How Do I Pay For College?

If you think you can't afford to go to college, think again. Financial aid has helped millions of students pay for their education beyond high school.

Fill out just one application — at www.fafsa.gov — to determine your eligibility for multiple forms of financial aid.
You are now able to transfer tax data from the IRS to the FAFSA if you complete the FAFSA more than two weeks after filing your taxes.

To apply, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The form is available October 1st online at www.fafsa.gov and is used to apply for a Minnesota State Grant, a Federal Pell Grant, the Minnesota Indian Scholarship, a Direct Loan, and many other financial aid options available at individual colleges. The form requires you to submit information about your and your family's income and assets.

Undocumented students who qualify for the Minnesota Dream Act can use the state financial aid application available at: www.ohe.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct

Undocumented students can apply for state financial aid by accessing the online MN Dream Act - State Financial Aid application. To be eligible for the MN State Grant, the application must be submitted no later than the 30th day of the term. The results of the application can also be used to qualify for in-state tuition rates and state financial aid. Some colleges and universities may have scholarships available to students regardless of immigration status. It's important to check with the campus that interests you to learn more about possible (school-specific) scholarship opportunities. Minnesota offers a loan program called the SELF Loan Program, which is available to students regardless of immigration status. A separate application is used to apply for the SELF Loan, available through the college's financial aid office. Co-signers for the SELF Loan must be a permanent resident or citizen.

The MN Dream Act application should be submitted once for each academic year the student is enrolled in college.

Financial aid offices at the colleges that interest you are a good source of information about how to pay for their college. Applying for financial aid does not cost anything. By applying, you do not commit yourself to attend any college.

Visit www.ohe.state.mn.us/paying for a more extensive list of options to pay for college.
FIVE Basic Steps
to applying for financial aid

1. Apply for admission to one or more colleges.
   Apply for financial aid at www.fafsa.gov using the Free Application for Federal
   Student Aid (FAFSA) after October 1. Undocumented students should use the
   state financial aid application, available at www.ohe.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct
   instead of the FAFSA.

2. Apply for scholarships offered by the colleges or other sources. Ask for
   applications or find them online. Check out the free online scholarships sites
   such as www.fastweb.com to search for private scholarships.

3. Receive college admittance letters (timing varies).
   Receive letters from colleges outlining your financial aid eligibility (usually
   March 1 or later, depending on when you submitted your FAFSA), and respond
   accordingly.

What Types
of financial aid are available?

Financial aid comes in several forms:

1. Need-based grants from federal and state governments that you do not have to repay;

2. Loans from federal and state governments or private entities that must be repaid
   with interest;

3. Work-study jobs, either on or off campus, that enable you to earn money to help pay the cost
   of attending college;

4. Tuition reciprocity provides reduced tuition for Minnesota students attending public colleges
   and universities in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Manitoba and one college in Iowa;
   and

   Scholarships and educational benefits for students with special circumstances and abilities.
   Examples include child care assistance; military benefits; merit aid for good grades and
   academic achievement; or scholarships based on race, ethnicity or a special talent or life
   circumstance.

   Contact each college you are considering to find out about special
   assistance and scholarships.
Where can I get additional information?

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education offers a variety of resources online at www.ohe.state.mn.us/paying. Here you will find:

- Tuition reciprocity applications, information about the Minnesota College Savings Plan and the SELF Loan program.
- Applications and information about Minnesota and federal financial aid.
- Information on education tax credits and benefits.
- Information on Minnesota colleges, universities and career schools including their contact information, programs offered, tuition and fees and websites.
- A personal financial aid estimator for students and parents who want to gain general information about the types of aid for which they may qualify.
How much does College cost?

Cost of Attendance varies from college to college. The financial aid package you receive may also vary based on the college you choose. In addition to tuition and fees, there are costs for room and board, books and other expenses. These costs are all taken into account when the college determines your financial aid award.

State College - Off campus not living at home*  Total $14,420

$5,370 $6,985 $2,045

State University - On campus*  Total $19,548

$8,097 $7,923 $3,528

University of Minnesota Twin Cities - On campus  Total $26,738

$14,224 $9,314 $3,200

Private Career - Off campus, not living at home**  Total $34,181

$18,013 $9,956 $6,212

Private 4-Year College - On campus***  Total $49,107

$37,355 $8,648 $3,104

- In-state tuition and fees  - Room and Board  - Books and other expenses

*Tuition and fees vary slightly among individual state universities and state colleges. Charges are the weighted average.
**Charges are for the largest program at the institution if program based.
***Charges are a weighted average tuition for all programs offered at the institution.

