



01/12/2017

## **Minnesota State Programs: Consumer Information and Definitions**

### **1. Minnesota State Grant**

The purpose of the Minnesota State Grant is to assist students from low- and moderate-income families pay for educational expenses at eligible Minnesota colleges or universities. I

#### **What Is the Application Process?**

There is no charge for applying to the Minnesota State Grant Program. Students can apply for a State Grant by [completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) and a Minnesota Programs Eligibility Form <http://www.csp.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Minnesota-State-Program-Eligibility-Form-STANDARDIZED.pdf> which is used to determine the student's and family's expected financial contribution, and is the same form used to apply for the Federal Pell Grant and other types of aid from institutions. To receive a State Grant for a term, the FAFSA must be submitted to the federal processing center within 30 days of the school's term start date.

Undocumented students can apply for a Minnesota State Grant by completing the [MN Dream Act application](#).

#### **Which are the "Eligible Institutions" in Minnesota?**

[Eligible institutions](#) include the state universities, the University of Minnesota, public community and technical colleges, schools of nursing and related health professions, private colleges, and private career institutions in Minnesota. For more information, [contact the financial aid office](#) at the school the student is attending or wishes to attend.

**State Grants may not be used at out-of-state schools.** However, Minnesota has [tuition reciprocity](#) agreements with several states and one Canadian province that may help reduce the price of a student's higher education.

#### **Who is Eligible?**

[Minnesota residents](#) who:

- Are graduates of a secondary school or its equivalent or are at least 17 years of age.

- Will be enrolled as undergraduates for at least three credits at one of more than 130 [eligible schools in Minnesota](#).

**Students who are in default on a student loan** or who are more than 30 days behind on child support owed to a public agency are **NOT** eligible, unless they have established payment plans with the appropriate agency and made a series of on-time monthly payments. [Click here](#) for more information on reestablishing eligibility for financial aid after a federal student loan default.

**Students may receive State Grants** for four consecutive full-time quarters or three consecutive semesters during the course of a single fiscal year.

#### **State Grants are limited to:**

- Students who have not yet attended eight full-time semesters of postsecondary education or the equivalent. Students who have withdrawn for active military service or for a major medical illness while under the care of a physician after December 31, 2002 are given an extra term of eligibility.
- Students who have NOT received a baccalaureate degree.

**Students must reapply each year to be considered for a grant.** A State Grant can be renewed for up to six full-time semesters or nine quarters (or their equivalent). However, the student must make satisfactory progress and demonstrate financial need as defined in state law.

#### **Enrollment Status**

To receive the full amount of the State Grant, the applicant must be a full-time student (registered for at least 15 credits per term). Less than full-time students will have their price of attendance prorated based on the actual number of credits. However, the parent or student contribution used in the award formula is **NOT** reduced if the student takes fewer credits, so a student who is eligible for an award at 15 credits may not qualify at a lower enrollment level.

**Part-time students with three or more credits** can be considered for a State Grant. However, students are encouraged to complete their degree as quickly as possible by registering for as many credits as they can handle each term.

#### **How Much Money Can You Receive?**

The maximum award for 2016-2017 for a student attending a private four-year college is 11,753. The average award is approximately \$1,857, and the minimum award is \$100 per year.

#### **How Is the Award Determined?**

Awards are based on the difference between what students and their families are expected to contribute to pay for the education and the actual [price of attending](#) a particular college or university.

However, all applicants are required to contribute at least 50 percent of their price of attendance out of savings, earnings, loans, or other assistance from school or private sources. For dependent students, the remaining 50 percent of the price of attendance is met by a contribution from the parents as determined by the federal need analysis (FAFSA) and by the combination of [Federal Pell Grant](#) and State Grant awards. For independent students, the remaining 50 percent of the price of attendance is met by a contribution from student's income and assets (as determined by the federal need analysis) and by the combination of Pell and State awards.

