

North Dakota State Grant and Scholarship Programs 2026-2027

The cost of attending college can vary depending on the college selected, the number of credits enrolled, as well as other expenses such as room/board, books and supplies, transportation and other miscellaneous educational and living expenses. Financial aid programs, such as grants, scholarships, Federal Work Study, and reciprocity programs exist to help students make college affordable. The North Dakota University System (NDUS) administers the ND state grants, scholarships, reciprocity, and other incentive programs. Students should also pursue federal financial aid, including Federal Work Study and student loans, as well as other institutional and outside scholarship opportunities. The first step in applying is to complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#).

Program details for all of the ND state financial aid programs can be found on the [NDUS website](#).

Program	Type of Aid	How and When to Apply	Other Program Details	Enrollment Requirement	Amount and Lifetime Limits
North Dakota State Grant	Grant	Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually. - The FAFSA can be completed as early as October 1st of the year preceding college enrollment. - Early completion of the FAFSA is recommended due to limited funding.	The North Dakota State Grant program provides non-repayable grants to ND residents pursuing their first undergraduate degree within ND. Awards are based on an unmet need formula utilizing FAFSA data, institutional costs, and federal financial aid received. Awards are made until funds are exhausted. Students may use the award at accredited ND institutions of higher education that offer programs of study of at least 2 years in length.	Full time: 12+ credits Three-quarter time: 9-11 credits Half-time: 6-8 credits Less-than-half-time: 3-5 credits Less than 3 credits: Not Eligible	Up to \$1,375 per semester or \$917 per quarter Awards for less than full-time enrollment can be pro-rated. Lifetime limit is up to 8 semesters or 12 quarters of full time equivalent undergraduate enrollment, or the attainment of the first bachelor's degree, whichever occurs first. State aid may not be awarded in excess of total cost of attendance when all other scholarships/grants are considered, which may impact the award amount.

Supplemental State Grant	Grant	Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually. The FAFSA can be completed as early as October 1st of the year preceding college enrollment. Early completion of the FAFSA is recommended due to limited funding.	Must first be awarded the ND State Grant. Must have a total family income, based on FAFSA data, of \$80,000 or less. Awards are made until funds are exhausted. Students may use the award at accredited ND institutions of higher education that offer programs of study of at least 2 years in length.	Awards will be issued for full or part-time enrollment. No award for enrollment less than 3 credits.	The award amount is based on a base tuition set by the NDUS, less Pell Grant, and less State Grant. State aid may not be awarded in excess of total cost of attendance when all other scholarships/grants are considered, which may impact the award amount.
ND Scholarship	Scholarship	Apply with the ND Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in the senior year of high school. The application, FAQ, and more information on the scholarship is located on the DPI website. .	RENEWAL requirements for payment: 1. Maintain 2.75 cumulative GPA, <u>and</u> 2. Enroll "full time" as defined by the college financial aid office, <u>and</u> 3. Maintain progress toward degree completion. "Progress toward degree completion" means earning a minimum number of credits/hours after each disbursement to qualify for a subsequent disbursement. Students may use the award at accredited ND institutions of higher education, including accredited state career schools. Registered apprenticeship programs in ND can also qualify.	Full-time enrollment required: Has the same meaning as defined by the institution's financial aid office for purposes of disbursing federal aid in a student's program of study. Students in their final term of study can qualify for payment even if they are less than full time. • This exception applies to a student only once. • Students must notify the NDUS financial aid office to be considered for this exception.	Total value is \$6,000 • \$750 per semester • \$500 per quarter • \$500 per clock-hour term • \$500 per apprentice term Students have up to 6 years following high school graduation to use the scholarship. The scholarship may be awarded for certificate, undergraduate, graduate or professional studies at qualifying institutions in the state. State aid may not be awarded in excess of total cost of attendance when all other scholarships/grants are considered, which may impact the award amount.
Native American Scholarship	Scholarship	Complete an application annually with the NDUS. For priority consideration, Native American students should apply on or before July 15 of each year. The Native American Scholarship application and program details can be found on the NDUS website.	Applicants must be: • ND residents; • Enrolled members of a federally recognized Indian tribe Scholarships are based on unmet need or merit, with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 required. • Students with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 - 3.499 must show unmet need to qualify. The FAFSA is required annually. • Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher can qualify based on merit. The award may be used at accredited ND institutions of higher education, including accredited state career schools.	Full time enrollment is required, which is generally defined as 12 credits per term for undergraduate students, and 9 credits per term for graduate students. Pro-rated amounts may be offered for enrollments of less than full time. No awards for enrollment less than 3 credits.	Students can be awarded up to \$2,000 in scholarship funding per year. State aid may not be awarded in excess of total cost of attendance when all other scholarships/grants are considered, which may impact the award amount.