Tuition data for 2016-2017 as used for state grant purposes.
Room and board and other expenses for 2015-2016.

Are there Tax Benefits for going to college?

Yes. Federal tax benefits can help offset the cost of attending college. Benefits include:

- **American Opportunity Tax Credit**: For tax year 2016, you may be able to claim a tax credit on your federal tax return of up to $2,500 for each eligible student.

- **Lifetime Learning Tax Credit**: You may be able to claim a tax credit of up to $2,000 for qualified tuition and related expenses per family.

- **Student Loan Interest Deduction**: You may be able to deduct interest on student loans for yourself, your spouse or other dependents. The maximum deduction cannot exceed $2,500 on your federal tax return.

- **Employer-paid Tuition Assistance**: Some employers offer tuition and fee reimbursement. As a student, you may receive up to $5,250 of education benefits tax free from your employer each year. Generally, you must pay tax on any amount of education benefit received from your employer that exceeds $5,250 for the year.

For additional information on federal tax benefits, consult the Internal Revenue Service website at www.irs.gov and see publication #970 or call (800) 829-1040.
# FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>STUDENTS APPLY TO</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grants and Scholarships Programs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota State Grant</td>
<td>Complete FAFSA (<a href="http://www.fafsa.gov">www.fafsa.gov</a>) no later than 30th day of the term*</td>
<td>Average award is $1,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>Complete FAFSA (<a href="http://www.fafsa.gov">www.fafsa.gov</a>)</td>
<td>$598 to $5,815 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Supplemental Grant</td>
<td>Complete FAFSA (<a href="http://www.fafsa.gov">www.fafsa.gov</a>)</td>
<td>Up to $4,000 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota Postsecondary Child Care Grant</td>
<td>Campus financial aid office after completing the FAFSA (<a href="http://www.fafsa.gov">www.fafsa.gov</a>)*</td>
<td>Up to $2,800 per child per academic year if enrolled full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/indianscholarship">www.ohe.state.mn.us/indianscholarship</a></td>
<td>Up to $4,000 per year for undergraduate students and up to $6,000 for graduate students.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Work-Study Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota Work Study</td>
<td>Campus financial aid office after completing the FAFSA (<a href="http://www.fafsa.gov">www.fafsa.gov</a>)*</td>
<td>Determined by institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Work Study</td>
<td>Campus financial aid office after completing the FAFSA (<a href="http://www.fafsa.gov">www.fafsa.gov</a>)</td>
<td>Determined by institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loans Programs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Student Loan</td>
<td>Complete FAFSA (<a href="http://www.fafsa.gov">www.fafsa.gov</a>)</td>
<td>For dependent students up to $5,500 per year for first-year undergraduates, $6,500 per year for second-year undergraduates and $7,500 per year for undergraduates in at least third-year status. Loan limits are higher for graduate, professional, independent students, and students whose parents cannot obtain a PLUS Loan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TYPE OF AWARD</td>
<td>ELIGIBLE STUDENTS</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Based on financial need and cost of attendance</td>
<td><strong>Minnesota resident students</strong> (includes undocumented students qualifying under the MN Dream Act), enrolled for at least three credits in undergraduate study at eligible Minnesota institutions. Must be a high school graduate or equivalent or be 17 years of age or older, have attended less than four years of college and must meet student loans and child support obligations.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Based on demonstrated financial need</td>
<td>Undergraduates. Must be U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, not in default on federal loans and have no drug conviction while receiving federal aid. Males must be registered for the Selective Service. Must be a high school graduate or equivalent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Based on demonstrated financial need</td>
<td>Undergraduates enrolled at least half time. Must be U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen. Males must be registered for the Selective Service. Priority given to Pell Grant recipients. Must be a high school graduate or equivalent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Based on demonstrated financial need, family size and number of children</td>
<td><strong>Minnesota resident students</strong>, includes undocumented students qualifying under the MN Dream Act, with children 12 years old or younger, or 14 or younger with disability. Student must be enrolled for at least six credits in an undergraduate program or at least 1 credit in a graduate or professional program at an eligible Minnesota institution and not a recipient of benefits from the Minnesota Family Investment Plan.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Based on demonstrated financial need, and the amount of other grants and scholarships student is receiving</td>
<td><strong>MN resident students who are at least 1/4 American Indian ancestry and are enrolled in an accredited MN institution.</strong> Undergraduates must be eligible for the MN State Grant or Federal Pell Grant and enrolled at least 3/4 time. Graduate students must demonstrate financial need and be enrolled 1/2 time.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time job based on financial need</td>
<td><strong>Minnesota resident students</strong> enrolled for at least six credits per term. Includes undergraduates, graduates, undocumented students who have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status with work authorization and vocational students. May work during one term of non-enrollment or less than half-time enrollment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time job based on financial need; more restrictive than state program</td>
<td>Undergraduate, graduate and vocational students. Must be U.S. citizen, or eligible non-citizen. Males must be registered for the Selective Service. Students must be enrolled in a participating school.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidized loans based on financial need; government pays interest while student is in school, must be repaid and is not available for graduate students</td>
<td><strong>Any student enrolled at least half time in an eligible school in Minnesota or another state, undergraduate, graduate, professional and vocational students. Must be U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and cannot be in default or owe a refund on any Title IV Higher Education Act loan or grant. Males must be registered for the Selective Service.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsubsidized Direct loan available for students without financial need; borrower's interest accrues while in school must be repaid and is available for graduate students</td>
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</table>

