

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.

ST. OLAF COLLEGE

523 State Grant recipients were on campus last academic year — that was **17 percent** of all St. Olaf undergraduates.

The average State Grant award at St. Olaf was **\$6,316**.

“One of my main concerns when applying to colleges was that I would not be able to afford my school of choice. The Minnesota State Grant made it possible for me to attend St. Olaf and achieve the education I have always dreamed of.”



Cora Harpel

St. Olaf College, Class of 2026

Hometown: Ellendale, Minn.

Major: English and creative writing

Extra-curriculars: Students for reproductive rights, band and theater



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