

# State Grant Background



## The Minnesota State Grant program:

Helps low- and middle-income families

Has statewide impact

Holds down borrowing

Increases graduation rates

Encourages students to stay in Minnesota

State Grant funds are awarded to students – not institutions.

**68,000** students from across Minnesota receive a grant.

**39%** of students from Minnesota going to college here receive a grant.

And for Minnesota students of color and Native American students going to college here. **55%** receive a grant.

Students use their State Grant awards to pursue their education and career goals.

They are earning certificates, associate degrees and bachelor's degrees.

They are traditional-age students and adult learners.

They are at public, tribal and private colleges.

## Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

**233 State Grant recipients** were on campus last academic year – that was **13 percent** of all Saint Mary's undergraduates.

The average State Grant award at Saint Mary's was **\$5,251**.

“I was very grateful to have received the Minnesota State Grant. With the assistance of this grant, I am greatly supported in order to set my life up for success while simultaneously putting less of a financial burden on myself.”



**Kennedy Krause**

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Class of 2024

**Hometown:** Kasson, Minn.

**Major:** Management

**Minors:** Public relations, global diversity and social justice

**Extra-curricular:** Women's ice hockey



**Saint Mary's University**  
of MINNESOTA

# Promise Equalization Scholarship 2024 Agenda

We ask Governor Walz and legislators to **prioritize financial aid for low- and middle-income students at private nonprofit colleges.**

## Why:

**Low- and middle-income students at nonprofit colleges were not included in last year's North Star Promise investment.**

## How:

**Add a new scholarship component for State Grant recipients at nonprofit colleges.**

## Impact:

**More than 13,000 students at nonprofit colleges would receive average awards of \$1,045.**

Last year the state made a major investment in college affordability with the North Star Promise. But with a focus on public colleges and universities, one-third of the low- and middle-income students in our state who attend four-year colleges were left out—those who attend private nonprofit colleges.

*Low- and middle-income students who attend nonprofit colleges need similar help. They have the same financial needs as students at Minnesota State and the University of Minnesota who are helped by North Star Promise.*

In the 2024 session, legislators can **help low- and middle-income students at nonprofit colleges** with a new component to the Minnesota State Grant program—**the Promise Equalization Scholarship**. And the investment of \$13.9 million would mirror how much the state is investing through North Star Promise in students at the University of Minnesota, restoring financial aid parity for students at nonprofit colleges.

Students at nonprofit colleges matter to Minnesota. *About one-third of recent high school graduates who attend a four-year college in Minnesota choose to enroll at a nonprofit college.*

And among students receiving Pell Grants and among students of color, the share attending nonprofit colleges is the *same or higher* than at the U of M or Minnesota State universities.

It's important to empower students to make the best college decision for themselves—*one size doesn't fit all.*

## Minnesota Private College Council member institutions

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