

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Who goes to Minnesota Business Venture (MBV)?

MBV is open to all Minnesota high school students completing grades 9-12. MBV is perfect for students searching for career direction, planning for college, dreaming of starting a business or just eager to connect with students who share similar interests. The world revolves around business; this is a chance to learn from talented professionals who want to see students succeed!

Why should I attend MBV?

Minnesota Business Venture students:

- Learn how to plan for a successful future – develop a career focus, leadership, teamwork, and communication skills
- Gain experience that can be used when applying for college or jobs – make connections with members of our state’s business community
- Improve financial literacy skills – learn more about investing, money management and how to save
- Experience living on a college campus for a week and meet students from all over Minnesota

When and where is MBV?

Session 1: University of St Thomas, St. Paul, MN July 12-17, 2020 (Sunday noon – Friday noon)
Session 2: St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN July 26-31, 2020 (Sunday noon – Friday noon)

How much does MBV cost?

The most students pay is \$200; early bird deadline rate is \$150. The early bird deadline is April 24th, 2020. Financial assistance is available. Cost is kept low thanks to BestPrep’s generous sponsors (businesses, foundations, associations and individuals) who award a sponsorship of \$600.00 for camp expenses for every student accepted to MBV.

How do I apply and is there a selection process?

Applications are selected on a first-come, first-serve basis. Online applications can be accessed at www.bestprep.org/mbvapp, or you can be sent a paper application by contacting mbv@bestprep.org or phone at 763-233-6325. Next steps are to fill out the application and submit it to BestPrep with the application fee.

How many students attend? What schools do they come from?

During each session there will be about 200 students; space is limited. Students attending public, private, charter or homeschools in Minnesota are welcome to attend. Each summer more than 100 high schools are represented. There is a good mix of students from the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. A recap of MBV 2019 including a list of schools can be viewed on www.bestprep.org by selecting “Programs” and “Minnesota Business Venture.”

What do we do for the week at MBV?

Once students arrive on campus they are assigned to a “company,” which is a group of 10-14 students. The company is led by a CEO (returning MBV student) and a Resident Business Leader (an employee of a corporation such as Allianz Life, Ecolab, Medtronic, Thrivent Financial, etc.). As a company, students work together to create a business plan for a fictitious product, while also participating in engaging activities and listening to a variety of speakers. All sessions are taught by professionals in the business world. Topics include: Marketing, Personal Budgeting, College Admissions & Financial Aid, Entrepreneurial Stories and more. Activities are geared to give students the information they need to succeed!

What is a typical day like?

Each day at MBV involves company meetings, guest speakers, teambuilding activities and recreational time. Guest speakers and activities vary from day to day. Here is an example of what a day at MBV might include:

7:30 – 8:30a.m.	Breakfast (optional)	1:30 – 2:30	Budgeting Presentation
8:45 – 9:45	Keynote Address by Business Executive	2:30 – 3:30	College Admissions Information
10:00 – 11:00	Mock Interview Session	3:30 – 5:30	Breakout Session
11:00 – 12:00	Company Meeting	5:30 – 6:30	Dinner
12:00 – 1:30p.m.	Lunch and Rec Time	6:30 – 8:30	Company Meeting
		8:30 – 10:30	Rec Time

What do we do for fun?

Each day there are a number of fun activities for the students to participate in. Some activities include an ice cream social, company challenges, open gym, a game show, and a dance at the end of the most exciting week of the summer!

Can I leave campus?

Students will not be permitted to leave campus and will not be allowed to have guests during the week. This is included in our Code of Conduct and violation is grounds for being sent home.

Is it a lot of work?

There's no homework! Students are given lots of time to work on the projects together. It will be challenging, but very rewarding.

Is there a Code of Conduct?

Yes. Minnesota Business Venture has a Code of Conduct that each participant and parent/guardian must sign for the student to participate. Violations of the Code of Conduct are grounds for being sent home. A brief medical form is also required.

How do I get to MBV?

Students can drive themselves, get dropped off, or, if students live in the Metro area, there is limited complimentary bus transportation from the Twin Cities for those in need of a ride to MBV. Students must sign up for this in May.

What do I need to bring with me to MBV?

Students will need to bring basic essentials (clothes, toiletries, etc.) for the week. Linens and pillows are supplied to participants. A recommended packing list will be sent in June.

What is the dress code for MBV?

MBV dress is casual. Most likely the days will be warm and the evenings cooler. Shorts, T-shirts, and a sweatshirt are advised. If students follow their schools' standards, they will be safe in not offending a possible future employer, reference or someone in attendance. Students may choose to bring business attire for the Mock Interview. It's suggested, but not required.

Do I need to bring extra money?

It's not necessary since the application fee includes all meals, housing and program costs. However, some students choose to bring extra money to buy a pizza in the evening, a T-shirt at the college bookstore or snacks from vending machines on campus. Students can also bring their own snacks and soda to keep in their dorm rooms.

Where do we sleep? Can we room with friends?

Students stay with a roommate in the dorms/residence halls on the college campus. Males and females are on separate floors and there is a floor supervisor. Rooms are limited to two people. If a student attends MBV with a friend, they can room together, or we'll match students up with someone else attending MBV. It's just like going to college!

What is the food like?

Both the University of St. Thomas and St. John's University offer a wide selection of food. Pizza, burgers, daily entrees, salad bar, sandwiches, ice cream, etc... The menu changes daily and it's all you can eat (gluten free options are offered).

Can I apply to attend after May 15th?

All application materials, including the secondary paperwork of a medical form, code of conduct and bio form, require special review and consideration if sent in after May 15th and acceptance cannot be guaranteed.



Still have questions? Contact us!

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