

North Star Promise Scholarship Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the North Star Promise Program?**

North Star Promise is a new scholarship that starts in fall 2024. It covers the cost of tuition and fees for Minnesota residents attending a public undergraduate college or university in the state. The scholarship is available to those with an annual family income of less than \$80,000.

2. **How do you 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.

3. **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.

4. **What is the income requirement for the North Star Promise Program?**

The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) comes from the Federal 1040 Income Tax Return. The first year of the program is the 2024-2025 academic year and the corresponding 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.

Dependent students will have the AGI of their parent(s), and stepparent if applicable, considered for the program's family AGI threshold of below \$80,000. The AGI of dependent students will not be considered. When parents are divorced, separated or never married, and do not live together, the parent who provides more financial support to the student should be the parent of record for the FAFSA or Minnesota Dream Act. This is the parent whose income will be reviewed when determining eligibility for North Star Promise. If the parent who provides more financial support has remarried as of the date the FAFSA or Minnesota Dream Act is filed, the stepparent's AGI will also be taken into account when determining eligibility.

Independent students 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. You can review what makes a student either a dependent or independent student here: <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/dependency-status.pdf>

5. **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.

6. What colleges are considered public?

To be considered for North Star Promise, students must attend one of the follow Minnesota colleges or universities:

- Any Minnesota State college or university (www.minnstate.edu)
- Any University of Minnesota campus (<https://system.umn.edu/campuses>)
- Any Minnesota Tribal College
 - Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (<https://fdltcc.edu>)
 - Leech Lake Tribal College (<https://www.lltc.edu>)
 - Red Lake Nation College (<https://www.rlnc.edu>)
 - White Earth Tribal and Community College (<http://www.wetcc.edu>)

7. Why will some eligible students not receive North Star Promise Program funding?

North Star Promise funding is awarded after all other financial aid is considered. If a student has their tuition and fees fully covered through other available financial aid programs, they may not receive a North Star Promise scholarship.

8. When are North Star Promise Program funds available to students?

The North Star Promise Program will be available to eligible students starting in fall 2024.

9. Are current students eligible for North Star Promise Program funding?

Yes! North Star Promise funding is available to any eligible student enrolled at an eligible college.

10. What if you didn't finish your degree program? Are you still eligible?

Yes! If you are an adult who did not finish you bachelor's degree and would like to complete your program, you would be eligible for North Star Promise funding.

11. Are Master's or Doctoral student eligible?

No, North Star Promise funds are only available to students working toward their first credential, such as a certificate, diploma, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree.

12. Are you eligible if you already have a bachelor's degree, but want to pursue a second bachelor's degree?

No, North Star Promise funds are only available to students working toward their first credential, such as a certificate, diploma, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree.

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

Yes. There is no maximum time limit, but there are credit limits. Students earning a 2-year degree can receive the award for a total of 60 credits. Students earning a 4-year degree can receive the award for a total of 120 credits.

14. Is there an age restriction/requirement to receive North Star Promise Program funding?

No! Eligible students of all ages can receive a North Star Promise scholarship.

15. **What exactly is covered by the North Star Promise Program?**

North Star Promise funds cover the full cost of tuition and fees.

16. **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. By filling out the FAFSA or MN Dream Act, student may receive additional grants or scholarships that can help cover those costs.

17. **When does the North Star Promise Program end?**

There is no end date. It was established in the 2023 Legislative Session as an ongoing program.