

MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Make college a part of your future



You can do it!



You can learn new skills, make more money and get a job you enjoy. You can make your family proud and feel good about yourself. You can have all of this and more by making college a part of your future.

Many people and resources are ready to help you with everything from paying for college to choosing the college that's right for you.

Ask about college today. You can do it.

“You set a goal and reach for it.”

-Afifa

p.2 **Why college?**

p.4 **What is college like?**

p.7 **Can I do it?**

p.8 **Can I afford it?**

p.11 **How do I get started?**

p.12 **Which college is right for me?**

Why college?

College is an experience that can change your life. You gain the independence and the skills you need to establish a good-paying career. With a college education, you have more choices and opportunities to do what you want to do.

The more you learn, the more you can earn.

Average Yearly Earnings*

High School Diploma

\$38,900

Two-Year Degree

\$47,500

Four-Year Degree

\$67,900

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2007 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. Figures reflect average annual earnings of adults 25 and older.

Your actual income will depend on your choice of career, where you live and other factors, but in general, a college degree can increase how much money you can make in your lifetime. Your guidance counselor can help you find out how much you can make in careers you may be considering.

Get more out of life.

College graduates typically make more money, have better access to health care, are more involved in their community, enjoy more leisure activities and provide a better quality of life for their children.





“My mom always said no matter what the situation was ‘I want you to go to college, be educated and do it for yourself,’ so I took my chance.”

- Cheng

Cheng is a 20-year-old student who plans to become a pharmacist. His family immigrated to the United States 13 years ago. Keeping his family and future in focus, Cheng decided to go to college. He is the first of eight children in his family to go to college.



What is college like?

College is a transition. It's a life experience that helps you grow into an independent person. You learn to manage your time, take responsibility for your own success and discover what you enjoy doing.



Everyone is new and different.

Starting college is an adjustment for everyone. It is a chance to make new friends who probably have many of the same feelings you have. The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities enroll students from numerous racial and ethnic backgrounds, and up to 80 different languages are spoken on the campuses. Many of the campuses also have academic and cultural clubs and activities to help you get used to college and meet new people.



You make your own choices.

In college, you decide what to do and when to do it. You get to choose which classes to take, based on your interests and area of study. It takes self-discipline, hard work and good time management skills, especially if you have to work, too. But getting a good education is worth the effort.



It's an opportunity to discover yourself.

College gives you a chance to learn more about the world and about yourself. You will find a wide range of activities available. From study abroad programs to career clubs, multicultural clubs and sports, you will have the chance to try new things, test your leadership abilities and discover hidden talents. It's a chance like no other to find out what you love to do and prepare yourself for a rewarding career.



“It’s difficult balancing school, family and work. But it will help me be able to make a better life.”

-Tasheena

Tasheena is a 23-year-old urban teaching major. She hopes to someday become a teacher in an urban school and help the Native American community. Her 2-year-old daughter and an influential aunt helped inspire her decision to go to college to make a better life for herself.

Can I afford it?

Almost two-thirds of full-time undergraduate students attending Minnesota State Colleges and Universities get help to pay for college. Depending on your family income and situation, you may be able to get financial aid to pay for a big part—or even all—of your college costs.

Financial aid: What do you qualify for?

To find out what kind of financial help you can get, fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, form after Jan. 1 of your senior year. You can complete the form online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or get the form and get help filling it out from your guidance counselor. It may seem like a lot of work, but you won't know what you qualify for unless you apply.

Average Yearly Costs*

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Two-Year State Colleges \$4,565

Four-Year State Universities \$6,083

This is far less than other public and private colleges and universities, where costs can range from about \$9,000 up to \$36,000 per year.

* Tuition figures are for Minnesota residents, based on 15 credits per semester, a full-time credit load. If you go part time, the costs will be lower. Costs are averages and subject to change.

The costs for Minnesota State Colleges and Universities are lower than at many other colleges, universities and trade schools because the state of Minnesota pays part of the cost for Minnesota residents. In fact, for every dollar you pay in tuition, the state of Minnesota pays \$1.05 to support your education.

Four kinds of aid.

Many students rely on a combination of these four types of aid to help pay for college.

If you want to attend college, there is a way to do it.

