Minnesota Business Venture

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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
- Build strong friendships with students from all over Minnesota – experience living on a college campus for a week!

When and where is MBV?

June 27-July 2nd, 2026 (Sunday noon – Friday noon) at the University of St Thomas, St. Paul, MN.

How much does MBV cost?

The most students pay is $500; early bird deadline rate is $400. The early bird deadline is March 31, 2027. Financial assistance is available. Cost is kept low thanks to BestPrep's generous sponsors (businesses, foundations, associations and individuals) who award a sponsorship 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. Students can apply online at **bestprep.org/mbvapp**. You can also request a paper application by contacting mbv@bestprep.org or phone at 763-233-6325. Submit your completed application to BestPrep with the application fee (credit card, check, or money order).

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

Camp is around 200 students; space is limited. Students attending public, private, charter or homeschools in Minnesota are welcome to attend. There is a good mix of students from the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. A recap of MBV 2026 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 12-16 students. The company is led by a CEO (returning MBV student) and a Resident Business Leader (a working professional in the business community). 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 build camaraderie while giving students the information necessary 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)
9:00 – 10:00	Keynote Address by Business Executive
10:00 – 11:00	Mock Interview Session
11:00 – 12:00	Company Meeting
12:00 – 1:00p.m.	Lunch and Rec Time
1:30 – 2:30	Personal Branding Presentation
2:30 – 3:30	College Admissions Information
3:30 – 5:30	Breakout Session
5:30 – 6:30	Dinner
6:30 – 8:30	Company Meeting
8:30 – 10:30	Rec Time

What do we do for fun?
There's a strong sense of community at MBV! Each day we have a number of activities. Some activities include company challenges, open gym, a game show, and a dance at the end of the most exciting week of the summer!

What kind of rules are there?
MBV has a Code of Conduct that each participant and parent/guardian must sign for the student to participate. The rules ensure students are respectful and don't put themselves or anyone else at camp in danger. There is also a strict curfew every evening. Violations of the Code of Conduct are grounds for being sent home. A brief medical form is also required.

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, and you're not being graded! You'll work with your company to prepare your Business Plan and presentation. You're given plenty of time during the day to complete projects together. It will be challenging, but very rewarding.

How do I get to MBV?
Students can drive themselves, get dropped off, or take public transit. The UST campus is located in St. Paul with access to several transit lines.

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 mid-May.

What is the dress code for MBV?
MBV dress is casual. Most likely the days will be warm and the evenings slightly 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 order food in the evening, buy 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. There are not fridges in each individual dorm room, but there are fridges available on each dorm floor.

Where do we sleep? Can we room with friends? Can you make housing accommodations?
Students stay with one roommate in the dorms/residence halls on the college campus. Dorms are separated by gender and rooms are limited to two people each. 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! We'll also work with you and the university for any necessary housing accommodations; please submit requests by May 15th.

What is the food like?
All meals are provided at MBV. The dining hall at the University of St. Thomas offers 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! They also provide options for various dietary needs (i.e. vegetarian, gluten free, etc).

Still have questions? Contact us!
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