

Direct Admissions

Direct Admissions Frequently Asked Questions for Students and Families

Q: What is Direct Admissions?

The Direct Admissions program is designed to promote college access by ensuring that all graduating high school students know that they qualify for admission to a variety of Minnesota colleges and universities. This program is coordinated by the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and is a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Education, selected high schools, and participating colleges and universities. This program is funded by the State of Minnesota.

Q: What is the goal of the Direct Admissions program?

Direct Admissions starts with the belief that all students who have graduated from Minnesota high schools are **college ready**. The goal of the program is to make sure all graduating seniors know that they have multiple college options in Minnesota. We want to reduce anxiety around accessing higher education by making sure students don't have to worry about getting accepted once they have applied, because they have already met the admissions standards for the colleges identified on their letter.

Q: What kinds of colleges and universities are participating in Direct Admissions?

Minnesota has a variety of great of colleges and universities, both public and private, non-profit institutions, that are represented in the Direct Admissions program. Direct Admissions schools include:

- Community, technical, and tribal colleges that offer certificates and associates degrees (sometimes called "two-year degrees") in career fields as well as general education credits designed to prepare a student to transfer to a university to complete a bachelor's degree.
- Public universities that offer bachelor's degree (sometimes called "four-year degrees") options in a variety of academic programs and also offer options for on-campus housing for students who want a residential experience.
- Private, non-profit universities that offer certificates, associates degrees and bachelor's degrees in a variety of academic programs and generally also offer options for on-campus housing as well.

Please note that both public and private universities happily accept transfer students from community and tribal colleges! All colleges and universities participating in the Direct Admissions pilot are [Minnesota State Grant](#) eligible for students who qualify.

Q: How did I get selected for Direct Admissions?

Your high school volunteered to participate in the Direct Admission program and you were included because a review of your academic record showed that you met the specific academic criteria for general admission to each school on your list and are on-track to graduate in spring 2023. Your academic information and contact information were shared through a data sharing agreement between your high school and the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

Q: Where can I go for more information about Direct Admissions?

Check out the [Direct Admissions website](#) for more information!

Q: Do I have to participate in Direct Admissions?

Participating in Direct Admissions is optional but encouraged. If you choose not to apply to any of the schools on the list, you don't need to do anything further. Your information will not be shared with participating colleges and universities unless you choose to by selecting that college or university on your list.

Questions About Next Steps

Q: Do I still need to take a placement test or standardized test like ACT or SAT?

While many colleges and universities participating in the Direct Admissions program do not require students to submit ACT or SAT scores, students should still consult the website of their top choice institutions to find out more about their current testing recommendations. You may be asked to submit ACT or SAT scores if required by the institution.

Q: Do I still need to complete an admissions application?

Yes! The Direct Admissions program lets you know what colleges and universities are ready to accept you, but you still have to complete the admission process to officially receive admission. Please check the college's website for application deadlines and a list of application materials required. You must supply all the requested application materials by each college's application deadline to secure a spot through the Direct Admissions program. You will receive your official acceptance letter after you have submitted your application and it has been processed according to the institution's timeline.

Q: Can I apply to more than one college or university from my Direct Admissions list?

Yes! Applying to more than one college or university can be a great idea, especially if you aren't totally sure where you want to go or what you want to study yet. Be sure to list all of the colleges you have applied for when you submit your FAFSA to ensure you get financial aid information to compare the schools you are interested in.

Q: Are there application fees to apply to Direct Admissions colleges and universities?

No, participating colleges and universities are waiving application fees for participating in the Direct Admissions pilot.

Q: What if I already applied for some colleges or universities? Will this affect my application?

No need to worry about any applications you may have already submitted! Your application will still be processed and there is no need to re-apply. Please note that if you've already submitted an application, it will not be refunded.

Q: What if I don't want to attend a school listed on my letter?

If the schools you are most interested in are not on this list, no problem! You'll simply want to follow the standard application process for those schools. Please refer to those college's websites for application and admissions information. There is no need to respond to this email or to notify the schools listed on your letter that you are not interested.

Q: When will I get my official admissions acceptance letter from the schools I've applied to?

Once you have applied, your application will be processed according to the timeline indicated by each college or university's website. Please contact the school directly if you have questions about the status of your application.

Questions about Choosing a College

Q: Do I have to attend one of the schools listed on my letter?

Nope! Direct Admissions doesn't limit your choices and we encourage you to apply to all the schools you are interested in, regardless of their participation in the Direct Admissions pilot.

Q: How can I learn more about a school I'm interested in?

The best place to get more information about specific programs or to learn more about campus life is to visit each college's website or get started on Minnesota's [My Higher Ed](#) website. If you select the name of the school or schools you are interested in on your Direct Admissions letter, you'll also have the option to have your contact information shared with the college or university so they can send you more information as well. Campus visits are also a great way to learn more about a specific school!

Q: I don't see the name of a college that I'm interested in on this letter? Does that mean I can't be admitted there?

Some colleges and universities in Minnesota chose not to opt-in for the Direct Admission pilot, so you may not see a college you are interested in on the list. If there are other colleges you are interested in, you'll want to apply through their standard admissions processes.

Questions about Paying for College

Q: How can I get help with paying for college? Do I still need to apply for financial aid?

We strongly encourage all students to apply for financial aid through the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) which is used to determine eligibility for both federal and state financial aid programs. The federal Pell Grant and the Minnesota State Grant provide grants to more than 120,000 students each year. Half of all students who apply receive a Pell Grant or Minnesota State Grant. Grants are based on the cost of the college chosen, family size, and income.

Q: Can I get a scholarship or financial aid for attending a Direct Admission school on my list?

There is not a scholarship connected with your Direct Admissions offer, but we encourage all students to complete their FAFSA and college applications as soon as possible to determine all financial aid they may be eligible for. Please note, some colleges and universities might have separate scholarship applications, so you'll want to check with your top choices to learn more.

Q: How can I find out what college costs?

The best place to get up-to-date information on tuition and fees is through the website for your chosen colleges or universities. Please note that listed costs are likely to be before financial aid is applied, so your actual costs may vary depending on your financial aid eligibility.

Q: Where can I get more information about financial aid?

The federal [Student Aid](#) website or the Office of Higher Education's [Paying For College](#) website are great places to start. You may also want to check out the financial aid section of each college or university you are interested in to find out more about their deadlines and application process for scholarships and other types of college funded aid.

References

Minnesota State Grant (www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?PageID=138)

Direct Admissions Minnesota(www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=2484)

My Higher Ed (www.myhighered.mn.gov)

Federal Student Aid (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>)

Paying for College (www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=888)