

North Star Promise

TALKING POINTS

The North Star Promise Program is a new, ongoing state-funded scholarship that will cover the full cost of tuition and fees for eligible Minnesota residents who attend a public undergraduate college or university in the state.

The scholarship is available to those with an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of less than \$80,000. The program benefits new, current and returning students who are working toward a degree, diploma or certificate.

The North Star Promise is a “last-dollar” scholarship program, meaning that it covers the remaining balance of tuition and fees after other scholarships, grants, stipends and tuition waivers have been applied.

STUDENTS WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE NORTH STAR PROMISE

The North Star Promise is available to any new, current or returning student of any age who meets the eligibility requirements. This includes incoming college freshmen (starting with the fall class of 2024), currently enrolled college students, and adults who want to return to college to complete their degrees.

North Star Promise funds are only available to students who have not previously earned a bachelor’s degree. Students who are pursuing a masters or doctoral program or want to earn a second bachelor’s degree are not eligible.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible, Minnesota students must have an Adjusted Gross income (AGI) of less than \$80,000.

The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) comes from the Federal 1040 Income Tax Return, specifically, Line 11 of the form 1040. Students considered Dependent for FAFSA purposes will have the AGI of their parent(s), and stepparent if applicable, considered. Students considered Independent for FAFSA

purposes, will have the AGI of the student considered for program eligibility. If the student is married, the student and spouse’s combined AGI must be below \$80,000 in order to be eligible for the North Star Promise Scholarship.

Additionally, students must meet all of the following requirements:

- Must be a Minnesota resident (see www.ohe.state.mn.us/mnresident for full details)
- Attend a Minnesota public higher education institution
 - Any Minnesota State college or university
www.minnstate.edu
 - Any University of Minnesota campus
www.system.umn.edu/campuses
 - Any Minnesota Tribal College
 - Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
www.fdltrcc.edu
 - Leech Lake Tribal College
www.lltc.edu
 - Red Lake Nation College
www.rlnc.edu
 - White Earth Tribal and Community College
www.wetcc.edu
- Not be in default on a state or federal student loan
- Must be enrolled in a program working toward an associate degree, bachelor’s degree, diploma or certificate and be taking at least one credit
- Must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards
- Have not already earned a baccalaureate degree

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Is there a limit on how long you can receive North Star Promise Program funds?

Yes. While there is no maximum time limit, there are credit limits. Students earning a 2-year degree can receive the award for up to 4 full-time semesters or the equivalent. Students earning a 4-year degree can receive the award for up to 8 full-time semesters or the equivalent.

2. What tax year will be used to determine eligibility for the North Star Promise Program in fall 2024?

The first year of the North Star Promise Program is the 2024-2025 academic year. The FAFSA or Minnesota Dream Act application asks about prior, prior year AGI. In other words, the AGI from 2022. This can be found on line 11 of the 1040.

3. How do students apply for the North Star Promise Program?

Students must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (studentaid.gov) or Minnesota Dream Act application (www.ohe.state.mn.us/mndreamact). Eligible students will receive North Star Promise funds as part of their whole financial aid package from the financial aid office at their school. There is no additional application.

4. How will students be notified that they have received North Star Promise Program funding?

Students are notified of their scholarship through their college or university's standard financial aid awarding process. Questions about this process should be directed to a student's financial aid office.

5. What is not covered by the North Star Promise Program?

North Star Promise does not cover the cost of books, housing, transportation, food, and other living expenses.

6. When does the North Star Promise Program end?

There is no end date for the North Star Promise Program. It was established in the 2023 Legislative Session as an ongoing program.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO, VISIT:

www.ohe.state.mn.us/northstarpromise