Prior to subtracting the federal need analysis contributions within the State Grant award formula, they are adjusted as follows:

- Federal need analysis parent contribution x .94
- Federal need analysis Expected Family Contribution x .50 (independent student without dependents)
- Federal need analysis Expected Family Contribution x .86 (independent student with dependents)

**For the State Grant Program**, the price of attending a college or university consists of:

- Tuition and fees charged to each student (subject to a tuition maximum set by the legislature).
- A standard allowance established by the Minnesota Legislature for room and board, books and supplies, and miscellaneous expenses.

**The price of attendance is pro-rated** based on the student's enrollment status.

See examples of the State Grant Award calculation:

- [Private College Example](#)
- [EFC, Federal Pell and State Grants by Income and Household Size](#)

**The State Grant Program divides the responsibility** of paying for a student's higher education between the student, parents, and government (state and federal). This is called Shared Responsibility.

### **How are Students Notified about their Grants?**

Participating schools are required to calculate awards on campus and include the amount of the State Grant in the student's financial aid award notice.

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## 2. Minnesota Childcare Grant

**The Postsecondary Child Care Grant Program** helps low income students who have young children pay for child care while the student attends classes.

### Who is Eligible?

Minnesota residents who have a child 12 years old or younger (or 14 or younger if the child is handicapped) and whose family size and income qualify for the program. To qualify, students also must:

- Be Minnesota [residents](#).
- Be enrolled 6-15 credits per term (undergraduates) or 1-6 credits per term (graduates).
- Either not have earned a baccalaureate degree and been enrolled full time less than eight semesters or the equivalent, or have a baccalaureate degree and been enrolled full time less than eight semesters or the equivalent in a graduate or professional degree program. Students who have withdrawn for active military service after December 31, 2002 are given an extra term of eligibility.
- Not have defaulted on a student loan.

**The student must not be receiving assistance from the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).** Individuals receiving MFIP at this time should contact their County Social Office of Higher Education to get additional information about child care assistance.

### What Schools Are Eligible?

[Eligible institutions](#) are all public postsecondary schools and private, baccalaureate degree granting colleges and universities located in Minnesota, or nonprofit, two-year vocational schools granting associate degrees.

### How is the Award Determined?

The amount of child care assistance depends on:

- The number of people in the student's household.
- The number of day care hours necessary to cover education and work obligations.
- Income of the applicant and spouse.
- The availability of funding.
- The student's enrollment status

## **How Much Money Can You Get?**

The maximum award amount is \$5,125 for the 2016-2017 aid year per eligible child per academic year. The amount of the award cannot exceed 40 hours of child care per week per eligible child.

In some instances, the maximum award may be increased by 10 percent to compensate for higher market costs for infant care.

## **What Is the Application Process?**

Students can apply for the Child Care Grant by [completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) and a Minnesota Programs Eligibility Form <http://www.csp.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Minnesota-State-Program-Eligibility-Form-STANDARDIZED.pdf>.

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### **3. MN GI Bill**

The Minnesota GI Bill program was established in 2007 to provide postsecondary financial assistance to eligible Minnesota veterans and service members as well as eligible spouses and children of deceased or severely disabled eligible Minnesota veterans. Full-time undergraduate or graduate students may be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 per semester or term and part-time students may be eligible to receive up to \$500 per semester or term.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

You must be a Minnesota resident enrolled at a participating Minnesota institution who is a:

- Veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch of the United States armed forces at any time; or
- Non-veteran who has served honorably for a total of five years or more cumulatively as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September 11, 2001, or;
- Spouse or child of a person who has served in the military at any time on and who has died or has a total and permanent disability as a direct result of that military service. (Student must also be eligible to receive federal veteran's education benefits as a spouse or dependent.)

### **[Apply Online Now](#)**

Or print, complete, and send this application to the college you will attend:

- [2017-2018 Minnesota GI Bill Application](#)
  - [2016-2017 Minnesota GI Bill Application](#)
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## 4. Minnesota Indian Scholarship

Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program provides postsecondary financial assistance to eligible Minnesota resident students who are of one-fourth or more Indian ancestry and demonstrate financial need for an award.

