0-26 earned credits).

A list of 246 currently enrolled students that summarizes their declared program of study, credits earned to date, and anticipated graduation dates is included in Appendix A.

2) Academic Programs and Potential Teach-Out Partners

Northland College currently offers 8 distinct academic majors, some of which also have sub-emphases as well as a Directed Studies (interdisciplinary) major. Some of Northland's majors are standard liberal arts majors, while others reflect Northland's distinctive environmental liberal arts mission.

Because Northland is a very small environmental liberal arts college in a rural community, Teach-out partners from the March 2024 plan were selected because of their geographical location, their size, or the alignment of their academic programs with those offered at Northland. The College also gave particular consideration to the needs of students who would be rising seniors or juniors for the following academic year.

For the Provisional Plan update, the College reached out to the Teach-out partners in the original plan to see if they would be willing to continue as partners. The response has been one of overwhelming support. For those schools who had end dates based on last year's agreements, they have offered to update the dates for the current year's plan. We are including those that have been finalized and will submit the others as they come in. Some Teach-out partners did not have end dates and have confirmed that they are willing to continue their Teach-Out agreement and thus we will include the original agreement in this update.



3) Communications Plan

Northland College is working on an updated plan for communicating with its students.

February 19 Feb. 24 - 28	Board Chair and President announce closure; posting of Drop-in informational sessions. Registrar and Financial Aid Offices available daily for consultation by appointment. 1-on-1 faculty and staff advising consultations with all students. Updated FAQs posted on student intranet site
March 1-9 March 11-14	Spring Break Drop-in information sessions. 1-on-1 faculty and staff advising consultations with all students and continues through the end of the winter semester.
March 13	Teach-out and transfer fair
March 17	Transfer application assistance session.
March 18	Financial Aid assistance session.
April 9	<i>Honors day—no classes from 12-5 p.m.</i>
April 18	<i>Spring holiday—no classes.</i>
April 18	<i>Last day of winter term classes.</i>
April 19-27	<i>Inter-session break.</i>
April 28	<i>May-term classes begin.</i>
May 23	<i>Last day of May-term classes.</i>
May 24	<i>Class of 2025 Commencement.</i>

Specific to this question, Northland College students will be informed, through email and web communications, that they may be eligible for discharge of their federal student loans. For more information about loan discharge eligibility, and on how to apply for a discharge, they will be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid [website dedicated to Closed School Discharges](#).



4) Record Retention Plan

Northland College has authorized the National Student Clearinghouse to provide online ordering of transcripts for its students. Northland will continue to do so through the cessation of its operations.

Per [Wisconsin Statute 440.52 \(11\)](#), the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU), of which Northland College is a member, is statutorily designated as the custodian of the academic transcripts for private, nonprofit institutions of higher education that have closed.

Northland College will collaborate with WAICU to securely transfer all of its student academic transcripts to WAICU's data repository. Consultation with a WAICU representative has confirmed the process for making these transfers, and a past-employee of Cardinal Stritch University (a Wisconsin private college that recently closed) has provided practical advice for how to prepare for and execute such a transfer of records.

A repository for student records other than transcripts has not yet been identified, but active exploration of options is underway and institutions that might serve in this role are being identified.

Northland College is informing students and alumni about WAICU's role as the custodian of their transcripts, the process for ordering transcripts after Northland ceases operations, and, once confirmed, the custodian of other student records.

5 & 6) Credits, Tuition, and Fees Negotiated with Teach-Out Partners

On its intranet site, Northland College will update posted information that explains how teach-out agreements work and that describes specific teach-out options available to Northland students. For each school identified as a teach-out partner, the intranet site will include a copy of the teach-out agreement negotiated with that school.

Each teach-out agreement will include and highlight information about the following:

- a) number and type of credits accepted by the receiving institution;
- b) residency requirements, if any;
- c) tuition and fees students will be expected to pay to the receiving institution and how these will compare to tuition and fees students were paying at Northland College.

Whenever possible, Northland will negotiate agreements ensuring that a student's time to degree will not be extended because of the move to a teach-out institution and that their tuition and fees will be equivalent to or less than the fees the students were paying at Northland College.

Copies of updated teach-out agreements with Beloit College and College of the Atlantic are included in appendices B and C. Previous Teach-out agreements for Ripon College and University of Wisconsin Superior have been confirmed that they are still in effect and are included in appendices D and E.



7) Additional Cost Notification to Students

Northland College is committed to providing students with immediate updates about changes in information related to costs associated with the transition to a different school. Northland will use email as well as its intranet site to notify students about any cost-related updates.

8) Teach-Out Agreements

Included in this provisional plan update are updated teach-out agreements with Beloit College, and College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine (an EcoLeague partner school with Northland). Ripon College and University of Wisconsin Superior's prior teach-out agreements are confirmed to still be in effect.

In addition, the following schools have committed to continue to serve as teach-out institutions for Northland College and we are waiting on updated agreements:

Gustavus Adolphus College (Saint Peter, Minnesota)
Lawrence University (Appleton, Wisconsin)
St. Norbert College (De Pere, Wisconsin)
Warren Wilson College (Swannanoa, North Carolina)

The preparation of teach-out agreements is underway with each of these institutions.

Once completed and approved, the teach-out agreements with each of these schools will be posted on the Northland College intranet site for review by students. This portion of the website will also include descriptions of how teach-out agreements work and answers to frequently asked questions about how students make the transition to a new institution.

Northland may continue to expand the list of teach-out institutions with a particular focus on ensuring that the needs of rising seniors and juniors are met.

9) Academic, Financial Aid, and Transfer Advising

At Northland College, members of the faculty serve as academic advisors for the majority of students. After the public announcement about Northland's closure, academic advisors, staff from the Financial Aid and Registrar's Offices, and other support offices will hold advising-focused information sessions for students. In these sessions, the differences between teach-out colleges and transfer colleges will be explained as well as typical terms and conditions associated with teach-out agreements.

Subsequent to these informational sessions, Northland College faculty members will meet with their advisees to discuss potential alternatives when Northland ceases operations. Northland faculty are also available for follow-up advising appointments as needed for individual students.



Staff in the registrar's office, financial aid office, and business office have been, and will continue to be, available for one-on-one consultations with students related to financial matters.

Updated answers to frequently asked questions will be posted on Northland's intranet site, and this resource will continue to be updated as new information becomes available.

The College will host a teach-out and transfer fair on March 13. A number of the anticipated teach-out institutions as well as possible transfer institutions have already committed to attending the fair.

The College will provide 1-on-1 advising for all current students who are not graduating this spring with the goal of ensuring that each of these students finds an appropriate institution for the continuation of their studies.

10) Programmatic Accreditors and State Licensing Agencies

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is the only programmatic accreditor or state licensing agency with whom Northland College has a relationship.

The College does not currently have any holds with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will be contacted immediately after the announcement of closure.

