



DIRECT ADMISSIONS

MINNESOTA



Direct Admissions FAQ for High School Partners

What is Direct Admissions?

[Direct Admissions Minnesota](#) proactively notifies graduating seniors that they meet general admission criteria for participating 2- and 4-year community, technical, tribal, public, and private colleges in Minnesota. Students receive a personalized list of [eligible institutions](#) through an individualized email with instructions for selecting colleges of interest.

Who manages the program?

The [Minnesota Office of Higher Education \(OHE\)](#) coordinates Direct Admissions, funded by the State of Minnesota, in partnership with participating high schools and colleges.

How do students learn about their opportunities?

High schools introduce the program early in the school year using [provided resources](#) and a [program support page](#) (fact sheets, FAQ, posters, videos, newsletter/website content, and social media graphics). Students then receive an official personalized notification in early fall to their school email address.

Are there financial aid benefits?

The program itself does not offer scholarships. However, participating colleges waive application fees for Direct Admissions students. Students are [encouraged to complete the FAFSA or Minnesota's financial aid application](#).

What do students do after receiving their notification?

Students receive a [student-specific survey via school email](#) from OHE.

- Select interested colleges by checking a box.
- Provide optional contact details for colleges (non-school email, phone, address).

OHE transfers this information to the selected colleges. Students who do not wish to participate simply take no action. No data is shared without a student's expressed interest.

Do students still need to submit an admissions application?

Yes, depending on the institution. A student may be asked to:

- Complete a full application with required materials;
- Complete a simplified application with reduced requirements; or
- Supply minimal additional information in place of an application.

Some materials (essays, recommendations) may still be useful for scholarship consideration.

What happens after a student applies?

Although students have proactive general admission, they will receive formal admission notifications on the institution's usual timeline, provided they meet application deadlines. After acceptance, they proceed through orientation, enrollment, and financial aid processes like other applicants.

How many high schools participate?

More than 250 high schools participated in 2025–26. For 2026–27, [participation is expected to exceed 320](#). OHE plans continued expansion, with a goal of including all public and charter high schools.

Is there any cost to schools or students?

No. Participation is free for schools, students, and families.

Does Direct Admissions guarantee acceptance into all majors or programs?

No. Direct Admissions guarantees general institutional admission. Programs with capacity limits or special requirements may still need additional applications, portfolios, or other criteria.

Can students opt out?

Yes. Students or parents may inform their school if they do not want Direct Admissions communications.

Are we allowed to share student data?

Yes. Required data-sharing agreements between participating schools and OHE ensure compliance with state and federal privacy and security regulations.

Which colleges and universities participate?

[Fifty-four institutions currently participate](#), including:

- All Minnesota State community and technical colleges and universities
- Three Tribal colleges
- The University of Minnesota Crookston, Duluth, Morris, and Rochester campuses
- Dunwoody College of Technology
- Many private non-profit colleges

Not participating: University of Minnesota–Twin Cities, Macalester, St. Olaf, and Carleton.

Does the program include trade-focused pathways?

Yes. All Minnesota State community and technical colleges and Dunwoody participate, ensuring coverage of trade and technical programs.

What if a student's grades drop or they don't graduate?

Direct Admissions offers are for students on track to graduate. Institutions may rescind admission if a student fails to graduate or experiences a significant academic decline.

Who sends the notifications?

OHE sends survey access directly to students to protect privacy. Schools receive training to support the process and may choose to build excitement through events or announcements.

Are undocumented students eligible?

Yes. Undocumented Minnesota residents may participate.

What about students studying abroad who are considered international students?

Students classified as international students are not eligible for Direct Admissions and must apply directly to institutions using standard international admissions processes.