Dual-Credit Tuition Scholarship	Scholarship	Following high school graduation, students may apply for this scholarship through the NDUS if they took dual-credit coursework from a ND institution while in high school. The Dual Credit Tuition Scholarship application and program details can be found on the NDUS website.	Applicants must: • Meet high school graduation criteria; • Have successfully completed at least one dual-credit course provided by a ND institution while enrolled in high school; • Be currently enrolled at an institution within ND; and • Have completed at least one semester, quarter or clock-hour term at an institution of higher education in this state. Students may use the award at accredited ND institutions of higher education, including accredited state career schools.	This scholarship may be used for any level of enrollment.	The maximum amount is: • \$250 for one successfully completed dual credit course. • \$500 for two successfully completed dual credit courses. • \$750 for three (or more) successfully completed dual credit courses. The payment is limited to tuition & fees. The scholarship may be received only one time. State aid may not be awarded in excess of total cost of attendance when all other scholarships/grants are considered, which may impact the award amount.
North Dakota Scholars Program	Scholarship	No separate application required as awards are based on scores received by the NDUS from nationally recognized standardized tests (ACT and SAT). High school juniors who take the test prior to July 1 of the year preceding the senior year in high school will receive consideration for composite scores of 30 or higher, or equivalent scores on the SAT. Awarding begins in fall of the senior year. Scores on nationally recognized tests are ranked from highest to lowest and awards are made until funds are exhausted. Due to limited funding, not all students with qualifying score will be awarded.	This program provides premier merit-based, full tuition scholarships to qualifying ND high school seniors who remain in ND for post-secondary education. Students must maintain a 3.5 minimum cumulative GPA in college for renewal each year. Students may use the award at accredited ND institutions of higher education that offer programs of study of at least 2 years in length.	Full time: Defined as 12 credits per term minimum.	The amount of the scholarship is equal to the <i>regular full-time undergraduate tuition rate</i> at the student's institution. This rate is based on the NDUS Institutional Charges Schedule. The award may not exceed the highest regular resident undergraduate tuition rate in the NDUS. Eligibility is limited to 8 semesters or 12 quarters of undergraduate study, or until the attainment of a baccalaureate degree, whichever occurs first. State aid may not be awarded in excess of total cost of attendance when all other scholarships/grants are considered, which may impact the award amount.

Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP)	Scholarship	Apply through the NDUS by October 15 of the year preceding entry into the professional program of study for priority consideration. The PSEP application and information can be found on the NDUS website.	The Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) provides ND resident students access to veterinary medicine, optometry and dentistry programs not offered in the state. Scholarships are dependent upon the contracts the state has with participating institutions. NDUS has contracts through: • WICHE (veterinary medicine, dentistry and optometry); • Kansas State (veterinary medicine); • Iowa State (veterinary medicine); and • University of Minnesota (veterinary medicine and dentistry).	Recipients must maintain progress at their institution and continual enrollment based on program requirements. Recipients must maintain ND residency to qualify for payment throughout their professional program of study.	The award amount varies based on institution and program of study.
---	--------------------	--	--	---	---



The ND Career Builders Scholarship & Loan Repayment programs are designed to fill high-need jobs in ND. The goal is to attract and retain talent within the state and address workforce shortages.

- For the scholarship, qualifying programs of study must relate to the high-need occupations in the state.
- Both the scholarship and loan repayment have residency and ND work requirements of 3 years.
- Students who do not complete their program of study, who fail to live within ND [or within 50 miles of the border (new applicants as of 8/1/25)], or who fail to work in an in-demand occupation within ND for at least 3 years following program completion, must repay the scholarship.
- Up to \$17,000 per recipient.
- This is a matching program. Matching funds from a private-sector business or other qualifying public funds must be received prior to the state funds being issued.

For more information on the program, including the list of high need and emerging occupations and qualifying educational programs, please visit the ND Career Builders page on the [NDUS website](#).

Additional Information			
North Dakota-Minnesota Reciprocity	Tuition reduction	IMPORTANT: Complete the ND-MN Reciprocity Application online prior to the end of the term requesting benefits for.	The purpose of the ND / MN Reciprocity Program is to continue to improve postsecondary education opportunities for residents in ND and MN. Through the cooperative efforts of the neighboring states, students have access to a variety of programs that meet their educational needs. Currently, ND resident undergraduate students who attend Minnesota public campuses AND who have a valid ND-MN Reciprocity application, pay the Minnesota resident rate.
Student Exchange Programs	Midwest Student Exchange Program	Offered by the Midwest Higher Education Commission, the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) enables students to enroll in out-of-state colleges and universities at no more than 150 percent of the institutions' resident tuition rate. Each participating institution determines which degree programs it will make available to students, the number of students it will admit, and admission requirements.	
	Western Undergraduate Exchange	Through the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Program , students in 10 participating states may enroll in designated two-year and four-year institutions and programs in other participating states at reduced tuition rates. WUE students pay up to 150 percent of regular in-state tuition at designated institutions.	
	Western Regional Graduate Programs	The primary purpose of the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP) is to permit students from WICHE states to enroll in the more than 400 graduate programs offered by member states. Students who participate in WRGP pay resident tuition rates at public institutions.	
FAFSA and Federal Program Links	Federal Grants, Loans and Work Study	Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually to apply for grants, including the ND State Grant, loans and work-study. The FAFSA can be completed for the following academic year as soon as October 1. Learn more about the federal financial aid process and options at the Federal Student Aid website .	
NDUS Information & Contact Information	✓ Learn about the ND University System's state colleges and universities and programs at the NDUS website. ✓ Explore career options at the ND Insights website. QUESTIONS?? Contact the NDUS Financial Aid Office at ndfinaid@ndus.edu or 701-877-5718.		

Updated: 9.24.2026