

2024 - 2025



CHOOSING A COLLEGE

Find Your Pathway to Success

mi OFFICE OF
HIGHER EDUCATION



THE BENEFITS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

As you near high school graduation, do you find yourself wondering what's next?



While it may be tempting to go straight into the workforce and begin earning an income, the world of work is changing and becoming increasingly competitive. Employers are looking for people with more skills than the people they are replacing.

You will - more than likely - need more education to land a job than what your parents needed when they started working. Going to college is a smart way to give yourself the best chance at landing a stable and well-paying job.

If you are considering college options, there are many routes beyond earning a four-year bachelor's degree! Many well-paying jobs require skills learned through short-term certificates that you earn at state colleges (two-year) or other private career schools.

Here are a few reasons to pursue higher education:

POTENTIAL

Often, many high school graduates are still discovering their career interests and searching for their "calling." College brings you a world of information as you explore your interests, and helps you understand the issues that connect communities, the nation and the world. These new experiences can help you get to know yourself better and develop a greater sense of direction.

Additionally, for many students, it's the first time you'll live away from home. That independence allows you to try new things and make new discoveries that could lead to potential career paths after college.

OPPORTUNITY

One of the biggest advantages of going to college is that it creates a gateway to increased opportunity, and we're not just talking about after graduation.

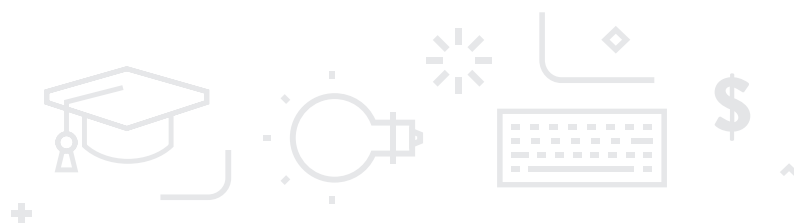
While enrolled, there will be opportunities for personal and professional growth. Many college students meet new people of different backgrounds, become a member of clubs, discover new passions, play sports, volunteer, and pick up an internship.

KNOWLEDGE

As you pursue your higher education, you'll have the chance listen to lectures or learn hands-on skills from top experts in their fields. This stimulation encourages individuals to think critically and abstractly, to question concepts, and explore new ideas. This can lead to additional growth and development, as well as being able to make more informed decisions.

INCOME

Research shows that as a college certificate or degree holder, you can look forward to more promising job prospects after graduation. Not only do people with degrees generally have higher income, but they also often report greater job satisfaction and are less likely to be unemployed or underemployed than someone with a high school diploma.



This publication has gone digital!

Find a College
or Institution



NAVIGATE OPTIONS WITH THE **COLLEGE SEARCH TOOL**

Students and educators who are familiar with this publication in previous years may remember a full printed directory of colleges and universities across Minnesota. This publication has been moved into a digital format that can be accessed through the College Search Tool at www.myhighered.mn.gov/colleges.

All the same information that has been provided in this publication in previous years, including campus profiles, estimated costs, admissions requirements and deadlines, are listed in the College Search Tool.



GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Location, location, location. It's often associated with buying and selling real estate, but it is just as important when choosing a college.

Minnesota residents can benefit from in-state tuition or the state's tuition reciprocity program with neighboring states.

Some students choose to attend college near their hometown, allowing them to save money by living at home, as well as cut costs on travel, since car rides are usually less expensive than airfare.

You may also want to consider whether you prefer living in a rural area, city, or some place in between. Small college towns typically have an intimate sense of community, whereas schools in large cities can offer more access to internships with large companies and nonprofits.

OVERALL COST

Costs vary from school to school, and there are five main categories of expenses you'll want to keep in mind: tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, personal expenses, and transportation.

It's recommended that you look beyond published tuition prices, since what is listed may not be the actual amount you and your family pay after financial aid and institutional grants. Consider colleges that not only offer affordable tuition but also substantial financial aid packages, which may include grants, scholarships, loans and work-study opportunities.

