

North Star Promise Program

A new scholarship that makes college affordable for more Minnesotans

Beginning in fall 2024, the North Star Promise (NSP) Scholarship program will make college accessible and affordable for any eligible Minnesotan who has the desire to earn a credential. The program will cover the full cost of tuition and fees for eligible Minnesotans at public institutions and tribal colleges in the state.

NSP is intended to have a positive impact on multiple fronts:

- Help stabilize enrollment at Minnesota public institutions of higher education;
- Serve as an economic driver for Minnesota by educating qualified workers who are much needed to fill vacancies in the state's labor force;
- Create a viable higher education path for Minnesota residents who may have previously thought education was not a possibility for them.

Eligibility and Academic Requirements

- ✓ You must be a Minnesota resident
- ✓ Have a family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) as reported on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Minnesota Dream Act Application below \$80,000.
- ✓ Attend a Minnesota public higher education institution or tribal college
- ✓ Not be in default on a state or federal student loan
- ✓ Be enrolled taking at least one credit
- ✓ Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards
- ✓ Have not already earned a baccalaureate degree
- ✓ Be enrolled in a program or course of study that applies to a degree, diploma, or certificate

What's Covered?

NSP will cover the full remaining cost of college tuition and fees, after other scholarships, grants, and tuition waivers have been applied.

Eligible Institutions

- ✓ All Minnesota State colleges and universities
- ✓ All University of Minnesota system campuses
- ✓ All tribal colleges

North Star Impact

An estimated 15,000 students will benefit from NSP in the first academic year of implementation.



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North Star Promise Program

APPLICATION STEPS & AWARD DETAILS



Eliminating financial barriers: Your path to college is clear with the North Star Promise 

Maximum Award Amounts

There is no maximum length of time that students can receive the NSP, but there are credit limits.

For students earning a:

2-year Associate Degree:

Receive NSP up to 60 credits

4-year Bachelor's Degree:

Receive NSP up to 120 credits

Last-Dollar Scholarship

NSP is a “last-dollar” program, which considers any other sources of gift aid funding that students receive, before the award is applied.

The goal of this strategy is to utilize all available federal, state, private and institutional gift aid to provide as many eligible students as possible with a tuition and fee-free pathway to a college education.

How do I apply?

Students apply by completing the:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.studentaid.gov or
- Minnesota Dream Act application at www.ohe.state.mn.us/MNDreamAct

What happens next?

The college or university you are attending will assess your eligibility on a term-by-term basis and award North Star Promise Scholarships to all eligible students.

Your award amount will be calculated by your college or university. They will determine your tuition and required fee charges, subtract all other sources of gift aid (scholarships, grants, waivers and stipends) and award the remaining amount in a North Star Promise Scholarship. Students will be notified through the college or university’s standard awarding process.

How much money can I receive?

There is not a limit on the maximum term, yearly, or lifetime dollar amount of an award you can receive. The amount you receive is based on the “last-dollar” calculation of your eligibility on a term-by-term basis. You can receive up to 100% of the amount charged in tuition and required fees per term, minus all other sources of gift aid you receive. You must continue to meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards at your school.

If funds are available, the highest need students may also receive North Star Promise Plus funds. **Note: The details on the North Star Promise Plus provision of the program are still being determined.**

Questions about the program? Contact:
NorthStarPromise.OHE@state.mn.us