

North Star Promise

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 eligible Minnesota residents attending 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.

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?

To be eligible, students must have an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of less than \$80,000. What does that mean? 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.

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
www.system.umn.edu/campuses
- Any Minnesota Tribal College
 - Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
www.fdlfcc.edu
 - Leech Lake Tribal College
www.lltc.edu
 - Red Lake Nation College
www.rlnc.edu
 - White Earth Tribal and Community College
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

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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 your bachelor's degree and would like to complete your program, you could 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 who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree.

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

No, North Star Promise funds are only available to students who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree.

13. 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.

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 does fees mean?

For the purposes of the North Star Promise award calculation, fees include those that are charged to all students. Fees **DO NOT** include those that are program-specific, course-specific, or major-specific. Check with your college or university to determine which fees are covered.

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.

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.

ADDITIONAL FAQs CAN BE FOUND AT:

www.ohe.state.mn.us/nspfaqs