SCHOOL SIZE

Minnesota colleges and universities come in all sizes, from small liberal arts colleges with fewer than 1,000 students to large universities that annually enroll more than 30,000 students.

Large universities can offer a wide variety of majors and courses, housing options and activities. Additionally, large schools typically maintain well-stocked libraries, state-of-the-art research facilities, and nationally recognized sports teams. Notably, introductory classes can be large, which some students find exciting while others find overwhelming.

On the other hand, small schools may not offer as many programs as large universities, but they often provide specialized degrees and lots of hands-on learning opportunities. Small colleges can also mean smaller class sizes, allowing you to easily access individualized support from faculty and staff.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER INCLUDE:

- Campus environment and activities
- Available health and mental health services
- Accommodations for special needs
- Diversity of student population
- Faculty experience and expertise
- Length of time and location of classes
- Graduation statistics for that institution
- Academic reputation and credibility
- Tutoring and academic support services
- Transportation availability and cost
- Campus safety

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

Although there is no magic formula for choosing a college, you can start by asking yourself some questions. For instance, would you prefer to attend a two-year college or four-year university? Or, would you prefer a shorter term option to earn a career-specific certificate? Do you have a preference of whether the institution is public or private?

PUBLIC TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

These institutions accept all students with a high school diploma or GED and offer a variety of educational options. You can earn a credential focusing on a specific occupation, or you can take up to the first two-years of courses to complete a bachelor's degree upon transfer to a four-year university. Additionally, some colleges offer opportunities to participate in athletics, clubs, activities, and music or the arts.

PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES

Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota offer a wide variety of undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programs. Most offer a wide range of athletics and intramural sports as well as programs in theater, music and the arts. Undergraduate on-campus housing is also available on most campuses.

PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT CAREER COLLEGES

They offer programs focusing on specific careers. Some colleges focus on one specific career, such as cosmetology schools, while others offer several career programs. Programs generally range from a few months to two years.

PRIVATE FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES

Most of private universities in Minnesota are liberal arts colleges, which emphasize broad knowledge in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities. Many are affiliated with a religious denomination. Some colleges only focus on students wishing to receive a bachelor's degree, while others only offer graduate training or a combination of both.

TRANSFER PATHWAYS

Transfer pathways are a mechanism colleges use to make it easy to start at a two-year college and transfer to a four-year institution. Most two-year colleges will have a number of four-year colleges they have pathways with. These pathways are designed to save you money and time.



Transfer pathways can be complicated but, with a little bit of extra effort, they can really pay off. Pathways present a direct, guaranteed, and seamless way a student can transfer their academic credits from one institution to another. In Minnesota, many colleges and universities have put in place transfer agreements to accept accreditation from a different institution. For more tips and advice on how to effectively plan for a transfer pathway, visit www.myhighered.mn.gov/transfer-students/transfer-pathways



TYPES OF HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Are you uncertain if college is for you? There are many options! Explore the higher education pathways below to determine if a short-term route or apprenticeship may be a good fit.



Beyond attending a two-year or four-year institution, short-term credential programs are great options to explore for students who want to get started in high-demand careers. Some programs require a year or less of training and are available in many career fields. Apprenticeships are also a great pathway to success for students who want to master job-specific skills through the classroom and on-the-job training.

TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

Students can start their higher education journey by attending one of Minnesota's two-year institutions, which include community, technical, and tribal colleges. At a two-year institution, students can complete an associate degree or they can begin earning credits with the goal of transferring and completing their bachelor's degree at a four-year school.

EARN A SHORT-TERM CERTIFICATE

Public and private colleges and other training providers offer short-term training programs to help individuals get started in high-demand careers where there are lots of opportunities. Programs require a year or less of training and are available in many different career fields, from agriculture and natural resources to utilities. To explore some options, students can visit the Minnesota Employment and Economic Development website: apps.deed.state.mn.us/cee

FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS

Minnesota's four-year universities offer a wide variety of undergraduate options for students to earn their bachelor's degree. Students can study at a public or private four-year institution. Most of these institutions also offer graduate and professional degree programs.

