

Minnesota Future Together Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

A new grant program offering tuition-free pathways for students in high-need career areas

We know that obtaining a college credential is critical for future career opportunities and total life-time earnings. Unfortunately, too often the cost of college can be a barrier for many Minnesotans.

Enter the **Minnesota Future Together Grants**.

This new program will provide eligible Minnesotans with a **tuition-free pathway** for earning a certificate, diploma, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree at any public institution in the state. The grants are available starting spring 2022 through 2024 OR until all funds are dispensed, whichever comes first.

This document is intended to provide you with straightforward answers to questions you may have about the grant. For more information on your eligibility, contact your college.

What are Minnesota Future Together Grants?

Minnesota Future Together Grants are a tuition-free pathway for Minnesotans attending a public higher education institutions in the state. The grants are made possible through an investment from Governor Tim Walz with federal American Recovery Plan funds.

Who is eligible for Minnesota Future Together Grants?

If you meet the following criteria, you may be eligible for a Minnesota Future Together Grant:

- You are a [Minnesota resident](#)¹
- You are attending a public higher education institution or Tribal College, this includes:
 - All Minnesota State colleges and universities ([See a list of Minnesota State campuses](#)²)
 - All University of Minnesota campuses ([See a list of all UMN campuses](#)³)
- You first enrolled during the 2021-22 or 2022-23 school year OR you are returning to college and have not been enrolled at any college in the last three semesters
- You are enrolled as a degree-seeking student in a program that leads to a career in one of the following high-need areas (**Note:** *Specific programs will vary by campus, contact your college to confirm eligibility*):

¹ <http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=194>

² <https://www.minnstate.edu/campusesprograms/>

³ <https://system.umn.edu/campuses>

- **Healthcare:** High-need programs on your campus may include nursing, medical assisting, surgical technicians, healthcare social workers, EMTs, paramedics, dental assistants, dental hygienists, and substance abuse and mental health counselors.
- **STEM:** High-need programs on your campus may include software development, software analysts, engineers, web developers, statisticians, and agricultural workers.
- **Business:** High-need programs on your campus may include accounting, financial management, auditors, human resource managers, bankers, and project managers.
- **Industry and Technology:** High-need programs on your campus may include machinetool technologists, operations managers, HVAC technicians, front line supervisors, plumbers, construction managers, electricians/electrical line workers, heavy duty mechanics, welders, automotive service technicians, and auto body technicians.
- **Education:** High-need programs on your campus may include early childhood educators, childcare workers, school counselors and social workers
- **Public service:** High-need programs on your campus may include law enforcement officers, probation officers, firefighters, and public administration
- You meet all standard eligibility requirements for Minnesota Office of Higher Education programs including, but not limited to:
 - Not in default on a state or federal student loan, Not on a SAP/FA suspension, and Nothave already earned a baccalaureate degree
- You meet ONE of the following requirements:
 - Have a Family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) reported on FAFSA or State Aid Application of less than \$100,000 and have worked in a critical industry listed in Executive Order 20-74 at least part-time between March 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021; OR received unemployment benefits between March 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021; OR
 - Have a Family AGI reported on FAFSA or State Aid Application less than \$50,000

I am a part-time student; can I still receive a Minnesota Future Together Grant?

Yes, part time students are eligible to receive a Minnesota Future Together Grant.

What do you mean by “tuition-free”?

Exactly how it sounds! Minnesota Future Together Grants are intended to cover the cost of tuition and fees for students who meet the criteria above.

What Minnesota Future Together Grants DO NOT cover are housing, books, or expenses outside the cost of tuition and fees.

How much are Minnesota Future Together Grants?

Minnesota Future Together Grants will range from \$100-\$15,400. They are intended to be a “last dollar” grant, meaning that after all other financial aid is calculated, a Minnesota Future Together Grant will cover the amount remaining of your tuition and fees.

How do I apply for Minnesota Future Together Grants? Is there a separate application?

The only way to receive a Minnesota Future Together Grant is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form OR Minnesota Dream Act Application. If you do not complete this applicable form, you will not be able to access a Minnesota Future Together Grant. If you have not already completed a FAFSA or Minnesota Dream Act Application for the 2021-2022 and/or 2022-2023 aid years, [use this link to complete the FAFSA form](#)⁴ OR [use this form to complete the Minnesota Dream Act Application](#)⁵. Plus, by filling out the FAFSA form, you will also gain access to other financial aid resources.

How will I know if I received a Minnesota Future Together Grant?

Your college will let you know if you are awarded.

Am I able to receive a Minnesota Future Together Grant more than once?

Yes, you may receive a Minnesota Future Together Grant more than once. You will need to fill out the FAFSA or Minnesota Dream Act Application each academic year to be considered for a repeat grant. That being said, if your eligibility changes, or if the Minnesota Future Together Grant program has ended, you will not receive an additional grant.

I don't start college until 2025, will the Minnesota Future Together Grant still be available?

No. The Minnesota Future Together Grant program will end in 2024 OR when all funds have been dispensed, whichever comes first.

I received the grant, but am thinking of changing my program of study. Will that impact my grant?

It depends. If your new program of study is not in a high-need career area, then you will no longer be eligible to receive a Minnesota Future Together Grant. If your new program of study is still in a high-need career area, you may be fine. Each situation is different, so you should contact your college to discuss further.

I did not receive the grant, but am planning to change my program of study to one that is in a high-need career area. Am I eligible?

If you meet all grant eligibility criteria, and are now switching to a high-need career area program, you may be eligible. You will want to contact your college to discuss your particular situation further.

I am a graduate student, am I eligible to receive a Minnesota Future Together Grant?

No. Minnesota Future Together Grants are only available to students pursuing a credential, associate's degree, or

⁴ <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

⁵ <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/ssl/SG/DA/app2023/intro.cfm#>

bachelor's degree.

I am not a Minnesota resident, but attend college in Minnesota. Am I eligible to receive a Minnesota Future Together Grant?

No. Minnesota Future Together Grants are only available to Minnesota residents.

I am a Minnesota resident, but attend a public institution outside of Minnesota. Am I eligible to receive a Minnesota Future Together Grant?

No. Minnesota Future Together Grants are only available to Minnesota residents attending a public institution in Minnesota.

I attend a private or for-profit college in Minnesota, am I eligible?

No. Minnesota Future Together Grants are only available to students attending a public institution or Tribal College in Minnesota. This includes:

- All Minnesota State colleges and universities ([See a list of Minnesota State campuses⁶](#))
- All University of Minnesota campuses ([See a list of all UMN campuses⁷](#))

I was enrolled in college in the 2020-2021 academic year, am I eligible?

No. Minnesota Future Together Grants are only available to students who enrolled in their program of study for the first time during the 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic school year or later, OR if you are returning to college and have not been enrolled at any college in the last three semesters.

If you have a question not covered in this document, please contact your college.

⁶ <https://www.minnstate.edu/campusesprograms/index.html>

⁷ <https://system.umn.edu/campuses>