### Who is Eligible?

Scholarships are available to eligible Indian undergraduate students enrolled at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  time and graduate students enrolled at least half time.

**In order to qualify for this scholarship, you must be:**

- One-fourth or more American Indian
- A [Minnesota resident](#)
- Enrolled in an accredited college, university or vocational school in Minnesota
- An undergrad student who qualifies for either a Pell or State Grant and demonstrates financial need or a graduate student who demonstrates financial need

### How Much Money Can You Get?

The award amount is based on need up to \$4,000 per year for undergraduate students and up to \$6,000 for graduate students.

Students are eligible to receive scholarship funding for a maximum of ten years, five years for undergraduate study and an additional five years for graduate-level study. Undergraduate students seeking less than a four-year degree can receive a maximum of three years of scholarship funding in order to preserve two years of eligibility to complete a four-year degree. Students may receive the scholarship for only one degree per undergraduate educational level and one terminal degree.

### What Is the Application Process?

Interested students should complete the Minnesota Indian Scholarship application below. They should also [complete the FAFSA](#) and an application for tribal education funds.

### Apply Online Now:

- [MISP Online Student Application](#)
- [Download 2017-2018 Indian Scholarship Application](#)
- [Download 2016-2017 Indian Scholarship Application](#)

Students are encouraged to contact the school financial aid administrator at their campus and their tribal education program (see list below). The priority deadline is July 1. Information and application forms also are available from:

**Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program**

Minnesota Office of Higher Education  
1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
Tel: (651) 642-0567 or (800) 657-3866  
Fax: (651) 642-0675

**Lara Gerhardson, Outreach Liaison**

Tel: (218) 755-2557  
Bemidji State University  
114 Decker Hall  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
E-mail: [misp.lara@hotmail.com](mailto:misp.lara@hotmail.com)

**Tribal Education and Scholarship Programs**

[Bois Forte Reservation](#)

P.O. Box 16  
Nett Lake, MN 55772  
Tel: (218) 757-3124 or (800) 221-8129

[Fond du Lac Tribal Center](#)

1720 Big Lake Road  
Cloquet, MN 55720  
Tel: (218) 878-2633 or (800) 365-1613

[Grand Portage Reservation](#)

P.O. Box 428  
Grand Portage, MN 55605  
Tel: (218) 475-2812

[Leech Lake Scholarship Office](#)

190 Sailstar Dr. NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633  
Tel: (218) 335-8253 or (866) 638-7738

[Lower Sioux Community](#)

P.O. Box 308  
Morton, MN 56270  
Tel: (507) 697-6185

[Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Scholarship Office](#)

43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359  
Tel: (320) 532-4695 or (800) 709-6445

[Red Lake Nation](#)

P.O. Box 416  
Redby, MN 56670  
Tel: (218) 679-3350

[Shakopee Sioux Mdewakanton Community](#)

2330 Sioux Trail NW  
Prior Lake, MN 55372  
Tel: (952) 403-5301

[Upper Sioux Community](#)

P.O. Box 147  
Granite Falls, MN 56241  
Tel: (320) 564-3853

[White Earth Nation](#)

P.O. Box 418  
White Earth, MN 56591  
Tel: (218) 983-3285 or (800) 950-3248

[Map of Tribal Scholarship Contacts](#)

**Other Scholarships/Grants/Resources for American Indian Students**

- [Native American Scholarship Database](#)
- [American Indian Graduate Center](#) A national organization providing educational assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native graduate and undergraduate students throughout the United States
- [Ethel Curry American Indian Leadership Scholarship at the Minnesota Department of Education](#)
- [Maureen L. and Howard N. Blitman, P.E., Scholarship to Promote Diversity in Engineering](#)
- [Minneapolis American Indian Center](#)

More Information

- [Minnesota Indian Scholarship Online Application](#)