COMPLETE AN APPRENTICESHIP

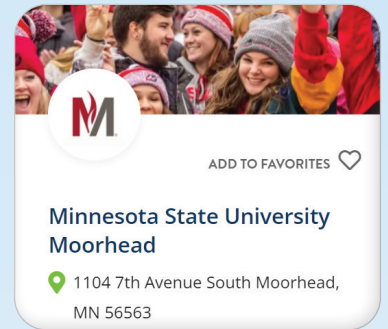
Registered apprenticeships allow students to "earn and learn," as apprentices earn a salary while learning a skilled craft or trade. Apprenticeships generally take two to four years of combined on-the-job training and classroom instruction. Apprenticeship programs are open to anyone with a high school diploma or anyone who is actively pursuing an adult high school diploma or GED. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry has a website dedicated to exploring apprenticeships options: www.apprenticeship.mn.gov



EXPLORE YOUR COLLEGE OPTIONS DIGITALLY



FIND YOUR WAY WITH OUR COLLEGE SEARCH TOOL



This publication has gone digital! Students can easily navigate the various college options in Minnesota on the MyHigherEd College Search Tool.

For a more in-depth look into making the right college choice for yourself in Minnesota, students can visit the web resource: www.MyHigherEd.mn.gov/colleges.

With two-year and four-year public and private institutions, as well as accredited cosmetology and specialized trade schools, the College Search Tool provides students with facts on tuition, fees, class sizes and other information that is helpful when making your decision.

This website is a free resource filled with information about higher education in Minnesota. It provides institutional information about public and private postsecondary institutions, including licensed non-degree private career schools.

MyHigherEd was designed specifically for students - of all ages and all types - parents, and educators with the purpose of providing information and resources in the hopes of making their higher education journey as easy as possible.

Create a profile and narrow down your college search by filtering by your interested area of study, award level you are seeking, campus setting preferences, location, and more. View estimated cost of attendance, average class sizes, and admissions information.



ADD TO FAVORITES



Decisions are hard, so we make it easy! Save all your top schools during your college search process and compare them side-by-side.

FILTER RESULTS BY:

- Areas of Study
- Award or Degree Level
- Student-Faculty Ratio
- Campus Setting
- Location
- Fully Online Programs




 Each Minnesota college and university has a profile that you can explore!



What kind of information can I find in the MyHigherEd College Search Tool?

Students can explore each Minnesota college and university in depth by selecting an institution’s profile. Each profile provides helpful information and provides estimates that can help you understand the costs of attending the college.

COST

Find out-of-pocket and net price cost information that provides estimates of the total cost of attendance for living on-campus, off-campus, or with family.

Note: The estimated amounts pertain to first-time full-time undergraduate students and include tuition and fees, housing and meals, transportation, and personal expenses. They are not exact costs, but can be used as a reference for building your annual budget for attending this institution. Keep in mind that most students receive financial aid packages which will lower their out-of-pocket costs, which is reflected in the net price.

COLLEGE PROFILE AND CAMPUS SETTING

Compare colleges and universities according to the student/faculty ratio, average class sizes and size of student body. Students can look into if a school is located in an urban, city-like atmosphere or if it located in a small town or rural setting.


ESTIMATED AMOUNTS OF FINANCIAL AID

There are average amounts of financial aid listed in each college’s profile that can inform students with an estimated amount that they may receive according to income level.

ADMISSION INFORMATION

Students can find information about admissions, including each school’s requirements and application fees, as well as deadlines and direct contact information.






CREATE A STUDENT PROFILE

Students can create a profile that will provide personalized recommendations and insights according to your career aspirations.

Scan the QR code to register:




CHOOSING A COLLEGE

Find Your Pathway to Success



www.ohe.state.mn.us

www.myhighered.mn.gov

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