*Undocumented students qualifying under the MN Dream Act should use the state financial aid application available at: www.ohe.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct.*
## FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

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<tr>
<td>Federal Perkins Loan</td>
<td>Campus financial aid office</td>
<td>Up to $5,500 per year for undergraduates or $8,000 per year for graduate students. Check with financial aid office if you are eligible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLUS Loan</td>
<td>Campus financial aid office</td>
<td>Up to annual Cost of Attendance less other aid received</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELF Loan</td>
<td>Minnesota Office of Higher Education</td>
<td>Up to $20,000 per year for four-year degree and graduate programs; $3,500 - $7,500 per year for shorter programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Loans Programs

- **Minnesota residents attending in Wisconsin**
  - Minnesota Office of Higher Education (visit www.ohe.state.mn.us/reciprocity for online application) or, if attending a Wisconsin technical college, apply directly to the college

- **Minnesota residents attending in South Dakota**
  - School of attendance in South Dakota

- **Minnesota residents attending in North Dakota**
  - Minnesota Office of Higher Education (visit www.ohe.state.mn.us/reciprocity for online application) or directly to the college attended if graduated from a Minnesota high school within the past 12 months

- **Minnesota students attending in Manitoba**
  - School of attendance in Manitoba
  - Varies with cost of institution
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF AWARD</th>
<th>ELIGIBLE STUDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long-term, low interest loan based on financial need, must be repaid</td>
<td>Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at participating colleges. Must be U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and cannot be in default or owe a refund on any Title IV Higher Education Act loan or grant. Males must be registered for the Selective Service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed interest, long-term loans, must be repaid</td>
<td>Parents of dependent, undergraduate students and students in graduate or professional programs. Must be U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen. Must not be in default or owe a refund on any Title IV Higher Education Act loan or grant. Males must be registered for the Selective Service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable- and fixed-interest, long-term loan options; interest paid quarterly by student while in school, must be repaid</td>
<td>Undergraduate, graduate and vocational students enrolled at least half time in an eligible school in Minnesota, or Minnesota residents enrolled in an eligible out-of-state school. Co-signer must be U.S. citizen or permanent resident and be credit-worthy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students pay the higher of the resident tuition rate at either the institution attended, or the average rate charged at comparable home-state institutions.</td>
<td>Nearly all public college students. Exceptions are students in the College of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine Dentistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison or Milwaukee, and distance education at any Wisconsin school for students not residing in Wisconsin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students pay the higher of the resident tuition and fee rate at either the institution attended, or the average rate charged at comparable home-state institutions.</td>
<td>Nearly all Minnesota residents attending public institutions in South Dakota.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students pay a rate slightly higher than the North Dakota resident tuition rate.</td>
<td>Nearly all Minnesota residents attending public institutions in North Dakota. Professional programs in law, pharmacy and medicine are excluded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-resident tuition waiver at participating Manitoba institutions.</td>
<td>Minnesota residents attending Assiniboine Community College, Booth University College, Brandon University, Canadian Mennonite University, Université de Saint-Boniface, Manitoba Institute of Trade and Technology, University of Manitoba, Providence University College, Red River Community College, University of Winnipeg, or Winnipeg Technical College.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial Aid Basics

Minnesota Office of Higher Education
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Saint Paul, MN 55108-5227

Tel: 651.642.0567 or 800.657.3866
TTY Relay: 800.627.3529
Fax: 651.642.0675

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www.selfloan.state.mn.us
www.ohe.state.mn.us

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