Policy background: Access & Success

Our 18 private nonprofit institutions make a high-quality education accessible to all students.

71%
The average acceptance rate at our colleges is 71%, compared to 73% at University of Minnesota and 78% at Minnesota State Universities.

23%
23 percent of our students receive federal Pell Grants, with the majority of recipients having family incomes below $60,000.

#1 and #3
The 4-year graduation rate for our students receiving Pell Grants ranks first in Minnesota and third nationally.

36%
36 percent of our first-year U.S. students are students of color and Native American students, compared to 33 percent of Minnesota high school graduates.

#1
The number of Black and Latino students completing their bachelor's degree in four years ranks first in Minnesota.
Member Colleges

Augsburg University
Bethany Lutheran College
Bethel University
Carleton College
College of Saint Benedict
The College of St. Scholastica
Concordia College
Concordia University, St. Paul
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University
Macalester College
Minneapolis College of Art and Design
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

More key facts

20% of our students are first generation, meaning neither parent finished college

32% of students of color and Native American students earning bachelor’s degrees in Minnesota do so at our colleges

50% of our graduates with bachelor’s degrees in STEM fields are women

45% of students of color and Native American students earning master’s degrees in Minnesota do so at our colleges

For more information on these and other facts visit www.mnprivatecolleges.org/research/facts or contact Paul Cerkvenik, president, or Alison Plumboeck Groebner, government relations director.