

MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF  
HIGHER  
EDUCATION

*reach higher*

# **Counselors' Guide**

## **to Minnesota Postsecondary Education**

**2011-2012 Edition**

**Published by:**  
Minnesota Office of Higher Education

## **About the Counselors' Guide**

The *Counselors' Guide to Minnesota Postsecondary Education* is produced to assist high school counselors, teachers, and other education professionals as they help students prepare and apply for college, explore Minnesota higher education options and learn about financial aid. Additional information about counseling students on college and financial aid is available at [www.getreadyforcollege.org](http://www.getreadyforcollege.org) under *Educators' Corner*.

The *Counselors' Guide* is updated annually and provided to Minnesota high schools. Additional copies may be requested by calling 651-259-3971 or 1-800-657-3866. Or it can be downloaded at [www.getreadyforcollege.org](http://www.getreadyforcollege.org); under *Educators' Corner*, click on *Supplementing Your College Counseling* and then *Counselors' Guide to Minnesota Postsecondary Education*.

## **About Us**

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education is a cabinet-level state agency providing students with financial aid programs and information to help them gain access to postsecondary education. The agency serves as the state's clearinghouse for data, research and analysis on postsecondary enrollment, financial aid, finance and trends.

The Minnesota State Grant program, which is the largest financial aid program administered by the agency, is a need-based tuition assistance program for Minnesota students. The agency also oversees tuition reciprocity programs, a student loan program, Minnesota's 529 college savings program, licensing and an early awareness outreach initiative for youth. Through collaboration with systems and institutions, the agency assists in the development of shared library resources.

**This document can be made available in an alternative format to individuals with disabilities by calling 651-642-0567 or 1-800-657-3866.**

# Table of Contents

## Chapter 1: Preparing for Higher Education

Careers and Education Resources.....	1-1
Recommended High School Classes .....	1-2
Earning College Credit While in High School .....	1-3
Aptitude or Assessment Tests .....	1-4
College Counseling Calendar .....	1-5
Narrowing Down College Options .....	1-7
Special Considerations for Students with Disabilities.....	1-8
College Fairs.....	1-9
College Visits .....	1-10
Preparing for College Athletics .....	1-11
ROTC.....	1-13

## Chapter 2: Navigating the Admissions Process

How Do Schools Decide Which Students to Admit? .....	2-1
Admissions Selectivity .....	2-2
Admissions Deadlines .....	2-3
What Students Will Need to Apply.....	2-4
College Admissions Tests .....	2-5
Placement Tests .....	2-6
Application Essays.....	2-7
Admissions Interviews .....	2-8
Letters of Recommendations.....	2-8

## Chapter 3: Minnesota Higher Education Options

Public Institutions.....	3-1
Private Institutions .....	3-2
College and University Profiles.....	3-3
Two-Year Degree Program Grids.....	3-84
Four-Year Degree Program Grids .....	3-98

## Chapter 4: Student Financial Aid

Purpose of Financial Aid.....	4-1
Type of Financial Aid .....	4-1
Sources of Financial Aid.....	4-2
Applying for Financial Aid .....	4-3
Federal Eligibility Requirements .....	4-4
Minnesota Residency Requirements.....	4-4
Factors That Affect Eligibility .....	4-5
Financial Aid Events .....	4-5
School-Specific Scholarships .....	4-6

## Chapter 5: High School Counselors' Directory .....

5-1

## Appendix

A: Other Useful Resources .....	A-1
B: Handouts for Students & Parents.....	B-1