OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

FREE TUITION MAKES COLLEGE POSSIBLE FOR MORE MINNESOTANS.

That's the North Star Promise.

North Star Promise was created to provide free tuition to make education after high school possible for more Minnesota students and families.

Get a degree. Earn a certificate. Learn a trade.

All Minnesota public higher education institutions and Tribal Colleges are eligible for free tuition through North Star Promise (NSP). Free tuition is available at:

- **All Minnesota State Colleges and Universities**
- **All University of Minnesota campuses**
- **All Tribal Colleges**

The NSP program is open to all Minnesota resident students with a family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) below $80,000, as reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid Application.

Going to college doesn't have to mean going into huge debt.

Continuing your education can help you go further and do more in life, especially without the burden of debt to hold you back. NSP covers up to 100% of your tuition and required fees and helps you get the education you want without massive debt.

The exact amount of funding you can receive is calculated on a "last-dollar" basis. This means it covers your remaining costs for tuition and fees after all other aid has been awarded (such as scholarships, grants, stipends and tuition waivers). Loans and work study programs do not count against the amount of funding you can receive. NSP does not cover the cost of items such as housing, food, transportation, books and supplies.

FREE TUITION HELPS YOU CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION ON YOUR TERMS.

- **Pursue a four-year degree, a two-year degree, learn a trade or attain a certification**
- **North Star Promise is not program- or major-specific**
- **Awards are not prioritized based on specific fields, trades or degrees**
- **Part-time and evening classes are included**
- **Just enroll and take at least one credit to qualify**
- **Open to both new and returning students who meet the eligibility criteria**

How to apply for free tuition through North Star Promise.

To apply for NSP funds, complete the FAFSA or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid Application by the deadline (please refer to the website for up-to-date information). The application will require you to list the institutions that you are planning to attend to earn your degree or certification. If you and your family are eligible, and you are attending an eligible college or university, your institution will award you with free tuition and fees as part of your financial aid offer.

The only academic requirement to continue receiving free tuition is that you continue to meet your school's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards, meaning you stay on track to earn your intended degree or certification. If you pursue a two-year degree, you can receive North Star Promise for up to four full time semesters or the equivalent. If you pursue a four-year degree you can receive North Star Promise for up to eight full-time semesters or the equivalent. A full-time semester is 15 or more credits of enrollment. Students enrolled in less than 15 credits per semester will have their program usage pro-rated based on their enrollment.

Complete Eligibility Requirements

- ☑ Be a Minnesota resident student.
- ☑ Have a family AGI as reported on the FAFSA or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid Application below $80,000.
- ☑ Be admitted to or attend a Minnesota public higher education institution or Tribal College.
- ☑ Be enrolled taking at least one credit.
- ☑ Be enrolled in a program or course of study that applies to a degree, diploma, or certificate.
- ☑ Meet your school's SAP standards.
- ☑ Have not already earned a baccalaureate (four-year) degree, including degrees earned in a foreign country.
- ☑ Not be in default on a state or federal student loan.
- ☑ Meet application deadline.

PRIORITY DEADLINE

For the 2026-27 academic year, the Minnesota Office of HigherEducation set a priority deadline of June 1, 2026, for eligible students to apply for financial aid and be considered for a NSP scholarship. While a determination has not yet been made around instituting a priority deadline for the 2027-28 academic year, eligible students are encouraged to fill out their FAFSA or Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid Application as soon as possible to ensure maximum consideration for financial aid. Both the FAFSA and Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid Application open on October 1, 2026, for the 2027-28 academic year.

ELIGIBLE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
www.minnstate.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CAMPUSES
www.system.umn.edu

TRIBAL COLLEGES:

Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
www.fdltcc.edu

Leech Lake Tribal College
www.lltc.edu

Red Lake Nation College
www.rlnc.edu

White Earth Tribal and Community College
www.wetcc.edu

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

ohe.mn.gov/northstarpromise
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