Scholarships

Scholarships are a great source of aid, and you do not need to pay them back. You do not need to be in the top of your class to get a scholarship, and many are available for students in specific ethnic and racial groups. Talk to your guidance counselor about what kind of scholarships you can get.

Grants

You may be able to receive federal and state grants of \$400 to \$6,500 per year, which you do not have to pay back.

Work-Study

Work-study programs give you the opportunity to work on campus or with approved off-campus employers to earn money to pay for college expenses. Work-study jobs are often very flexible, allowing you to work around your class and personal schedules.

Student Loans

You also may be eligible for student loans, which must be paid back. Student loans usually have a lower interest rate than other kinds of loans.

Can I do it?

What if my grades aren't very good? Are classes available in my language? Many questions come to mind when thinking about college. The best way to answer those questions is simply to ask. Caring people and valuable resources are available to help you find ways to make college a part of your future.

What if my grades aren't very good?

It's not too late to turn things around. Don't let a bad grade or two get you down. Study hard, establish good homework habits and ask your teachers or counselors for help. For community and technical colleges, all you need is your high school diploma or a GED. You don't have to take standardized tests to be admitted, and your high school grades and class rank are not considered for most programs.

What if nobody in my family has ever gone to college?

You can start a new tradition and be the first one to go to college. You also will be a role model for the younger children in your family and make your parents proud.

What if I have children?

Many college students are parents, too. A number of our colleges and universities have child care on campus or can help you find it nearby. And depending on your needs, you may qualify for help with child care costs. Ask the admissions counselor or financial aid advisor for more information.

What if I don't speak English?

Classes are taught in English. The colleges and universities can assist you in finding appropriate English language resources.

Where will I live?

Some colleges and universities have dormitories, so you can live right on campus. You also may be able to get help finding an apartment nearby. Or you might be able to save money by living at home.



“I wouldn’t have been able to go to college right out of high school if I didn’t get financial aid.”

-Jade

Jade is a 20-year-old advertising major. She knew her parents couldn’t pay for her college education. She sought outside help to learn how to complete the FAFSA form and apply for scholarships and student loans. Jade was able to obtain a Pell grant and a Minnesota grant and qualified for student loans.



**“Don’t hesitate.
You feel better when you
have an education.”**

-Roman

Roman is a 25-year-old engineering major. Originally from the Ukraine, Roman came to the United States in 2005 and said he always dreamed of getting a degree from an American college. He learned English by reading and studying in school.

How do I get started?

What do I need to get into college?

Generally, you should take three years of math, science and social studies, and four years of English while in high school. For technical and community colleges, all you need is a high school diploma or GED. There are minimum ACT or SAT test score requirements for state universities. Check with the university admissions office for these and other additional admissions requirements. Even if you don't meet minimum requirements, you may be considered for admission under special provisions. It is a good idea to apply as early as possible for both admission and financial aid.

Get started. It's easy.

- 1. See your guidance counselor for help.**
- 2. Get a copy of *Go Places*,** a free booklet that gives more details about career choices and student life at the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. You can get a copy at your high school career center or counseling office, or request one by e-mailing start.here@so.mnscu.edu. Include your mailing address.
- 3. Visit a campus.** Just call one of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and ask for a tour.
- 4. Apply to the college or colleges that seem right for you.** Get an application from your guidance counselor, online at www.mnscu.edu/students/application.html, or by calling toll-free **1-888-345-2537**.
- 5. Apply for financial aid after Jan. 1 of your senior year** by completing the FAFSA form, which you can get from your guidance counselor or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Start now.

Call: **1-888-345-2537**

E-mail: start.here@so.mnscu.edu

Visit: yesyoucan.mnscu.edu

This brochure is available in English, Spanish, Somali, Hmong, French, Russian, Vietnamese, Ojibwe and Dakota. To request a copy, e-mail start.here@so.mnscu.edu. Include your mailing address.

Note: Classes are taught in English.

Which college is right for me?

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities offer excellent, affordable education in communities across the state. You can stay close to home or explore a new area of the state to get the knowledge and career skills that fit your interests.

Many campuses, many options.

Some are small, some have thousands of students, but all Minnesota State Colleges and Universities have excellent teachers.

