

Tuition Reciprocity Program

The tuition reciprocity program authorizes the Office of Higher Education (OHE) to enter into agreements with other states to reduce tuition for Minnesota students at the other states' postsecondary institutions. Similarly, under the agreements, residents of reciprocity states pay reduced tuition rates when they attend a public postsecondary institution in Minnesota.

Who is eligible to participate?

Minnesota has separate tuition reciprocity agreements with North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin covering all public postsecondary institutions in those states. Minnesota also has limited agreements with Iowa (covering one institution in each state) and Manitoba (covering all public Minnesota institutions and ten institutions in Manitoba).

Although undergraduates constitute the majority of participating students, the agreements also include most graduate and professional programs. The Wisconsin agreement, however, limits reciprocity to the pharmacy and law professional programs. Similarly, the North Dakota agreement limits or excludes certain professional programs, though individual programs may voluntarily offer reduced tuition to students from neighboring states.

To participate in the program, a student must first apply to a public college or university in a reciprocity state and then apply for reciprocity to the administering agency in their home state—OHE for Minnesota students. Students have until the last day of the academic term to apply for reciprocity. The reciprocity program has no limit to the number of participating students. A student's reciprocity benefits automatically renew for subsequent academic terms. Any changes to the reciprocity agreements apply to students who first enroll after the effective date of the change.

What do the agreements cover?

The reciprocity agreements and annual memorandum specify the terms of participation, including undergraduate, graduate, and professional tuition rates for applicable institutions and programs. The agreements must be approved by postsecondary governing boards—in Minnesota, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnState) Board of Trustees and the University of Minnesota Board of Regents. Most of the agreements exclude fees charged by participating institutions. Only the South Dakota agreement includes both tuition and mandatory fees.

What tuition rates do students pay?

There are three main approaches to tuition rate setting for tuition reciprocity agreements:

1. Resident tuition at the institution attended (with or without a surcharge)
 - Applies to Minnesota residents attending North Dakota institutions
 - Applies to participating institutions under the Iowa and Manitoba agreements

2. The higher of the two states' resident tuition at a comparable institution
 - Applies to North Dakota residents attending Minnesota institutions
 - Applies to South Dakota and Wisconsin agreements
3. Resident tuition at a comparable institution in the student's state of residence
 - Not currently used under any agreement

Note that the North Dakota agreement is unique in that the tuition rate-setting approach differs depending on the student's state of residence.

Does the reciprocity program cost the state?

The state pays for the reciprocity program through general fund appropriations to public institutions and through specific appropriations to OHE for payments to other states, as required in the Wisconsin and North Dakota agreements.

For the 2016-2017 academic year, preliminary data placed Minnesota's obligation to North Dakota at \$11.85 million. That same year, Wisconsin's obligation to Minnesota was \$6.3 million. The approximate total obligation for the 2016-2017 academic year is therefore \$5.55 million. In its 2017 higher education omnibus act, the legislature appropriated \$11 million each year for tuition reciprocity contract obligations in fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

How many students participate in the program?

Minnesota's agreements with Wisconsin and North Dakota represent 88 percent of all reciprocity enrollments. Minnesota's agreement with South Dakota represents an additional 11 percent of participation. In fall 2016, a total of 42,078 students from all participating states (and Manitoba) participated in the tuition reciprocity program. Approximately 93 percent of these students are undergraduates. In keeping with historical trends, Minnesota sends more students to each of the other states than it receives from them.

Fall 2016 Reciprocity Enrollment

	<i>From Minnesota Attending in</i>	<i>Attending in Minnesota from</i>	<i>Net Outflow of Students</i>
North Dakota	10,844	4,118	6,726
South Dakota	3,461	1,172	2,289
Wisconsin	13,689	8,285	5,404
Manitoba*	88	62	26
Iowa Lakes Community College	288	71	217
Total	28,370	13,708	14,662

*The number of Minnesota residents enrolling in Manitoba is from fall 2015

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