

State Grant Background



UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

1,576 State Grant recipients were on campus last academic year — that was **23 percent** of all St. Thomas undergraduates.

The average State Grant award at St. Thomas was \$4,799.

In total, **more than \$7.5 million** in State Grant awards were made to St. Thomas undergraduate students.

“I know that support from the State



Grant helps me stay in school and will help me graduate on-time. It also makes it possible for

me to attend the college that fits me best.”

VIRIDIANA MARTINEZ, St. Thomas Class of 2021
HOMETOWN: Minneapolis, MN MAJOR: Leadership and management EXTRA-CURRICULARS: President of the LatinX Club, work study in Student Affairs, mentor in Linkages program, student representative on the accreditation team and a member of undergraduate student government



THE STATE GRANT PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS AFFORD THE COLLEGES THAT BEST MEET THEIR NEEDS.

The State Grant program:

- > Targets low- and middle-income families
- > Supports all college options
- > Has statewide impact
- > Holds down additional borrowing
- > Invests in the state’s economy by building the future workforce



80,000 students from across Minnesota receive a State Grant.

And they go to all kinds of colleges.



Equity & Prosperity: A Student Aid Agenda

We ask Governor Walz and the Legislature to invest in college students through the State Grant program.

2020 Request

Reduce the share of costs the state expects students to pay for college with a \$24 million investment in the State Grant program. This would:

- **INCREASE THE SIZE OF GRANTS FOR ALL CURRENT RECIPIENTS**
- **GIVE AWARDS TO 3,500 NEWLY ELIGIBLE MINNESOTA STUDENTS — most with family incomes below \$50,000**

Benefits

Acting now to reduce the student share would lower the amount students need to borrow or earn from working. The result would help keep college affordable for low- and middle-income Minnesotans. This investment would also help address racial disparities in college completion, as the Minnesota Education Equity Partnership (MnEEP) recommended in a January 2020 policy brief.

STATE GRANT 101

The State Grant program is the only way the state of Minnesota targets funds to college students based on their financial need. Recipients:

- Earn bachelor's degrees, associate degrees and certificates
- Attend part-time and full-time
- Attend private and public institutions
- Are recent high school grads and adult learners

“In the arena of financial aid, assistance to those who need it most will boost the national economy. And need-based aid for college helps achieve the separate social goal of greater equity.”

— excerpt from “College Financial Aid: Equity and Efficiency,” The Region, Oct. 18, 2018, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

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