- 7 state universities offer hundreds of degree programs.
 - 25 state technical colleges, community colleges and combined colleges offer numerous one- and two-year programs. As a full-time student, you can graduate in two years or less with a certificate, diploma or degree in a career area.
- Or you can earn an associate degree and then transfer to a university to finish a bachelor's degree.



Contact Information

Here are the campus locations, phone numbers and Web sites for each of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. For general information, call 1-888-345-2537 or visit www.mnscu.edu.

● 2-year State Colleges

Alexandria Technical College

Alexandria
www.alextech.edu
1-888-234-1222

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

Cambridge, Coon Rapids
www.anokaramsey.edu
763-433-1100

Anoka Technical College

Anoka
www.anokatech.edu
763-576-4850

Central Lakes College

Brainerd, Staples
www.clcmn.edu
1-800-933-0346

Century College

White Bear Lake
www.century.edu
1-800-228-1978

Dakota County Technical College

Rosemount
www.dctc.edu
1-877-937-3282

Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College

Cloquet
www.fdlfcc.edu
1-800-657-3712

Hennepin Technical College

Brooklyn Park, Eden Prairie
www.hennepintech.edu
1-800-345-4655

Inver Hills Community College

Inver Grove Heights
www.inverhills.edu
651-450-8500

Lake Superior College

Duluth
www.lsc.edu
1-800-432-2884

Minneapolis Community & Technical College

Minneapolis
www.minneapolis.edu
1-800-247-0911

Minnesota State College - Southeast Technical

Red Wing, Winona
www.southeastmn.edu
1-877-853-8324

Minnesota State Community & Technical College

Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Moorhead, Wadena
www.minnesota.edu
1-888-696-7282

Minnesota West Community & Technical College

Canby, Granite Falls, Jackson, Pipestone, Worthington
www.mnwest.edu
1-800-658-2330

Normandale Community College

Bloomington
www.normandale.edu
1-866-880-8740

North Hennepin Community College

Brooklyn Park
www.nhcc.edu
1-800-818-0395

Northeast Higher Education District

Hibbing Community College

Hibbing
www.hibbing.edu
1-800-224-4422

Itasca Community College

Grand Rapids
www.itascacc.edu
1-800-996-6422

Mesabi Range Community & Technical College

Eveleth, Virginia
www.mesabirange.edu
1-800-657-3860

Rainy River Community College

International Falls
www.rrcc.mnscu.edu
1-800-456-3996

Vermilion Community College

Ely
www.vcc.edu
1-800-657-3608

Northland Community & Technical College

East Grand Forks, Thief River Falls
www.northlandcollege.edu
1-800-959-6282

Northwest Technical College*

Bemidji
www.ntcmn.edu
1-800-942-8324

Pine Technical College

Pine City
www.pinetech.edu
1-800-521-7463

Ridgewater College

Hutchinson, Willmar
www.ridgewater.edu
1-800-722-1151

Riverland Community College

Albert Lea, Austin
www.riverland.edu
1-800-247-5039

Rochester Community & Technical College

Rochester
www.rctc.edu
1-800-247-1296

St. Cloud Technical College

St. Cloud
www.sctc.edu
1-800-222-1009

Saint Paul College

St. Paul
www.saintpaul.edu
1-800-227-6029

South Central College

Faribault, North Mankato
www.southcentral.edu
1-800-722-9359

*Northwest Technical College is aligned with Bemidji State University.

◆ 4-year State Universities

Bemidji State University

Bemidji
www.bemidjistate.edu
1-877-236-4354

Metropolitan State University

St. Paul, Minneapolis
www.metrostate.edu
651-793-1300

Minnesota State University, Mankato

Mankato
www.mnsu.edu
1-800-722-0544

Minnesota State University Moorhead

Moorhead
www.mnstate.edu
1-800-593-7246

St. Cloud State University

St. Cloud
www.stcloudstate.edu
1-877-654-7278

Southwest Minnesota State University

Marshall
www.southwestmsu.edu
1-800-642-0684

Winona State University

Winona
www.winona.edu
1-800-342-5978

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system is an Equal Opportunity employer and educator. Upon request, this document will be made available in alternative formats. Call 651-296-8012 or 1-888-MNSCU-4-U (1-888-667-2848).

TTY: 651-282-2660.



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

yesyoucan.mnscu.edu

