

Free Application Opportunities at Minnesota Colleges and Universities

There are several ways students can apply to Minnesota colleges and universities for free during the 2026-2027 school year. This list is updated annually.

Students at participating Minnesota high schools who opt in to [Direct Admissions](#) can apply to [participating colleges and universities](#) without completing a traditional college application or paying an application fee. All institutions listed in this resource participate in Direct Admissions unless marked with a *.



FREE APPLICATIONS ALL YEAR

The following Institutions do not charge application fees throughout the year.

4-Year Private Colleges

Augsburg University
Bethany Lutheran College
Bethel University
Carleton College*
College of Saint Benedict
College of St. Scholastica
Concordia College, Moorhead
Concordia University, St. Paul
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University
Macalester College*
Saint John's University
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
St. Catherine University
St. Olaf College*
University of Northwestern—St. Paul*
University of St. Thomas

4-Year Public Universities

Bemidji State University
Metropolitan State University
St. Cloud State University

2-Year Public Colleges

Anoka Technical College
Anoka-Ramsey Community College
Central Lakes College
Century College
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Lake Superior College
Minnesota State Community & Technical College
Minnesota State College Southeast
Minnesota West Community & Technical College
Normandale Community College
Northland Community & Technical College
Northwest Technical College
Pine Technical & Community College
Ridgewater College
Riverland Community College
Rochester Community & Technical College
Saint Paul College
South Central College
St. Cloud Technical and Community College

* These institutions do not participate in Direct Admissions but are included because they offer free application opportunities to students (as noted).

FREE APPLICATIONS DURING COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE MONTH (OCTOBER 1-31)

Some institutions use promo codes, noted in [] below.

Private Colleges

Dunwoody College of Technology
Minneapolis College of Art and Design [MCW27]

4-Year Public Universities

Minnesota State University, Mankato
Minnesota State University Moorhead
Southwest Minnesota State University
University of Minnesota, Crookston
University of Minnesota, Morris

University of Minnesota, Rochester
Winona State University

2-Year Public Colleges

Alexandria Community & Technical College
Dakota County Technical College
Hennepin Technical College [CKM26]
Inver Hills Community College
Minneapolis College
Minnesota North College
North Hennepin Community College [CKM26]

Eligible students may apply to these Minnesota colleges for free all year (beyond October).

This includes all the colleges listed above, with the addition of the **University of Minnesota-Twin Cities*** and **University of Minnesota Duluth**. High school counselors and college admissions staff can help students determine eligibility and complete a fee waiver or self-report during the application process to waive fees.

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